

COMMUNITY SAFETY NOTICE

Sharps Found in Public Areas on NFN

June 14, 2019 – A number of needles (sharps) have been found in public areas recently, sparking safety concerns for children and families who enjoy using recreation areas in the community. Sharps pose a potential public health risk due to the ‘puncture’ danger, including the risk of illness/disease from possible blood exposure.

If you find improperly discarded needles/syringes, please REPORT the exact location to:

Lawrence Commanda Health Centre
58 Semo Road, Garden Village
705-753-3312

OR

Public Works Department
45 Semo Road, Garden Village
705-753-4167

Below is some information about how to safely pick up and dispose of sharps to reduce the risk of improper handling and potential exposure. If you are not comfortable picking up the sharps yourself, please let our staff know when you report the location and they will promptly pick up and safely dispose of the sharps.

Where possible, sharps can be safely removed by:

- Placing the needle/syringe in a puncture-resistant container (i.e. plastic bottle with screw-on lid). Avoid using containers with lids that could easily pop off (i.e. margarine container).
- Not handling the sharps with bare hands – always wear gloves, use tongs, or plastic bags to avoid direct contact with the needle/syringe.
- Being vigilant for other sharps that may be buried or partially buried in the vicinity.

Proper sharps containers and sharps retrieval tools (such as gloves and tongs) are available with “no questions asked” from the Lawrence Commanda Health Centre and the new Giyak Moseng (The Right Path) office located at 316 Ted Commanda Drive. Used sharps containers can be returned to the Health Centre. The Right Path can also provide education on related topics such as needle exchange programs, naloxone and overdose prevention.

Keeping Nipissing First Nation lands safe for all residents is everyone’s responsibility. Please keep an eye out for sharps and other hazards and **report all instances of improperly discarded sharps**.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact:

Carole Lafantaisie, Community Health Nurse
705-753-2050 ext. 2257 | chn@nfn.ca

Lisa Lurz, Addictions Counsellor
705-753-1375 ext. 2255 | lisal@nfn.ca

LOOK SHARP NO SHARPS

How to safely
pick up a needle.



WEAR GLOVES AND
TREAT ALL NEEDLES
AS CONTAMINATED.



USE TONGS, PLIERS
OR TWEEZERS TO
PICK UP NEEDLE.



ALWAYS POINT
NEEDLE AWAY
FROM YOU.



PLACE NEEDLE POINT
DOWN INTO A SAFE
CONTAINER, NEVER
IN THE GARBAGE.



CLOSE CONTAINER
SECURELY.



WASH YOUR HANDS
AND DISINFECT TOOL
USED FOR NEEDLE
PICK UP.



USE A PUNCTURE
PROOF CONTAINER
WITH A SECURE LID
LIKE A PLASTIC POP
OR JUICE BOTTLE IF
YOU DON'T HAVE A
SHARPS CONTAINER.



DROP OFF CONTAINER
AT A HAZARDOUS
WASTE DEPOT IN
YOUR COMMUNITY.