

Guide for handling found syringes

If you find a syringe in a public space or campsite, follow these steps.

- **Do not touch it with your bare hands** : Never pick up a syringe directly.
- **Use mechanical tools** : Use tweezers, needle-nose pliers, or tongs to pick up them up.
- **Point down and away** : Always keep the needle pointing down and away from your body.
- **Proper container** : Immediately place it in a sharps container using tongs. Do not handle with your hands.
- **Do not recap** : Never attempt to recap a used needle.
- **Filling and sealing** : Do not fill the syringe container more than **3/4 full** .

Security in camps and critical areas

When working in high-waste-density areas or camps, follow these guidelines.

Your supervisor will provide all needed safety items.

- **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)** : Wear puncture-resistant gloves if needed, hard hats, safety goggles, safety vest, sturdy boots. Wear long pants and long sleeve shirt.
- **Pre-move visual inspection** : Before moving bags or belongings, visually inspect the area. Needles may be hidden in cracks, sand, or among clothing, handle with great caution and care. Do not assume it is safe to handle.
- **Handling belongings** : If belongings are mixed with needles or human waste, it is recommended to treat the entire set as hazardous biological waste. Proceed with care.
- **Final disposal** : Do not throw syringes or containers in the regular trash or recycling bins. Look for local collection points, public needle drop-off points, or syringe exchange programs. Your supervisor will provide these for you.

What to do in case of an accidental puncture?

1. **Wash immediately** : Wash the area with plenty of soap and water.
2. **Do not suction** : Do not try to suction the wound. Let it bleed freely underwater .

3. Urgent medical attention : Go to the emergency room or see a doctor immediately to assess the need for post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) for HIV or Hepatitis. Contact office and or your supervisor immediately to arrange for medical attention for you.