

Needle Exchange does not increase threats to the health and safety of Law Enforcement

- There is no documented evidence of increased danger to Law Enforcement Officers occurring as a result of public health efforts to reduce transmission of HIV and other diseases resulting from reuse of dirty needles.
- In the six months following the introduction of a syringe distribution program in Connecticut, needle-stick injuries to police officers decreased by 66%.¹
- The implementation of syringe sales program in New York has not been associated with an increase in needle stick injuries among law enforcement workers. Data on needle stick injuries occurring before and after the pharmacy sales in New York were obtained directly from police departments operating in five major cities in upstate NY: Albany, Rochester, Buffalo, Syracuse and Utica.²
- Generally speaking, local law enforcement exposure to potential blood borne pathogens via needle stick injury does not appear to have increased since needle exchange and pharmacy sales have been implemented.

¹ SL, Weinstein B, Jones TS, et al. "Impact of Increased Legal Access to Needles and Syringes on Practices of Injection Drug Users and Police Officers—Connecticut, 1992-1993" *Journal of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome and Human Retrovirology* 1995, 10:73-81

² New York State Expanded Syringe Access Demonstration Program (ESAP) Evaluation Report to the Governor and State Legislature, January 15, 2003

So How Do I Protect Myself?

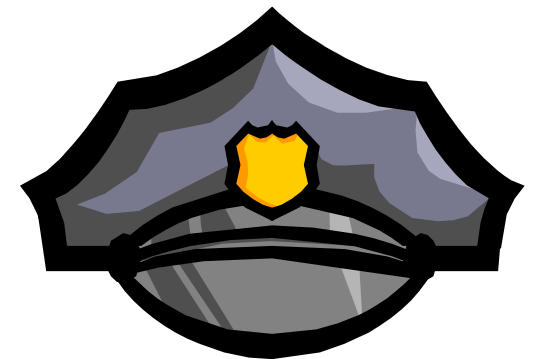
- Follow the safety procedures established by your department. If you are accidentally stuck, seek medical assistance immediately to obtain baseline testing for HIV, Hepatitis and Syphilis, as well as an evaluation for Post Exposure Prophylaxis (medications). If you are prescribed medication, take as prescribed. Do not stop medications without first discussing with your doctor.
- Obtain signed copies of an HIV Testing Consent form and a Testing Disclosure Authorization form from the source person, or request a court order to test and disclose the results if the individual will not voluntarily consent to testing.
- Complete form EMS 6 *Notification of Possible Communicable Disease Exposure*
- FAX a copy of the EMS 6, the Testing Consent form, and the Disclosure Authorization form to Public Health Communicable Disease Control at FAX (925) 313-6465.
- For more information on exposure, contact Public Health Communicable Disease Control at (925) 313-6740.

For more information on Needle Exchange and SB1159 DPDP, contact:

Contra Costa Health Services
Department AIDS Program
597 Center Ave., Suite 200
Martinez, CA 94553
ccpublichealth.org
Phone: 925-313-6771



Guidelines for Law Enforcement Officers on SB1159 & Needle Exchange Programs in Contra Costa

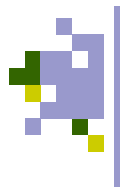


Public Health working to protect Law Enforcement and the Public



Clean syringe exchange programs are an essential part of locally-focused efforts to reduce the transmission of HIV and other blood-borne diseases. Injection drug users (IDUs) are 27.1% of all AIDS cases diagnosed in Contra Costa. Evidence shows that expanded access to sterile syringes can reduce new HIV infections among injection drug users and their partners and unborn children without increasing rates of drug use or crime.

In 1999 the Board of Supervisors endorsed clean needle exchange as a component of a comprehensive HIV risk reduction strategy. To help reduce the transmission of HIV and Hepatitis C, the Contra Costa Board of Supervisors allows needle exchange service to operate in Contra Costa County and has authorized registered pharmacies to dispense a limited number of syringes without a prescription.



SB 1159 Disease Prevention Demonstration Project (DPDP)

The Contra Costa Board of Supervisors authorized the Health Department to implement a local Disease Prevention Demonstration Project (DPDP). The purpose of the DPDP is to prevent the spread of HIV, hepatitis and other blood-borne diseases among injection drug users, their sexual partners and their children. The Project as authorized by California Senate Bill 1159:

- Allows pharmacists registered with the Health Department to sell or furnish up to 10 syringes to an individual 18 years of age or older without a prescription.
- Removes the requirement for participating pharmacies to maintain a log of identifying information on customers purchasing syringes.
- Requires participating pharmacies to furnish customers with health education, referrals, and information on safe disposal containerization of used syringes.

- Makes it unlawful to discard or dispose of a hypodermic needle or syringe upon the grounds of a playground, beach, park, or any public or private elementary, vocational, junior high, or high school.
- Exempts syringes that have been appropriately containerized for safe disposal from paraphernalia statutes, i.e., those syringes cannot be used as evidence of possession of drug paraphernalia.

Three major pharmacy chains (Walgreen's, Longs and Rite Aid) and one Safeway are registered in the DPDP.



Needle Exchange

What is needle exchange?

Needle exchange allows individuals to return used (dirty) syringes for clean unused syringes. Needle Exchange provides clean syringes, condoms, health education, referrals, and harm reduction information to participants. Needle exchange programs are important because not all IDUs have access to pharmacies which are registered to sell syringes.

- Health and Safety Code Section 11364.7(a) guarantees freedom from criminal prosecution for public entities and their agents or employees who distribute needles or syringes during a lawfully authorized syringe exchange project.

Access to sterile syringes reduces law enforcement's occupational risk of needle sticks when individuals are willing to disclose their possession of needles obtained through Board of Supervisor sanctioned activities. Needle Exchange is available on a regular basis at several locations in East and West County:

Mondays, 6-8 PM @ Richmond

Tuesdays, 6-8 PM @ Bay Point

Wednesdays, 6-8 PM @ North Richmond

Thursdays, 6-8 PM @ Pittsburg



How to Voice Concerns

Our interest is to keep the community safe. Please share any concerns about needle exchange or DPDP by calling the AIDS Program at (925) 313-6771. You may leave a message or ask to speak with AIDS Program staff directly about your concerns.

Every year the AIDS Program provides an update on the status of exchange activities to the Family and Human Services Committee of the Board of Supervisors. This presentation is open to the public and we invite you to participate in the discussion and share your views.

You can contact the Board of Supervisors for a copy of the Committee meeting calendar, or call or email the AIDS Program at cleiverm@hsd.cccounty.us for the date.

Last year's report as well as forms to request Public Health assistance following an exposure can be found on our website: ccpublichealth.org. To download copies of this brochure, the forms, or the report go to "Communicable Disease" and click on HIV/AIDS.



Contra Costa AIDS Program
(925) 313-6771
cchealth.org or ccpublichealth.org