

# SAFE DISPOSAL

## of needles and drug paraphernalia

Anyone who uses a needle to inject should dispose of it safely. However, that is not always the case, and sometimes discarded needles are found in public areas.

Safe disposal of needles and drug paraphernalia saves others from getting hurt accidentally.

### SAFE NEEDLE DISPOSAL

- Don't try to replace the cap on the needle
- Don't snap, break or bend the needle
- Pick up needle with care using work gloves and tongs or tweezers
- Hold needle point away from you
- Put needle in a metal or hard plastic container with a lid (i.e. product or drink bottle)
- Replace cap on container securely and label it
- Remove gloves and wash hands thoroughly with soap and water
- Drop off the sealed container at your local health unit or at a community drop box



## SAFE DRUG PARAPHERNALIA DISPOSAL

- Pick up paraphernalia (such as: cookers, stems, pipes, etc) using work or latex gloves.
- Place items into double plastic bags and dispose in the garbage.
- Wash hands thoroughly with soap and water.



## IF YOU ARE PRICKED BY A NEEDLE

Please take the following steps:

- Quickly wash the pricked area with soap and warm water.
- Call the Communicable Disease program at Island Health:
  - « South Island: 1-866-665-6626
  - « Central Island: 1-866-770-7798
  - « North Island: 1-877-887-8835



To find out if community drop boxes are accessible in your area, contact your local municipal office.



For more information, call your local health unit or municipality.

