

Personal protective equipment is recommended to minimize the risk of needle stick injury – being pierced by a needle or ‘sharp’ – and accompanying blood borne infection. Using the supplies properly and cleaning all areas with a virucide, such as Virox from Swish, means that you are not at risk for injury or illness.

### Supplies included in Kit

- Tongs
- 2 double dipped PVC gloves
- Yellow Bio-Bin (Sharps Container) – capacity 200 needles
- Safety Goggles

### Steps 1-9

1. Check that your kit contains the supplies listed above.
2. Make sure there is adequate lighting and room for the process of clean up and disposal of sharps. A second person to help you can be recommended.
3. Put on safety goggles, followed by gloves.
4. Hold tongs by handle.
5. Approach used sharp with tongs, ensuring that the sharp object is always pointed away from you.
6. Close end of tongs around sharp to lift off surface.
7. Place sharp with care in the yellow bio-bin.
8. After disposing of all sharps,
  - a. clean and disinfect all surfaces, tongs, and gloves with a general virucide as this helps eradicate any HIV, HepC, or other virus residue.
  - b. if only a few needles have been placed in the bin, put the lid on the bio bin and store **safely** in a cool dark place until the next time you require it. .
9. Once the bio bin is full:
  - a. Secure the lid of the bio bin to the lock position, and return to PARN at 159 King Street Suite 302. In the event that you are unable to come to PARN, your local pharmacy will also accept bio bins.

### Notes

**Do not attempt to recap sharps!** If there is other equipment used for injection such as cookers or used alcohol swabs, use the same procedure as above and also dispose in bio bin. **Should you have your skin pierced** by a used sharp, remain calm and go to your local hospital emergency department within 24 hours. Hospital emergencies have protocols for needle stick injuries that include assessment, testing and possible pharmaceutical treatment free of charge.

**To learn more** about Hepatitis C and HIV, harm reduction, overdose prevention, or other related issues, call PARN at 705-749 9110