

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, especially for our children.



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 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. It is important for your children to know that if they find a loose sharp or discarded needle that they should not touch it and immediately tell a trusted adult.

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.

Sharps Drop-Off Sites in Lowell

Lowell Health Department	341 Pine St. Lowell, MA 01851 (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
Lowell Senior Center	276 Broadway St. Lowell, MA 01854 (978) 674-1171	Mon - Fri: 6:30 am - 4:00 pm
Lowell Regional Wastewater Utility	451 First St. Blvd (Rt. 110 at Dracut Line) Lowell, MA 01850 (978) 674-4248	Last Saturday of each month: 8:00 am to 12:00 pm
Lowell House Addiction Treatment & Recovery	101 Jackson St. Lowell, MA 01852 (978) 459-8656	Mon - Thurs: 9:00 am - 8:00 pm Fri: 9:00 am - 4:00 pm
Life Connection Center	192 Appleton St. Lowell, MA 01852 (978) 997-0588	Mon - Thurs: 11:00 am - 4:00 pm Call TJ at (978) 935-1801

Syringe Collection Program Hours

Monday: 9-5pm
Tuesday: 9-8pm
Wednesday: 9-5pm
Thursday 9-5pm
Friday 8-12pm

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.

