



TOWN OF MILLIS

BOARD OF HEALTH

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Proposed Millis Needle and Syringe Disposal Program

The use of medical sharps at home, including needles, syringes, and lancets, is common as many health conditions are treated outside of medical offices and hospitals. As a result, careful consideration is needed for the disposal of the medical waste in order to prevent injury and infection.

According to the Center for Diseases Control (CDC), Sharps are used in 1 out 12 homes in the U.S. Using this formula, the 3,195 households in Millis would have residents from about 266 homes who would need to dispose of sharps.

The school nurses would also participate in the sharps collection as they need to dispose of outdated epipens at the end of each school year.

Regulations:

Effective July 1, 2012, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health has placed a ban on the disposal of needles, syringes, and lancets in household trash [105 CMR 480.00: Minimum Requirements for the Management of Medical or Biological Waste (State Sanitary Code Chapter VIII)]. Since sharps may no longer be taken to the Recycle/Transfer Stations in household trash, the Towns are left to determine options that may be used to safely dispose of medical waste.

Massachusetts General Law 94C, Section 27A: states that the Departments of Environmental and Public Health in partnership with state and local agencies and government departments are responsible for the design, establishment and implementation of a program for the protection of the public and environment by providing safe, secure and accessible collection and disposal of hypodermic syringe needles and lancets.

Millis: What we do now?

The Board of Health has discussed this issue and has directed the Health Department to come up with a viable proposal for November Town Meeting, 2012. The Health Department has met with the Fire Department and the Council on Aging, with input from DPW.

- Millis Board of Health: Throughout the year, the Health Department accepts small amounts of needles and syringes and disposes of them with the annual flu shot needles pick-up. The Department has continued the policy of telling residents to put sharps in hard plastic containers for disposal within their trash. Then the trash is disposed at the Millis Transfer Station or with their Private Waste Hauler.
- Millis Department of Public doesn't search for needles and syringes within the trash at the transfer station. Trash is placed directly into trash compactor and brought for incineration in Millbury.

- Millis Fire Department and Ambulance: Throughout the year, the Fire Department has accepted small amounts of sharps from residents. During duty calls, when possible, the Fire Department disposes needles at the hospital a patient is brought to. Hospitals are beginning to discourage this practice.

Other Towns: What are other communities doing?

Ashland, Hopkinton, & Holliston: Initially tried to get a regionalized grant to collectively handle their communities sharps disposal needs. Ashland does not have a town or regional program and are looking at options.

Attleborough: Though a grant got a kiosk in 2008 placed at the fire department. The Board of Health sells containers, and accepts 1 gal detergent containers with sharps. The Board of Health pickup is funded by a Solid Waste User Fee. They are under a contract with Chrysalis Waste Management at \$265 per month where 2-3 boxes are picked up each trip.

Barnstable County: Consists of 15 Towns on the Cape. Has an annual budget of \$8,000.00. Every Town is set up with collection boxes, some at fire departments and some at board of health offices, no kiosks. As part of a monthly route the sharps are collected and consolidated for a single point pick up. Has a contact with B&D Associates, for a pick up every six weeks. Through the Barnstable County hazardous Materials Program had brochures printed for Drop off locations where residents can receive new disposal containers. In 2011, Cape Cod Towns collected 213 boxes of Sharps.

Chelmsford: Does not have a kiosk. They set up 3 collection days a year at the Board of Health. They register people in the office and do a call back or a mailing notice. They collect about 300 lbs of needles at each event. In past years they purchased containers to give to residents. The Board of Health has a line item budget of \$1,000.00 for disposal.

Sherborn: No Collection. Sherborn issued memo on Disposal of Medical Sharps Used at Home directing residents to either use a sharps mail back kit or find another city or town site that will take them. Restrictions apply at some of these locations, so the resident is to contact the site in advance to determine restrictions and disposal schedules. We are unaware of any other town taking this approach.

Westwood: Westwood has kiosk at Fire Station and purchased second kiosk for the library with an expanding collection program. In their first year of library collection, the town nurses check kiosk weekly and call when they have 3 boxes for they call for pick up, typically every other month.

Hudson: The Town Transfer Station has a box and calls for occasional pick up. Looking into setting up a Kiosk.

Norfolk: Sharps collected at Fire Department.

Walpole: Provides small containers that get returned to the Health Department or Fire Department, then gets boxed for disposal. Disposal cost is split between each department based on pick up. Looking into setting up a Kiosk.

Natick: Purchased a Kiosk. Uses Stericycle to pick up. In the process of setting up an automatic pick up service and schedule.

Dover: Has been doing a sharps program the longest of the Town surveyed. They set up a box for sharps in the Board of Health office. Residents may drop off needles and syringes during open Board of Health hours. A line item in the Board of Health budget is available for the disposal costs. Typically 4 pickups per year at \$70.00 per box, with one to three boxes per pickup, typical annual cost \$1,500, including the mailing reminder for senior residents.

Other Towns:

Norwood: Selling container for direct mail back.

Sharon: Residents place in plastic container, which is labeled and collected at Fire Department.

Southborough: Just contracted with Stericycle. DPW supplies the containers and a monthly pickup is scheduled at the DPW.

Taunton: Waste Management currently services Taunton's landfill. During three annual Household Hazardous Waste days, a special truck is set up strictly for needle disposal at a cost of \$1,500 per day. (This is a manned truck for four hours on a Saturday with sharps being logged, boxed and disposed off.)

Millis Proposal:

To have a disposal kiosk at the Millis Fire Station where residents can discard their sharps. Quart containers to be made available at DPW, COA, BOH and Fire Departments. Millis Board of Health and Fire Department will have availability to handle loose individual needles within normal business hours. A 2-gallon container for this purpose in the Board of Health and Fire Department in case people come in with loose sharps. COA will assist in distributing small containers and information on the program. They will send senior residents to the BOH and Fire Dept. for collections.

Start up Costs:

Kiosk purchase: A heavy duty Kiosk, with self closing drum doors, locking access capabilities, and ability to handle larger container sizes, has been quoted at \$ 2,300.00.

Sharps Containers: Quart size containers initial purchase for 4 departments to provide to Millis residents. (DPW COA, BOH and Fire Department). One case of 72 containers per department for a total of 288. This should be enough for initial surge. At \$160.00 per case, at \$ 640.00.

Initial Sharps disposal day: To handle anticipated surge a sharps collection day could be considered on the DEA Drug take back day.

Total Initial Cost: \$ 2,950.00

Annual Costs:

Annual Disposal: Estimated pick up and disposal at \$165 per visit. (Pick up and Box disposal of the Medical waste.) First year schedule a monthly pick up, with quarterly pickups as program progresses. The Department requests a budget estimate of \$ 1,500.00, to be placed in the Fire Department or Board of Health for Sharps Disposal.

Annual Sharps Containers: Purchase of two cases of 72 for the Town for a total of 144, should be enough to maintain a supply. At \$160.00 per case, at \$ 280.00.

Total Annual Cost: \$2,000.00 is requested to be placed in the Fire Department or the Board of Health for Sharps Disposal for the Town of Millis.

As we are in the mid-year cycle, a sum of money needs to be set to start a Millis collection program this fall. At the Annual May Town meeting determination based on volume the need for a kiosk system will be presented for funding in either the Fire Department or Board of Health.

Sharps Disposal Companies: Two primary sharps disposal companies handling disposal for communities are Waste Management and Stericycle. The Health department has also been contacted by B&D Associates of New Hampshire with interest in handling sharps disposal. (See chart)

Millis' recommendation until program is set up is to continue to place sharps in a plastic container, tape cover and throw in trash at the transfer station or check with your Trash Hauler Contractor.

Other options for residents:

The Board of Health does not endorse or recommend any products or services, but is making this information available so residents can make informed decisions.

- The Massachusetts Department of Public Health provides statewide regional collection sites, such as municipal government offices, hospitals, medical offices, pharmacies, and other locations. This list can be accessed online at the following website:

<http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/docs/dph/aids/needles-syringes-disposal.pdf>

Again, restrictions apply at some of these locations, so contact the site in advance to determine restrictions and disposal schedules.

- Another option for medical waste disposal is for residents to purchase postage-paid mail-back kits. These kits include a sharps container, mailing carton with prepaid postage, and a tracking form to verify that the sharps are properly disposed. When the container is full it can then be placed in the mailing carton and mailed directly to the company's designated facility for incineration.

A number of companies, including but not limited to those listed below, have mail-back programs for sharps:

www.sharpsinc.com
www.sharpsdisposal.com
www.biomedicalwastesolutions.com
www.sharpsmd.net

	Chrysalis Env. Serv Norwich CT	Waste Management Foxborough MA	B&D Associates New Hampshire	Stericycle	Johnson Env. Products
Sharps Kiosk	Included	\$2,2300	No kiosk		\$1,495 plus setup
Contract type	Annual w/ 3 year commitment	Annual w/ Quarterly pick up	Annual	Annual	N/A
Cost	Complete program (pick ups and provide requested containers) \$3,400. per year	\$55-\$58 / Box	\$75 per pick up	\$56 per box month depending on volume	
			\$45 per box	Charges \$75/ box on call. 2 boxes. required	