

# COMMUNITY HEALTH NOTICE

## **IV DRUG USERS PLEASE READ:**

Children continue to find your used needles on paths around town. IF you are using needles for injection please use a safe way of disposing these needles. Get a doctor's order for a sharps container or put your needles in jar and bring to Health Centre. Your needles can cause life altering diseases to our children or they may experience an overdose. We need your cooperation. This also applies to your crack pipes. Please do not let your choice affect others. Seek help. It's time. Meegwetch.

## **NEEDLE SAFETY**—adapted from Oxford County

Finding a used needle or syringe is not a frequent occurrence, but it is important to know what to do if you or your child finds a needle.

### **Why should I be concerned?**

Used needles can transmit blood borne infections. Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), Hepatitis B and C can all be spread should someone be injured by a discarded needle. Hepatitis B and C viruses can live for several days on a needle, while HIV dies once any blood dries. You should always treat discarded needles with extreme caution.



### **What should I tell my children?**

Children should be told to: Never touch or pick up a needle

Always call an adult if they see a needle

Show your child a picture of what a needle looks like. They may not understand what to avoid if they do not see what it is you are talking about. Talk about some places discarded needles shouldn't be, but can be found: garbage cans, walking areas, ditches, streets, playgrounds, community washrooms and other isolated areas.

### **How should I dispose of a needle or crack pipe?**

Find a non-breakable, puncture-proof container (i.e. thick plastic)

Place this container beside the location of the needle on a stable surface



Put on disposable gloves if you have them

Never recap the needle. Recapping a needle is one of the most frequent causes of needle injuries

Use tweezers, pliers or tongs to pick up the needle. Be sure to pick it up by the plastic portion of the syringe

Hold the needle away from you when you pick up the needle, ensuring that you have a firm grip

Place the needle inside the plastic container (sharp end first) and secure the lid

Remove gloves and wash hands thoroughly

Do not flush needles down a toilet or put in the garbage or recycling box

Survey your area to determine if there are any other needles in the area

All unknown objects, bags, boxes, containers found on your property should be handled with caution. Never reach in if you cannot see the contents.

**CALL THE NURSES AT MOOSE FACTORY HEALTH CENTRE  
IF YOU HAVE ANY CONCERNS OR QUESTIONS.  
MEEGWETCH 705-658-4220**



**MOOSE FACTORY HEALTH CENTRE**