

## What Do You Do When You Find a Needle in the Community?



Finding needles in the community is a health and safety concern.

Everyone needs to know what to do when a needle is found.

**Can these needles be dangerous?** Like any object with sharp edges, eg, broken glass, needles can be dangerous, if not handled safely.



**How can you safely get rid of a used needle?**

- Get a glass jar or other hard container with a lid that needles cannot poke through.
- Pick up the needle by the end that is not sharp and always keep the pointed end away from you.
- Do **NOT** put the cap back on the needle; many injuries have happened that way.
- Put the needle in the container, if there is a needle cap; put it in the container too.
- Wash your hands with soap and water.
- Store the container in a safe place and away from children.
- Dispose of container and needle(s) in household garbage or
- Drop off the container at a local needle drop box, or exchange.

**What should you do if you poke yourself with a needle?**

- Encourage the wound to bleed by gently squeezing it.
- Immediately wash the wound and area with soap and water.
- Immediately go to the Hospital Emergency Department.



For advice concerning needles found in the community,

**Please call:**

**(306)236-1570 or (306)236-0036**

Request to speak to Harm Reduction staff or  
Northwest Health Facility  
Population Health Services  
**711 Centre Street**  
Meadow Lake, Sk.

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