

**A Guide  
for the  
Disposal of Syringes  
and other  
Household Sharps  
for the Residents of  
Nassau County**

**5<sup>th</sup> Edition – 2007**

**Nassau County Department of Health  
Nassau County HIV Commission**

**Thomas R. Suozzi  
County Executive**

**Abby J. Greenberg, M.D.  
Acting Commissioner**

**The Nassau County HIV Commission was appointed by the Nassau County Board of Health in 1989 and is charged with addressing issues related to the HIV epidemic in Nassau County. The HIV Commission is organized into committees including the Steering Committee, the Membership Committee, the Long Term Planning Committee, the Policy Advisory Committee, and the Prevention Committee.**

**The HIV Commission Prevention Committee was given the task of addressing the many issues surrounding syringes and needles, and their relation to HIV transmission. With input from various experts including Dr. Terry Ruefli, Executive Director of the New York Harm Reduction Educators, it was determined that there is a need to increase the public's awareness of the proper methods of syringe disposal. The development of this document was the first step in addressing this need.**

**This guide is even more important as a result of the New York State Expanded Syringe Access Program (ESAP), effective 1/1/01 – 3/31/03 and extended through 2007. Under this law, persons age 18 years and older can legally possess hypodermic needles and syringes obtained through ESAP. These syringes may be purchased or obtained without prescription, from participating licensed pharmacies, hospitals, nursing homes, community health centers, doctors, nurse practitioners and physician assistants (Public Health Law Section: 3381, Chapter 56, Laws of 2000 Appendix A)**

**For more information, please contact the Bureau of HIV Services at (516) 571-2019.**

## **I. INTRODUCTION**

Nationwide, millions of people with a variety of health problems use medical sharps such as needles, syringes, and lancets to manage their care at home. According to the United States Environmental Protection Agency, more than 3 billion sharps are discarded annually outside of health care settings. On Long Island, the annual number of syringes used is conservatively estimated at 65 million. Unlike medical waste from hospitals, the waste from a private home is not monitored and regulated. Therefore, disposing of syringes in the household trash can result in a needlestick injury that can spread diseases such as hepatitis, tetanus, and HIV. This guide provides information that may be useful in preventing these needlestick injuries.

## **II. MEDICAL SHARPS DISPOSAL**

The United States Environmental Protection Agency and the New York State Department of Health recommend that sharps should be kept out of household trash and recycling bins in order to protect trash handlers, sewage treatment workers, and the general public against disease or injury. Therefore, the following guidelines outline how to safely store used sharps in your home:

- 1) Use a sharps container or a puncture-proof plastic container with a tight-fitting screw top. A laundry detergent or bleach bottle will suffice.
- 2) Don't use glass because it can break, and coffee cans are not recommended because the plastic lids come off too easily.
- 3) Label the container clearly. Write "Contains Sharps" with a waterproof marker directly on the container or on masking tape on the container.
- 4) Once you have used a syringe or lancet, immediately put it into your container. Screw on the top, don't clip, bend, or recap the needles because you could injure yourself.

- 5) **Keep the container away from children!**
- 6) **When the container is full, screw on the cap tightly. Seal it with heavy-duty tape to be extra-safe.**

### **III. MEDICAL SHARPS DISPOSAL AT DESIGNATED CENTERS**

**Medical sharps from private homes should be disposed at a designated medical facility. Public Health Law requires that New York State Department of Health licensed hospitals and nursing homes accept used medical sharps from private residences for proper disposal. The requirements are enumerated in Public Health Law, section 1389-dd. that became effective June 30, 1996. (See Appendix B.) Each medical facility, as defined in this section, must have a "Household Sharp Disposal Plan".**

**This Guide lists all of the facilities in Nassau County, which are required to accept medical sharps from private residences. These facilities have different requirements. Please contact them prior to bringing in medical sharps to be disposed.**

### **IV. MEDICAL SHARPS DISPOSAL FROM PUBLIC AREAS**

**If a needle or syringe is found in a public area such as a park or playground, call the Nassau County Police Department by dialing 911. Police cars are equipped with approved medical waste disposal containers.**

### **V. NEEDLE DISPOSAL SITES**

**This guide includes information about local hospitals and nursing homes in Nassau County, which are required to accept medical sharps from private homes.**

**VI. OTHER IMPORTANT RESOURCES**

**For information regarding local Departments of Sanitation call the following numbers:**

<b>Town of Hempstead</b>	<b>(516) 489-6000</b>
<b>Town of North Hempstead</b>	<b>(516) 767-4608</b>
<b>Town of Oyster Bay</b>	<b>(516) 624-6390</b>
<b>City of Glen Cove</b>	<b>(516) 676-4167</b>
<b>City of Long Beach</b>	<b>(516) 432-3132</b>

<b>Nassau County Department of Health Bureau of HIV Services</b>	<b>(516) 571-2019</b>
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**Nassau County Police Department**  
**If a needle or syringe is found in a public area in Nassau County, call 911**

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## Nassau County Sharps Disposal Information

### HOSPITALS

**NOTE: Please contact facility before bringing sharps**

NAME	ADDRESS	TOWN	DAYS/HOURS of Operation	CONTACT	PHONE
Franklin Hospital Medical Center	900 Franklin Avenue (emergency room)	North Valley Stream	WEDNESDAY 8:30 AM - 11:00 AM	Environmental Services Dept.	256-6170
Long Beach Medical Center - Family Care Clinic	455 East Bay Drive (right of main entrance)	Long Beach	MON., WED. & FRI. 9AM-5PM TUES. & THURS. 8AM-4PM (except holidays)	Environmental Services Department	897-1350
Mercy Medical Center	1000 North Village Avenue (basement of St. Ann's)	Rockville Centre	MONDAY - FRIDAY 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM (excluding holidays)	Environmental/ Housekeeping Department	705-1801
New-Island Hospital	4295 Hempstead Tpke. (lobby)	Bethpage	MONDAY - FRIDAY 8 AM – 4 PM	Director of Housekeeping	520-2305
Nassau University Medical Center	2201 Hempstead Tpke. (ambulance entry)	East Meadow	7 DAYS/24 HOURS	Housekeeping Department	572-6542
North Shore L.I. Jewish Hillside Medical Center	270-05 76 <sup>th</sup> Ave.	New Hyde Park	MONDAY – FRIDAY 8 AM – 5 PM	Environmental Services Dept.	(718) 470-7420
North Shore University Hospital at Manhasset	300 Community Drive (emergency entrance)	Manhasset	MONDAY – FRIDAY 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM	Environmental Services	562-4155
North Shore University Hospital at Glen Cove	101 St. Andrews Lane (1 <sup>st</sup> floor)	Glen Cove	MONDAY - FRIDAY 9 AM – 4 PM	Laboratory	674-7515
North Shore University Hospital at Plainview	888 Old Country Road	Plainview	MONDAY - FRIDAY 7:30 AM - 5:00 PM (emergency room)	Environmental Services	719-2253

<b>NAME</b>	<b>ADDRESS</b>	<b>TOWN</b>	<b>DAYS/HOURS of Operation</b>	<b>CONTACT</b>	<b>PHONE</b>
North Shore University Hospital at Syosset	221 Jericho Tpke.	Syosset	MONDAY – FRIDAY 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM (emergency room)	Environmental Services Department	496-6520
St. Francis Hospital	100 Port Washington (front desk)	Roslyn	7 DAYS/24 HOURS	Environmental Services	562-6656
South Nassau Communities Hospital	1 Healthy Way (ground floor)	Oceanside	MONDAY - FRIDAY 7 AM - 5 PM	Environmental Services Dept.	632-4613
Winthrop University Hospital	259 First Street (security booth outside emergency entrance)	Mineola	7 DAYS/24 HOURS	Environmental Services	663-3401

## **RESIDENTIAL HEALTH CARE FACILITIES**

**NOTE: Please contact facility before bringing sharps**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Town</b>	<b>Days/Hours of Operation</b>	<b>Contact</b>	<b>Phone</b>
A. Holly Patterson Nursing Home	875 Jerusalem Avenue	Uniondale	MONDAY – FRIDAY 8 AM - 3 PM	Nursing Supervisor	572-1408
Bayview Nursing Home	1 Long Beach Road	Island Park	MONDAY - FRIDAY 7:00 AM - 3:00 PM	Housekeeping Supervisor	432-0300 X 181
Beach Terrace Care Center	640 W. Broadway	Long Beach	MAKE APPOINTMENT	Director of Housekeeping	431-4400
Belair Care Center	2478 Jerusalem Avenue	N. Bellmore	WEDNESDAY 10 AM - 2 PM	Front Desk Receptionist	826-1160
Central Island Health Care	825 Old Country Road	Plainview	1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> TUESDAY 10 AM – 11:30 PM	Housekeeping	433-0600

<b>Name</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Town</b>	<b>Days/Hours of Operation</b>	<b>Contact</b>	<b>Phone</b>
Daleview Care Center	574 Fulton Street	Farmingdale	WEDNESDAY 10 AM – 3 PM	Director of Nursing	694-6242
East Rockaway Progressive Care Facility	243 Atlantic Avenue	Lynbrook	LAST MONDAY 10 AM – 12 PM	Infection Control Nurse	599-2744 X29
Fulton Commons Care Center	60 Merrick Avenue	East Meadow	MONDAY - FRIDAY 2 PM - 4 PM	Housekeeping	222-9300
Glen Cove Center for Nursing & Rehabilitation	6 Medical Plaza	Glen Cove	FRIDAY 9 AM – 10 AM	Nursing Supervisor	671-9010
Garden Care Center	135 Franklin Avenue	Franklin Square	1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> THURSDAY 2 PM – 7 PM	Operator	775-2100
Glengariff Health Care Center	Dosoris Lane	Glen Cove	2 <sup>nd</sup> TUESDAY OF MONTH 7:30 AM - 8 PM	Director of Housekeeping	676-1100 at menu press 2-9-4
Grace Plaza of Great Neck, Inc	15 St. Paul's Place	Great Neck	THURSDAY 8 AM - 9:00 PM	Environmental Services	466-3001 498-1240
Komanoff Center for Geriatrics	375 E. Bay Drive	Long Beach	MONDAY – FRIDAY 9 AM – 5 PM (excluding holidays)	Infection Control	897-1000
Long Beach Grandell Rehab & Nursing Center	645 W. Broadway	Long Beach	MONDAY-FRIDAY 9 AM - 5 PM SATURDAY 7 AM – 4 PM	Receptionist	889-1100 X"0"
Marquis Care Center	2 Medical Plaza	Glen Cove	1 <sup>st</sup> MONDAY OF MONTH 2 PM - 4 PM	Infection Control	671-0858
Mayfair Care Center	100 Baldwin Road	Hempstead	TUESDAY 10 AM - 12 PM	Nursing Supervisor	538-7171
Meadowbrook Care Center	320 Merrick Road	Freeport	MONDAY– FRIDAY 7 AM–3 PM	Nursing Supervisor	377-8200

<b>Name</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Town</b>	<b>Days/Hours of Operation</b>	<b>Contact</b>	<b>Phone</b>
			WED. 7 PM – 9 PM		
Nassau Extended Care Center	1 Greenwich Street & Peninsula Blvd.	Hempstead	MONDAY – FRIDAY 9 AM – 3 PM	Environmental Department	565-4800
North Shore Hospital for Extended Care & Rehab	330 Community Drive	Manhasset	WEDNESDAY 8:30 AM - 3:30 PM	Environmental Services	562-8083
Oceanside Care Center	2914 Lincoln Avenue	Oceanside	MONDAY 8 AM – 12 AM	Housekeeping	536-2300
Park Avenue Ext. Care Center	425 National Blvd.	Long Beach	MONDAY – FRIDAY 8 AM – 4 PM	Nursing Dept.	431-2600
Parker Institute for Health Care & Rehab.	271-11 76 <sup>th</sup> Avenue	New Hyde Park	MONDAY – FRIDAY 9 AM – 4 PM	Environmental Services	(718) 289-2155
Parkview Nursing Home	5353 Merrick Road	Massapequa	2 <sup>nd</sup> TUESDAY OF MONTH 10 AM – 12 PM	Housekeeping	798-1800
Rockville Nursing & Rehab. Center	41 Maine Avenue	Rockville Centre	1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup> TUESDAY 10:30 AM – 11:30 PM	Nursing Supervisor	536-7730
Rockville Residence Manor	50 Maine Avenue	Rockville Centre	1 <sup>st</sup> MONDAY OF MONTH 2 PM – 4 PM	Nursing	536-8000
Sands Point Nursing Home	1440 Pt. Washington Blvd.	Port Washington	1 <sup>st</sup> MONDAY OF MONTH 2 PM - 4 PM	Infection Control	767-2320
South Shore Health Care	275 W. Merrick Road	Freeport	1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> WEDNESDAY OF MONTH 9 AM - 11 AM	Housekeeping	623-4000
Sunharbor Manor	255 Warner Avenue	Roslyn Heights	LAST TUESDAY OF MONTH 9 AM- 11 AM	Environmental Services	621-5400
Townhouse Ext. Care Center	755 Hempstead Tpke.	Uniondale	WEDNESDAY 8 AM – 3:30 PM	Environmental	565-1900
United Presbyterian	378 Syosset –	Woodbury	1 <sup>st</sup> FRIDAY OF MONTH	Infection Control	921-3900

<b>Name</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Town</b>	<b>Days/Hours of Operation</b>	<b>Contact</b>	<b>Phone</b>
Residence	Woodbury Road		9 AM - 4 PM		
Wedgewood Nursing Home	199 Community Drive	Great Neck	MONDAY – FRIDAY BY APPOINTMENT ONLY	Nursing Dept.	365-9229
White Oaks Nursing Home	8565 Jericho Tpke.	Woodbury	THURSDAY 9 AM - 11 AM	Nursing Dept.	367-3400
Woodbury Center for Health Care	8533 Jericho Tpke.	Woodbury	WEDNESDAY 9 AM - 11 AM	Infection Control	692-4100
Woodmere Rehabilitation and Health Care Center	121 Franklin Place	Woodmere	1 <sup>st</sup> MONDAY OF MONTH 2 PM – 4 PM	Infection Control	374-9300 X 159

APRIL 2007

# **NASSAU COUNTY HIV COMMISSION**

James Lacy, Chairman  
Robert Perez Sulsona, Vice-Chairman  
Ann Irvin, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-Chair

## **PREVENTION COMMITTEE CO-CHAIRS**

**Peter Visconti  
Marion Terry**



**Abby J. Greenberg, M.D.**  
**Acting Commissioner**

**Thomas R. Suozzi**  
**County Executive**