

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

- Evaluators of the pilot project found no increase in the rate of accidental needle-stick injuries to law enforcement and no increase in rates of drug use or drug related crime. The full report of the evaluation can be accessed on the California Department of Public Health, Office of AIDS website
<http://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/aids/Pages/OASAMaterials.aspx>
- No reports of HIV infection attributed to needle sticks to first responders have been received by the Communicable disease Program.

The Risks of the Job: Protecting Law

Enforcement from Needle Stick Injuries

(Video)- <http://www.vimeo.com/6599539>



Made in cooperation with the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD), this documentary explains how officers can reduce the risk of infection by needle stick injuries on the job. LAPD officers visit a syringe exchange program SEP and explore the ways that SEPs can help keep law enforcement officers and their communities safer.

So How Do I Protect Myself?

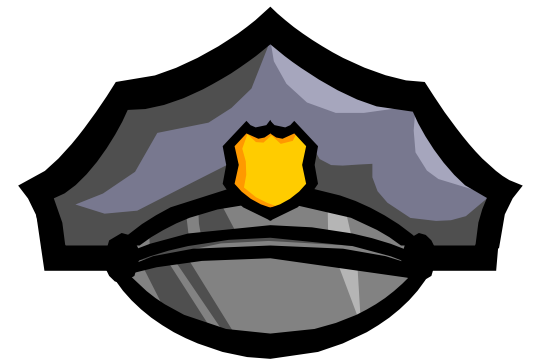
- Follow the safety procedures established by your department. If you are accidentally stuck, seek medical assistance immediately to obtain baseline testing for HIV and Hepatitis virus, as well as an evaluation for Post Exposure Prophylaxis (medications). If you are prescribed medication, take as prescribed. 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 Pharmacy Sale of Syringes, contact:

Contra Costa Health Services
Department HIV/AIDS & STD
Program
597 Center Ave., Suite 200
Martinez, CA 94553



Guidelines for Law Enforcement Officers on Pharmacy Sale of Syringes & Needle Exchange Programs in Contra Costa



Public Health working to protect Law Enforcement and the Public



Nonprescription Sale of Syringes in Pharmacies

On January 1, 2015, Assembly Bill (AB) 1743 went into effect as part of statewide efforts to reduce the spread of HIV and viral hepatitis . The law removes the restrictions on pharmacy practices to allow nonprescription sale of syringes in licensed pharmacies throughout the state, without restriction on the number of syringes that may be sold or purchased.

Pharmacies must provide written information or verbal counseling to customers at the time of sale on how to:

- access drug treatment;
- access testing and treatment for HIV and HCV; and
- safely dispose of sharps waste.

California Disease Prevention Demonstration Project, a pilot program that ran from 2005-2010 in fifteen counties and four cities, established that increasing access to sterile syringes through pharmacies can significantly reduce rates of syringe sharing. Researchers who evaluated the pilot project reported that the counties that allowed nonprescription syringe sales (NPSS) in pharmacies observed lower injection related risks among people who inject drugs and lower levels of unsafe discard of used syringes.



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 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. 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 17% of all AIDS cases diagnosed in Contra Costa and only 1.9% of newly identified cases in 2014. 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 Contra Costa County 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.



How to Voice Concerns

Our interest is to keep the community safe. Please share any concerns about needle exchange or syringe sales 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 contact the AIDS Program Director by phone at 925-313-6771 or via email Christine.Leivermann@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: <http://cchealth.org/aids/syringe-exchange.php>



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