

Syringe Litter: Know the Risks and Prevent Injury

Syringe litter is a concern for all New Yorkers. The City is working to clean up syringe litter and to educate community members about how to get rid of syringes safely and prevent needlestick injury (being pricked by a syringe).

Getting a blood-borne disease as a result of a needlestick injury from a discarded syringe is very unlikely to happen.

- In the United States, there are no known cases of HIV transmission as a result of a needlestick injury from syringe litter.
- There have been very rare cases of hepatitis B and C infection associated with a needlestick injury from syringe litter.
 - Children and adults in New York who receive routine vaccinations are fully protected against hepatitis B.
 - There is no vaccination against hepatitis C, but transmission through a needlestick injury from syringe litter is extremely unlikely.

IF YOU HAVE CONCERNS ABOUT SYRINGE LITTER:

- Wear shoes with tough soles.
- Teach children **not** to touch or pick up syringes.

**IF YOU FIND
SYRINGES ON
PUBLIC PROPERTY,
CALL 311.**

IF SOMEONE IS PRICKED BY A DISCARDED SYRINGE:

- Wash the area immediately with soap and water.
- Call a health care provider as soon as possible for guidance or go to an emergency room for evaluation:
 - If possible, look at the syringe to see if it contains blood. A health care provider might ask this to decide what treatment is needed.

IF YOU PICK UP A SYRINGE:

- Wear gloves and use tongs or a dustpan.
- Place the syringe in a sharps container or hard plastic bottle with a secure lid, such as a laundry detergent bottle.
- Wash hands with soap and disinfect the equipment used to pick up the syringe.
- **Do not** throw syringes in the trash or down a drain (sewer).

To find the nearest place to get rid of used syringes, call **311** or visit nyc.gov/health and search for **syringes**.

People who use drugs are also members of your community. Help is available if you are concerned about you or a loved one's substance use.

Call 888-NYC-WELL (888-692-9355). 24 hours a day, seven days a week, for free and confidential support in your preferred language.