

**Florida Department of Health in Miami Dade County
Creates Sharps Disposal Program**

Miami-Dade --- The Biomedical Waste Unit of the Florida Department of Health in Miami Dade County has created a Sharps Disposal Program for the safe disposal of needles, syringes, lancets and other sharp medical objects.

The free, voluntary program is for residents and visitors of Miami-Dade County who have a medical condition that requires the use of injected medication. Needles may be contaminated with Hepatitis, AIDS and other infectious diseases; and, therefore, need to be disposed of appropriately to prevent accidental sticks from improperly discarded needles.

According to the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, between 600,000 and 800,000 needlestick injuries occur annually in health care settings.

“Every year thousands of people sustain dangerous needlestick injuries which are almost always preventable.” said Lillian Rivera, R.N., M.S.N, Administrator of the Florida Department of Health in Miami Dade County. “By participating in the Sharps Disposal Program, residents and visitors of Miami-Dade can help to reduce these unnecessary injuries.”

Participants of the Sharps Disposal Program should:

- Place needles, syringes, lancets and other sharp objects into an approved biomedical wastes sharps container or a heavy-duty plastic or metal container with a screw-on top that can be secured and closed tightly
- Reinforce the closure with tape
- Do not use clear plastic or glass for the container
- Bring the container to the reception desk of a participating FDOHMDC location
- between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday
- Bring in containers once they are three quarters full
- Never place the container in a regular trash for disposal

****Only properly packaged sharps containers will be accepted.**

Florida Department of Health in Miami Dade County Disposal Sites:

West Perrine Clinic
Graciela Reyes
18255 Homestead Ave.
Miami, FL 33158
305-234-5400 ext. 2566

Downtown Center
Sherilly Lee
1350 NW 14th St.
Miami, FL 33125
305-575-3827

Environmental Health and Engineering (Golden Glades)

Trevor Coke
1725 NW 167th St.
Miami, FL 33056
305-623-3500

Little Haiti Clinic
Danel Cedent
300 NE 80th Terrace
Miami, FL 33138
305-795-2150

If you have any questions regarding the Sharps Disposal Program, call the FDOHMDC Biomedical Waste Unit at 305-623-3500.

FDOHMDC promotes and protects the health of our community through prevention and preparedness today, for a healthier tomorrow. For more information, visit the FDOHMDC website at www.dadehealth.org.