

DISCARDING SYRINGES AND OTHER SHARPS

What if I find a sharp?

- ▶ Wear heavy-duty gloves.
- ▶ Use a tool like tongs or pliers to pick up the sharp.
- ▶ **DO NOT** disconnect the needle from the syringe.
- ▶ **DO NOT** handle sharps with bare hands.
- ▶ **DO NOT** throw sharps into the trash or the toilet.
- ▶ Teach children to tell an adult if they see needles.

How should I get rid of sharps?

Choose a Container

- ▶ Use a heavy-duty laundry detergent or bleach container with a screw top.
- ▶ **DO NOT** use soda or water bottles.
- ▶ Carefully put used sharps in the container with the needle end down.



HDPE



Label

- ▶ Label the container with the warning: **DO NOT RECYCLE!**
- ▶ **DO NOT** fill the container full.

Seal & Dispose

- ▶ When the container is ready for disposal, screw the cap on tightly and cover the top with strong tape, like duct tape.
- ▶ Dispose of the container with household trash.
- ▶ **DO NOT** put this container in recycling.



What should I do if I get stuck?

- ▶ Stop what you are doing.
- ▶ Let the wound bleed.
- ▶ Wash with soap and running water.
- ▶ Apply antiseptic and/or bandage.
- ▶ Note the time of the injury, the needle's location and what it looked like. Was it dirty?

You may need a blood test or vaccine. Go to an emergency room or urgent care center right away.