

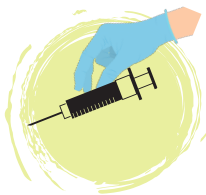
Safe Disposal of Syringes

Syringes are a common healthcare tool; they are used to deliver medications and treatments to people for a wide variety of healthcare needs. Sometimes they are found in community.

The use of common safe handling and disposal practices can greatly reduce the risk of a needle-stick injury.

Safe Syringe Disposal

- Stay calm, take a few breaths & take your time
- Retrieve a sharps container or hard-sided container with a screw top lid (ie. water bottle)
- Position the container near the syringe, open the lid, leaving it prepared to deposit the syringe
- You may choose to wear work gloves, latex gloves and/or use garbage tongs to handle the syringe
- Do not bend, break or recap the syringe
- Pick up and hold the syringe by the middle of the barrel, with sharp end pointing down and away from you
- Put the syringe/s, one at a time, into the container and then secure the lid
- Wash hands with soap and water
- Drop off the sealed container at:
 - a local public health unit
 - community drop box
 - participating pharmacy
 - nearby waste bin



IF YOU EXPERIENCE A NEEDLE-STICK INJURY

Please take the following steps:

- Allow it to bleed freely
- Do not squeeze the injured area
- Wash with soap and warm water as soon as possible
- Apply an antiseptic and bandage
- Call the Communicable Disease Program at Island Health (8:30am-4:30pm)
 - South Island: 1-866-665-6626
 - Central Island: 1-866-770-7798
 - North Island: 1-877-887-8835
- Visit your local emergency department within two hours for treatment and follow-up
- The syringe should be disposed of using the instructions provided on this card



COMMUNITY DISPOSAL BOXES & OTHER DISPOSAL SITES

Call your municipality to find community disposal boxes and other disposal sites. Many are listed & mapped on Island Health's [website](#).

