



SAFETY FLASH

1/24/2017 **Tip of the Day:** Safe sharps disposal is important whether you are at home, at work, at school, traveling, or in other public places such as hotels, parks, and restaurants.

SAFE OPTIONS FOR NEEDLE DISPOSAL

PROTECT YOURSELVES, CO-WORKERS, AND OTHERS

DO NOT PUT NEEDLES OR OTHER SHARPS:

- IN THE TRASH
- DOWN THE TOILET
- IN RECYCLING CONTAINERS

IMPROPER DISPOSAL CAN RESULT IN

- INJURIES
- SPREAD OF GERMS and DISEASES



WHAT ARE CONSIDERED NEEDLES AND SHARPS?

- **Needles** – hollow needles used to inject drugs (medication) under the skin.
- **Syringes** – devices used to inject medication into or withdraw fluid from the body.
- **Lancets, also called “finger stick” devices** – instruments with a short, two-edged blade used to get drops of blood for testing. Lancets are commonly used in the treatment of diabetes.
- **Auto Injectors, including epinephrine and insulin pens** – syringes pre-filled with fluid medication designed to be self-injected into the body.
- **Infusion sets or Connection needles/sets** – tubing systems with a needle used to deliver drugs to the body or connect to a tube used to transfer fluids in and out of the body (home hemodialysis).

HOW TO SAFELY DISPOSE OF NEEDLES AND SHARPS

- **IMMEDIATELY PLACE IN AN FDA-CLEARED SHARPS CONTAINER**
 - They are puncture resistant, leak resistant, and have a tight fitting closable lid.
- **WHEN AN FDA-CLEARED SHARPS CONTAINER IS NOT AVAILABLE**
 - A heavy-duty plastic container, such as a laundry detergent container can be used. Make sure the cap is secured (taped) and the container labeled “sharps”.
- **ONLY FILL SHARPS CONTAINER 3/4 FULL, DISPOSE OF AT**
 - New Mexico Dept. of Health authorized drop off locations. The largest container that can fit in a drop box is 1.5 liters or 50 fluid ounces.
 - Or other designated agencies...see attached listing (next page).



New Mexico Department of Health Office locations that have drop boxes for needles and other sharps.

Sierra County Public Health Office
201 East 4th Street
Truth or Consequences, NM 87901
575-894-2716 - Phone
575-894-3478 - Fax

Las Cruces East Mesa Public Health Office
5220 Holman Road
Las Cruces, NM 88012
575-382-0540 - Phone
575-373-4737 - Fax

Las Cruces Public Health Office
1170 N. Solano Drive
Las Cruces, NM 88001
575-528-5001 - Phone
866-668-0882 - Toll Free
575-528-6024 - Fax

Chaparral Public Health Office
317 McCombs
Chaparral, NM 88081
575-824-3454 - Phone
575-824-3071 - Fax

Anthony Public Health office
865 N. Main Street
Anthony, NM 88021
575-882-5858 - Phone
575-882-3063 - Fax

Sunland Park Public Health Office
3807 McNutt Road
Sunland Park, NM 88063
575-589-2543 - Phone
575-589-9548 - Fax

Other agencies taking sharps containers for disposal.

Families and Youth, Inc.
1320 S Solano,
Las Cruces, NM 88001
575-556-1622 – Phone
Monday-Friday 9am-2pm

Alianza of New Mexico - Las Cruces
1615A North Solano
Las Cruces, NM 88001
575-915-1770 – Phone
Limited hours of operation, call ahead

St. Luke's Health Care Clinic
999 West Amador Ave.
Las Cruces, NM 88005
575-527-5482 – Phone
Drop box available