

SAFE DISPOSAL

OF NEEDLES

Anyone who uses a needle to inject should dispose of it safely. However, sometimes discarded needles are found in public areas.

The safe disposal of needles saves others from getting hurt accidentally. Fortunately, the risk of being infected by an accidental needle stick is rare.

SAFE NEEDLE DISPOSAL

Don't try to replace the cap on needles

Don't snap, break or bend needles or other sharps

Pick up needle with care – use gloves and tongs if you have available

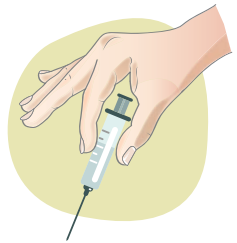
Hold needle point away from you

Put needle in a metal or hard plastic container with a lid (i.e. product or drink bottle)

Replace cap on container securely and label it

Wash hands thoroughly with soap and water

Drop off the sealed container at your local health unit or at a community drop box



IF YOU GET A NEEDLE STICK INJURY

Please take the following steps:

Allow wound to bleed freely

Quickly wash the injured area with soap and warm water

Do not squeeze or bleach the injured area

Call 8-1-1 for advice 24/7

Visit your local emergency department immediately for follow up care

For more information, call Island Health's Communicable Disease program (8:30 AM – 4:30 PM):

- « South Island: 1-866-665-6626
- « Central Island: 1-866-770-7798
- « North Island: 1-877-887-8835



COMMUNITY DROP BOXES

Call your municipality to find out if safe needle disposal sites are accessible in your community.



Learn more about harm reduction at:
towardtheheart.com

