

# Proper Use and Disposal of Needles and Syringes

## Be Smart. Be Careful. Be Aware. Be Safe.

If you're one of the many people in Massachusetts who use syringes to manage your health care at home, Here's what you need to know about the safe use and disposal of needles, syringes and lancets (sharps).

### Be Smart. Use a Sharps Container.

A sharps container is a single-use container that is filled with used medical needles and then disposed of safely. These can be purchased at medical supply stores or even ordered through the mail.

#### DO:

- Visit a medical supply store to purchase sharps containers.
- Call the AIDS Action Committee Pharmacy Access Hotline to find out more about personal sharps containers. 1-800-988-5209
- Check out these sharps mail back services. All provide a variety of container sizes and prepaid mailing cartons:

Medasend	1-800-200-3581
Stericycle	1-800-355-8773
MWDC	1-866-810-3000

#### DO NOT:

- Put sharps containers in with recyclables.
- Dispose of sharps in garbage if your community has another disposal option (see disposal site list at the end of this fact sheet).\* If your community does not currently have a disposal site, place them in a rigid, puncture resistant plastic container with a secure cap before placing in the garbage.

### Be Careful.

Protect yourself, your community, your environment, and family and friends. The proper disposal of needles and syringes is important!

#### DO:

- Put used syringes in sharps container immediately.
- Keep needles away from children and pets.
- Bring a sharps container when traveling.

#### DO NOT:

- Throw sharps in the garbage if your community has another disposal option (see disposal site list).
- Flush sharps down the toilet or drop into storm drains.
- Clip, bend or recap needles.

### Sale and Possession of Hypodermic Syringes and Needles in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts (M.G.L. chapter 94C, sections 27, 27A and 32L)

- Individuals 18 years and older may legally purchase syringes and needles from a pharmacy without a prescription
- Disposal of syringes must be done safely and responsibly.

### State Sanitary Code (M.G.L. chapter 111, section 127A)

Improper disposal of infectious or physically dangerous medical or biological waste may result in penalties of up to \$25,000 or two years in a corrections facility

# Syringe and Needle Disposal Sites In the Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Restrictions apply at some of these locations.

Contact the Needle Disposal Site in advance to determine restrictions and disposal schedules.

## Be Aware.

Needles, syringes and sharps containers may not be thrown in recycling bins. Do not dispose of sharps in garbage if your community has another disposal option (see disposal site list). If you must, place them in a rigid plastic container with a secure cap. These items must be disposed of at a drop off site or through a medical mail back service.

\* Effective July 1, 2012, homesharps, as well as unopened packages of hypodermic needles and lancets, shall not be disposed of in solid municipal waste, including household waste, and shall be collected and disposed of in accordance with the requirements outlined in the amended regulations.

## Be Safe.

Reduce your risk of blood-borne diseases like hepatitis and HIV/AIDS.

### DO:

- Use a new needle every time you inject.
- Clean the injection site with soapy water, alcohol swabs or rubbing alcohol.
- Find out your HIV/viral hepatitis status. Get tested. If you are not infected you can stay that way. If you are, find out how to take care of yourself and avoid passing HIV/viral hepatitis to others.
- Clean your sharps with bleach IF you must reuse them.

### DO NOT:

- Inject in the same spot over and over again.
- Share needles, syringes, cookers, cotton or water.

## Be Informed.

Resources are just a phone call away. All calls are confidential.

- **AIDS Action Committee Hotline** - 800-235-2331  
Referrals to confidential and anonymous HIV counseling and testing
- **AIDS Action Committee Pharmacy Access Hotline** - 800-988-5209
- **Diabetes Services in Massachusetts** - 617-624-5486
- **MA Department of Environmental Protection** - 617-292-5500
- **MA Department of Public Health** – 617-624-6000, TTY/TDD (617) 624-6001 - [www.mass.gov/dph](http://www.mass.gov/dph)
- **MA Hepatitis C Program - 888-443-HEPC (4372)** - [www.mass.gov/dph/cdc/masshepc/](http://www.mass.gov/dph/cdc/masshepc/)
- **MA Substance Abuse Education Information and Helpline** - 800-327-5050 TTY 617-536-5872
- [www.helpline-online.com](http://www.helpline-online.com) - Information and confidential referrals to treatment and self-help groups
- **Needle Exchange Programs (NEPs)** - You can exchange used syringes for new, sterile ones, be referred to medical help, drug treatment, testing for HIV and dispose of used syringes at any of these sites:  
**Boston** - 1-617-771-2138 1-800-383-2437  
**Cambridge** - 1-617-661-3040 1-617-680-1063  
**Northampton** - 1-413-586-0310 1-800-696-7752  
**Provincetown** - 1-508-487-8311 1-866-668-6448

Needle Exchange is free to the public. Information on sharps drop-off sites is also available at: [www.mass.gov/dph](http://www.mass.gov/dph)

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Amesbury	11 School Street Amesbury, MA 01913 978-388-8133	Avon	150 Main Street Avon, MA 02322 508-588-0414
Amherst	Amherst Health Dept. 70 Boltwood St Amherst, MA 01002 413-259-3077	Ayer	30 Central Avenue Ayer, MA 01432 978-772-3335
Arlington	Arlington Senior Center 27 Maple Ave. Arlington, MA 02476 781-316-3170	Barnstable	3195 Main Street County Barnstable, MA 02630 508-375-6613
Arlington	Walgreen's Pharmacy 425 Massachusetts Ave Arlington, MA 02476 781-646-4171	Berlin	30 Central Avenue Ayer, MA 01432 978-772-3335
Arlington	Walgreen's Pharmacy 324 Massachusetts Ave Arlington, MA 02474 781-643-4110	Bolton	30 Central Avenue Ayer, MA 01432 978-772-3335
Arlington	Maida Pharmacy 121 Massachusetts Ave Arlington, MA 02474 781-643-7840	Boston	AHOPE Needle Exchange Program 723 Massachusetts Avenue Boston, MA 02118-2318 617-534-3963 617-534-3967
Arlington	Stop and Shop 905 Massachusetts Ave Arlington, MA 02476	781-Boston	AIDS Action Committee 294 Washington St., 5th Boston, MA 02108 617-450-1379
Athol	584 Main Street, Suite 1 Athol, MA 01331 978-249-7934	Boston	Bioscrip Pharmacy, 21-23 Stanhope St. Boston, MA, 02116 617-375-7969
Attleboro	South Attleboro Fire Station 1500 West Street South Attleboro, MA 02703 508-223-2222	Boston	Boston Public Health Commission 35 Northampton Street Boston, MA 02118 617-534-5395
Auburn	CVS Pharmacy 676 Southbridge St. Auburn, MA 01501 508-832-7703		

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Boston	Boston Public Health Commission 398 Neponset Ave Dorchester, MA 02122 617-534-5395	Buzzards Bay	Bourne Fire and Rescue 130 Main Street Buzzards Bay, MA 02532 508-759-4112
Boston	Boston Public Health Commission 435 Warren Street (side entrance) Roxbury, MA 02119 617-534-5395	Cambridge	Cambridge Public Health Department Windsor Street Health Ctr. 119 Windsor Street Cambridge, MA 02139 617-665-3819
Boston	MAPS – Dorchester 1 Stoughton Street Dorchester, MA 02125 617-825-5897	Cambridge	Cambridge Needle Exchange 17 Sellers Street Cambridge, MA 02139 617-559-0219
Bourne	24 Perry Avenue Buzzards Bay Bourne, MA 02532 508-759-0630	Canton	79 Pleasant Street Canton, MA 02021 781-821-5021
Boxboro	30 Central Avenue Ayer, MA 01432 978-772-3335	Centerville	C-O-M-M Fire Headquarters 1875 Falmouth Rd. Centerville, MA 02632 508-790-2375
Brewster	Brewster Fire Dept. 1657 Main Street Brewster, MA 02631 508-896-7018	Charlemont	Franklin County Solid Waste Management District 50 Miles Street Greenfield, MA 01301 413-772-2438
Brockton	COPE Center 81 Pleasant St. Brockton, MA 02301 508-583-3405	Chatham	Chatham Fire & Rescue 135 Depot Road Chatham, MA 02633 508-945-2324
Brockton	Recycling Depot 301A Oak Hill Way Brockton, MA 02302 508-580-7175	Cotuit	Cotuit Fire Department 64 High Street Cotuit, MA 02635 508-428-2210
Brookline	Brookline DPH 11 Pierce Street Brookline, MA 02445 617-730-2300	Dennisport	Dennis Health Department 465 Main Street Dennisport, MA 02639 508-760-6158

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Dunstable	30 Central Avenue Ayer, MA 01432 978-827-4103	Falmouth	Falmouth Health Department 59 Town Hall Square Falmouth, MA 02540 508-495-7485
East Bridgewater	Town Hall Bridgewater 175 Central Street East Bridgewater, MA 02333 508-378-1612	Greenfield	Franklin County Solid Waste Management District 50 Miles Street Greenfield, MA 01301 413-772-2438
Eastham	Eastham Fire Department 2520 State Highway Eastham, MA 02642 508-255-2324	Gloucester	Addison Gilbert Hospital 298 Washington Street Gloucester, MA 01930 978-281-9771
Easthampton	Public Safety Complex 32 Payson Avenue Easthampton, MA 01027 413-529-1430	Groton	30 Central Avenue Ayer, MA 01432
Edgartown	P.O. Box 1596 Edgartown, MA 02539 508-627-6120	Hanover	Hanover Town Hall 550 Hanover Street Hanover, MA 02339 781-826-4611
Egremont	Transfer Station 171 Plain Road South Egremont, MA 01258 413-528-0182	Harwich	Harwich Transfer Station 209 Queen Anne Road Harwich, MA 02645 508-430-7558
Fall River	Diabetes Assoc., Inc. 170 Pleasant St. Fall River, MA 02722 508-672-5671	Harvard	30 Central Avenue Ayer, MA 01432 978-772-3335
Fall River	Seven Hills Behavioral Health Inc. 310 South Main Street Fall River, MA 02720 508-235-1012	Haverhill	CVS Pharmacy River's Edge Plaza 241 Lincoln Ave. Haverhill, MA 01830 978-372-0291
Fall River	Seven Hills Behavioral Health Inc. 310 South Main Street Fall River, MA 02720 508-679-5222 x3228	Haverhill	Team Coordinating Agency 66 Winter Street Haverhill, MA 01830 978 373-1181 x21
		Heath	Franklin County Solid Waste Management District 50 Miles Street Greenfield, MA 01301 413-772-2438

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Hingham	Transfer and Recycling Center Hobart Street Hingham, MA 02043 781-741-1466	Lenox (Tri-town - Lee, Lenox & Stockbridge)	Tri-town Health Railroad Street Lee, MA 01238 413-243-5540
Holyoke	Cooley-Dickinson Hospital (CEPA Program) 330 Appleton Street Holyoke, MA 01040 413-536-8721	Littleton	30 Central Avenue Ayer, MA 01432 978-772-3335
Holyoke	Holyoke Health Center Pharmacy 230 Maple Street Holyoke, MA 01041 413-420-2200	Lunenburg	30 Central Avenue Ayer, MA 01432 978-772-3335
Hull	253 Atlantic Avenue Hull, MA 02045 781-925-2224	Lynn	Lynn Health Department 3 City Hall Square, Rm 103 Lynn MA 01901 781-586-6819 or 6820
Hyannis	AIDS Support Group of Cape Cod 428 South Street Hyannis, MA 02601 508-778-1954	Malden	Government Center 200 Pleasant Street Malden, MA 02148 781-397-7053
Hyannis	P.O. Box 534 Hyannis, MA 02601	Manchester	10 Central Street Manchester, MA 01944 978-526-7385
Lawrence	The Daybreak Shelter 19 Winter Street Lawrence, MA 01841 978-975-4547	Marblehead	Board of Health Mary Alley Municipal Bldg. 7 Widger Road Marblehead, MA 781-631-0212
Lawrence	The Psychological Center's PEOPLE Recovery Center 11 Union Street Lawrence, MA 01841 978-688-5767	Marlborough	Bouvier Pharmacy 515 Lincoln Street Marlborough, MA 01752 508-485-0432
Lee (Tri-town - Lee, Lenox & Stockbridge)	Tri-town Health Railroad Street Lee, MA 01238 413-243-5540	Marlborough**	Walker building 255 Main St., Room 103 Marlborough, MA 01752 508-460-3751

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Marion	Town Hall 2 Spring Street Marion, MA 02738 508-748-3505	New Salem	Franklin County Solid Waste Management District 50 Miles Street Greenfield, MA 01301 413-772-2438
Mashpee	Mashpee Department of Public Works 350 Meetinghouse Road Mashpee, MA 02649 508-539-1420	Northampton	Tapestry Health Needle Exchange 16 Centre Street, Suite 401 Northampton, MA 01060 413-586-0310
Melrose	Melrose City Hall 562 Main Street Melrose, MA 02176 781-979-4130	North Andover	CVS Pharmacy 115 Main Street North Andover, MA 01845 978-688-9540
Methuen	Municipal Building 90 Hampshire Street Methuen, MA 01844 978-794-3229	Orange	Franklin County Solid Waste Management District 50 Miles Street Greenfield, MA 01301 413-772-2438
Middleborough	Town Hall 20 Centre Street Middleborough, MA 02346 508-946-2408	Orleans	Orleans Fire Department 58 Eldredge Park Way Orleans, MA 02653 508-255-0050 508-240-3700 Ext-351
Montague	Franklin County Solid Waste Management District 50 Miles Street Greenfield, MA 01301 413-772-2438	Peabody	Peabody City Hall 24 Lowell Street Peabody, MA 01960 978-532-3000
Nashoba	Board of Health 30 Central Avenue Ayer, MA 01432	Pittsfield	Berkshire Medical Center Neighborhood Health Center 510 North Street Pittsfield, MA 01201 413-447-2654
Needham**	1471 Highland Avenue Room 24 Needham, MA 02192 781-455-7523	Pittsfield	70 Allen St. Pittsfield, MA 01201 413-499-9411
New Bedford	Home of Hope for Women, Outreach Center 1287 Acushnet Ave. New Bedford, MA 02746 508-996-0546		

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Plymouth	Health Care of Southeastern Massachusetts, Inc. 123-1 Camelot Drive Plymouth, MA 02360 508-583-3005	Rowley	PO Box 783 Rowley, MA 01969 978-948-2231
Plympton	5 Palmer Road Plympton, MA 02367 781-585-7000	Seekonk	Household Hazardous Waste Day 100 Peck Street Seekonk, MA 02771 508-336-2950 (Once a year)
Provincetown	AIDS Support Group of Cape Cod/Needle Exchange Program 508-487-7023 508-487-7020	Sharon	Fire Department 92 South Main Street Sharon, MA 02067 781-784-1510
Quincy	Quincy Health Department 1585 Hancock St. Lower Level Quincy, MA 02169 617-376-1273	Shirley	30 Central Avenue Ayer, MA 01432 978-772-3335
Randolph	Board of Health 1 Turner Lane Randolph, MA 02368 781-961-0924	Somerville	City Hall Annex 50 Evergreen Avenue Somerville, MA 02143 617-625-6600 x 4310
Reading	16 Lowell St. Reading, MA 01867 781-942-9061	Somerville	Somerville Primary Care 26 Central Street Somerville, MA 02143 617-591-6300
Rehoboth	148R Peck St. Rehoboth, MA 02769	South Hadley	Council on Aging 45 Dayton Street South Hadley, MA 01075 413-538-5042
Revere	Revere Health Department 249R Broadway Revere, MA 02151 781-286-8176	South Yarmouth	Barnstable County- South Yarmouth 96 Old Main Street South Yarmouth, MA 02664 508-398-2212
Rowe	Franklin County Solid Waste Management District 50 Miles Street Greenfield, MA 01301 413-772-2438	Spencer	Spencer Health Department

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	Memorial Town Hall 157 Main Street Spencer, MA 01562 508-885-7500 x180		Townsend, MA 01469 978-597-1713 (curbside pick-up)
Spencer	Spencer Police Dept. 9 Dewey Street (Rte.9) Spencer, MA 01562 508-885-6333	Tri-town (Lee, Lenox & Stockbridge)	Tri-town Health Railroad Street Lee, MA 01238 413-243-5540
Spencer	Spencer Fire Department 11 Dewey Street Spencer, MA 01562 508-885-7533	Truro	Truro Transfer Station Truro Dump Road, Off Rte. 6 Truro, MA 02666 508-349-6339
Springfield	La Voz Tapestry Health 39 Mulberry Str., Lower Level Springfield, MA 01105 413-734-8766	Tyngsboro	25 Bryants Lane Tyngsboro, MA 01879
Springfield	New North Citizens Council Drop-In Center 2594 Main Street Springfield, MA 01107 413-746-4885	Wareham	Healthcare of Southern Massachusetts 106 Main Street, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Wareham, MA. 02571 508-295-0383
Springfield	Tapestry Health 365 Bay Street Springfield, MA 01109 413-747-5144 ext.105	Watertown	Administration Bldg. Health, Fire Department 149 Main Street Watertown, MA 02472 617-972-6446 Call for drop-off schedule
Stockbridge (Tri-town - Lee, Lenox & Stockbridge)	Tri-town Health Railroad Street Lee, MA 01238 413-243-5540	Wellfleet	Wellfleet Fire Department 35 Lawrence Road Wellfleet, MA 02667 508-349-3754
Templeton	Town Office 2 School Street Baldwinville, MA 01436 978-939-2377	West Newbury	381 Main Street West Newbury, MA 01985 978-363-1100, ext 119
Townsend	Board of Health 272 Main Street	West Springfield	DPW Recycling Yard 430 Westfield Street West Springfield, MA 01089 413-263-3206

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Westford	Public Safety Complex 53 Main Street Westford, MA 01886 978-399-2908
Westport	856 Main Road Westport, MA 02790 508-636-1015
Worcester	City of Worcester 25 Meade Street Worcester, MA 01610-2715 508-799-8531
Woburn	Woburn City Hall 10 Common Street Woburn, MA 01801 781-897-5923
Yarmouth	1146 Route 28 S. Yarmouth, MA 02664 508-398-2231, Ext. 241

\*\* Sharps disposal may be held at household hazardous waste collections or programs under development

Filename: waste\_infectious\_disposal\_sites  
Directory: K:\EDU\WEB SUBMISSIONS\CSP\Sharps  
Template: C:\Documents and Settings\GTocco\Application  
Data\Microsoft\Templates\Normal.dot  
Title: Proper Use and Disposal of Needles and Syringes in  
Massachusetts  
Subject:  
Author: MDPH - Community Sanitation Program  
Keywords: disposal sites, disposal schedules  
Comments:  
Creation Date: 4/6/2010 9:53:00 AM  
Change Number: 12  
Last Saved On: 8/31/2010 2:25:00 PM  
Last Saved By: BEH  
Total Editing Time: 613 Minutes  
Last Printed On: 8/31/2010 2:25:00 PM  
As of Last Complete Printing  
Number of Pages: 10  
Number of Words: 2,234 (approx.)  
Number of Characters: 12,736 (approx.)