

This leaflet will be reviewed by the IPACT in 2016



This leaflet has been written in consultation with the following Departments / Organisations

- HSSD Infection Prevention and Control Team
- Public Health Directorate
- HSSD Health Promotion Unit
- Bailiwick Drug and Alcohol Strategy
- Guernsey Police
- States Works Department

What to do if you find a needle, syringe or other injecting equipment in a community setting



Finding a used needle or syringe in a community setting is a health and safety concern and everyone needs to know what to do if this happens.

The main message is **DO NOT TOUCH** a discarded needle, syringe or other injecting items.

If the items are in a public place you should report it to the States Works Department on telephone number 246263 between office hours 9am – 5pm and at all other times the Police on telephone number 725111

Always advise children not to touch needles or syringes if they find them, but to report it to an adult they know straight away.

If the items are found on private land it is the responsibility of the property owner to remove it. If there is a need to remove a needle immediately due to its location, e.g. near a children's play area or where it is likely to cause an injury, in both instances the following guidance is recommended:

- Do not touch the needle with your bare hands
- If possible wear heavy duty gloves and tongs to lift the needle, syringe or other injecting equipment.
- Find a rigid container, preferably with a lid eg plastic drinks bottle, which should be taken to the needle, until a suitable 'sharps' bin is available
- Pick the needle up at arm's length
- Needles should be picked up by the middle of the barrel and placed needle end first into the rigid container, the lid should then be closed

What to do if someone is injured by a needle

- Encourage the wound to bleed by squeezing for a minute or two
- Do not suck the wound
- Wash the wound with soap and water and cover with a plaster.
- Contact your GP or the A & E Department within 2 hours of the injury

Remember If you find a needle, syringe or other injecting equipment in the community

- Do not touch it
- Do not let your friends touch
- Do not let your pets touch it
- Don't hide it
- Don't kick it
- Do not put it in a dustbin, litterbin or flush it down the toilet