



NEEDLE & SYRINGE DISPOSAL POLICY

PURPOSE: This policy has been developed to address the safe disposal of medical sharps (needles & syringes). Improper disposal of needles and syringes by residents of the Housing Authority pose a serious health risk to our maintenance staff and others. Maintenance and other staff can be pricked or injected with potentially infected needles while handling and disposing of garbage. Used needles can transmit serious diseases, such as HIV and Hepatitis B & C.

SCOPE: The Needle & Syringe Disposal Policy is in effect for all Housing Authority residents.

STATEMENT OF POLICY: It is the policy of the Housing Authority to fully enforce the safety guidelines related to the proper disposal of needles and syringes by residents of the Housing Authority.

SAFETY GUIDELINES: In order to prevent Housing Authority maintenance staff and others from being punctured by potentially infectious needles, the following safety guidelines must be complied with at all times:

- **Never dispose of needles and syringes in the garbage.**
- Make arrangements with your Home Health Care Aide. They may provide sharps containers. Once the containers are full, they can provide for their proper disposal.
- Contact your local hospitals. They may offer a program regarding the safe and responsible disposal of syringes and needles generated in the home. They may provide sharps containers. The sharps container must be returned to the hospital when full for proper disposal.
- Ask your physician if she/he will take your syringes once they are properly placed in a sharps container.
- Contact your local health department to see if they have a needle disposal program or if there are local needle disposal facilities in your area.
- If the above guidelines are not available, to safely dispose of your needles and syringes in your trash, do the following:



- Place needles in rigid plastic bottles like empty laundry detergent or fabric softener bottles with screw on caps. Do not use milk jugs or cartons that can be easily punctured.
- When $\frac{3}{4}$ full, seal the bottle tightly with its original lid and wrap duct tape over the lid.
- You could also check with local pharmacies to see if they sell sharps containers specially designed for disposal in your household trash.
- Label the container: **SYRINGES – DO NOT RECYCLE.**

POLICY REVIEW: Residents of the Housing Authority who violate the safety guidelines for disposal of needles and syringes can be subject to eviction. This policy may be subject to review and modification.