



# Needles & Syringes

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Needles and syringes in the workplace may be contaminated with human blood and bodily fluids or other potentially hazardous substance(s). Exposure to such contaminants through the piercing of skin or contact with already-broken skin may pose a health risk for transmission of certain infections.

The Rowan County Public Library ("the Library") strives to provide employees with safe methods for the disposal of needles and syringes and for action to be taken following a needle stick injury. This policy should be used as a starting point to assist with the implementation of appropriate risk control measures for the respective task(s).

## **DISPOSAL & INCIDENT FOLLOW-UP**

If a staff member finds needles and/or syringes while working, they should:

- NOT take any action until they have informed their supervisor; and
- NOT pick it up until wearing leather gloves or similar protective gear; and
- NOT pick it up unless a sharps container is available for safe transport; and
- NOT carry it from the area, but instead bring the sharps container to the scene; and
- NOT try to recap the needle or syringe.

## **Correct Disposal of Needles and/or Syringes**

- Place a recovered needle and syringe (still connected) into a sharps container.
- Do not try to separate the needle and syringe before disposal.
- Where syringe barrels are used without needles, place the used syringe, regardless of its contents, into a sharps container.
- Full sharps containers are to be sent for disposal without delay via an EPA-licensed waste disposal contractor.
- The employee who discovers and/or disposes of a needle or syringe should complete an appropriate incident report as promptly as possible.

## Needle Stick Injury Management

If a staff member experiences an injury from a needle, they should:

- Immediately wash the exposure or injury area and follow first aid procedures; and
- report the incident to their supervisor; and
- advise their supervisor if there is blood in the syringe and whether the owner of the blood is known; and
- see a doctor as soon as possible; and
- discuss with the doctor arrangements for blood tests, immunization, and a follow-up plan, as appropriate, particularly if the injurious needle and/or syringe contained blood and/or bodily fluids; and
- complete an appropriate incident report as promptly as possible.