

# Help Keep Our Kids Safe

## Sharps Safety for Parents and Guardians

Many Lowell residents use sharps to manage a variety of health care conditions at home, such as diabetes, allergies, and multiple sclerosis. The safe disposal of needles, syringes, lancets, and pen and pump needles, all known as **sharps**, is necessary to protect residents, sanitation/municipal workers, and the environment. Sometimes, discarded needles are found in community spaces. It is important for all of us to know what to do when finding a discarded syringe!



### What should I do if I find a discarded needle in public?

If you find a needle in public, **do not touch it**. Please call the Lowell Health Department's Syringe Collection Program at (978) 674-1049 during program hours or fill out a "Hypodermic Needle" report on [www.lowellma.gov](http://www.lowellma.gov), just like you would to report a pothole. To report a discarded needle outside of the Syringe Collection Program hours, call the Lowell Police Department at (978) 937-3200. Provide the location of the needle(s) with as much detail as possible so that the responding agency can locate the waste.

### How do I talk to my children about sharps safety?

Talking with your child about sharps safety is important, especially if you have sharps in the home or have previously encountered them in public spaces.

### Can I put my used sharps in the trash?

No. Throwing syringes in the trash or recycling bin, or disposing them anywhere that is not a safe sharps disposal container is against the law and could lead to a fine. Sharps that have been improperly disposed of pose a health and safety risk to the public and to sanitation workers. Sharps must be disposed of at a sharps disposal drop-off site or through a medical mail-back service.

#### Syringe Collection Program Hours

Monday: 8am-5pm  
 Tuesday: 8am-8pm  
 Wednesday: 8am-5pm  
 Thursday: 8am-5pm  
 Friday: 8am-12pm

### Sharps Drop-Off Sites in Lowell

<b>Lowell Health Department</b>	107 Merrimack Street 4th Floor Lowell, MA 01852 (978) 674-4304	Mon, Wed, Thurs: 8:00 am - 5:00 pm Tues: 8:00 am - 8:00 pm Fri: 8:00 am - 12:00 pm
<b>Lowell Senior Center</b>	276 Broadway Street Lowell, MA 01854 (978) 674-1171	Monday - Friday: 7:00 am - 3:00 pm
<b>Lowell Community Health Center</b>	101 Jackson Street 1st Floor Lowell, MA 01852 (978) 937-9700	Monday - Friday: 8:00 am - 5:00 pm
<b>Riverbend (Formerly Lowell House)</b>	200 Central St. Lowell, MA 01852 (978) 459-8656	Monday - Thursday: 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

### What should I do with used sharps?

Used sharps should always be placed in a sharps or puncture proof container, such as a rigid liquid detergent bottle or bleach bottle, and disposed of safely at one of the drop-off site listed here or to a mail-back program. Please do not clip, bend, or recap syringes. Always keep sharps and containers away from children and pets.

