

## Sharps Safety

Occupational exposure to bloodborne pathogens from needlesticks and other sharps injuries is a serious problem, resulting in injuries to personnel each year. Sharps injuries are primarily associated with occupational transmission of hepatitis B virus (HBV), hepatitis C virus (HCV), and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), but they have been implicated in the transmission of more than 20 other pathogens.

### Safety practices while using sharps:

The use of needles, syringes, and others sharps create risks for accidental injection and the creation of aerosols. Safer needles and syringes should be explored when there are no other alternatives to using needles.

- Keep sharps as far away from the fingers as possible.
- Do not bend, break, cut or recap needles; don't remove needles from syringes.
- If a contaminated needle must be recapped or removed from the syringe, a mechanical device, such as a forceps, and a "one hand" recapping technique.

**Report a needlestick injury:** [Lab Incident Report Form](#)

### Safety engineered sharps are readily available

Use sharps with [safety features](#)

### Disposal of sharps:



- Syringes and needles, as well as contaminated sharps, are to be placed into a sharps container. A sharps container is a hard plastic container that is used to safely dispose of hypodermic needles and other sharp medical instruments, such as razors, IV catheters and disposable scalpels.
- Stop adding sharps to the container once you have reached the fill line. DO NOT shake containers as this may create dangerous aerosols.
- Seal the container and place a hazardous waste request for pick up via [CEMS](#)
- Place a "[Lab Supplies](#)" request to receive a new sharps container