

SAFE DISPOSAL

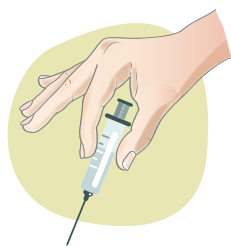
OF NEEDLES

Anyone who uses a needle 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 work gloves if desired
- 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 with soap and water
- Drop off the sealed container:
 - « community drop box
 - « participating pharmacy
 - « nearby waste bin
 - « local public health unit



IF YOU ARE INJURED BY A NEEDLE

Stay calm and take the following steps:

- Wash the injured area with soap and warm water as soon as possible
- Apply an antiseptic and a clean bandage
- Dispose of the needle safely
- Visit your local emergency department or a doctor, preferably within 24 hours
- Call 8-1-1 for advice 24/7
- 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 at:
islandhealth.ca/safe-needle-disposal

