



Town of Northborough

Board of Health

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Board of Health Members

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SHARPS COLLECTION POLICY

The Northborough Board of Health has instituted the following policy to collect home medical sharps to help Northborough residents meet the collection provisions of 105 CMR 480.000, Minimum Requirements for the Management of Medical or Biological Waste (State Sanitary Code Chapter VIII). In 2008, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Public Health Council (DPH/PHC) approved amendments to the state's medical waste regulations which include a ban on the disposal of sharps in household trash, effective July 1, 2012. In accordance with M.G.L 94c, §27A, the Northborough Board of Health is offering a community collection program to protect the public health and the environment by providing for the safe, secure and accessible collection of hypodermic needles and lancets.

Used or unneeded sharps may be dropped off at the Board of Health office, Town Hall, 63 Main Street, Northborough. The Northborough Board of Health has contracted with a licensed vendor for proper disposal of collected home sharps. To take part in this collection program, Northborough residents must adhere to the following provisions:

Home sharps will only be accepted in almost full, approved sharps collection containers. Approved sharps collection containers must meet the requirements of the federal Occupation Safety and Health Administration and be marked with the international biohazard symbol. Acceptable containers are available for purchase at the Board of Health office, various local retailers, pharmacies and online. Coffee cans, detergent, bleach, milk or other types of containers will NOT be accepted.

If an individual uses a different collection container at home, he/she must transfer the sharps to an approved container at home. Please note that Health Department staff are not allowed to transfer or touch in any way used sharps.

Collection hours are as follows:

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday	8am-4pm
Tuesday	8am-7pm
Friday	7am-12pm

This sharps disposal program is a courtesy for Northborough residents only.

This policy was approved by the Northborough Board of Health on December 8, 2020.