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Hypodermic Syringe Access and Disposal Programs

The San Francisco Department of Public Health (SFDPH) continues to fund Syringe Access and Disposal Programs. There are several programs that operate services throughout the city. Included in this bulletin is a list of programs, locations and schedules.

Members should be aware that the syringe program is a place where injection drug users bring their used syringes and access sterile equipment. Many injection drug users cannot visit a site themselves and instead have a friend or partner access services for them. This individual may be carrying multiple syringes to or from a site as they are accessing services for multiple persons.

Members should use discretion when they encounter possible syringe program participants and are advised that the intent of the Department is not to interfere with the program.

Members shall not confiscate syringes, alcohol wipes, naloxone, biohazard waste containers, or other sterile injection equipment, at or near access and disposal sites.

When in doubt, members should ask a supervisor to respond to the scene to ensure the policy is followed.

In 1993, San Francisco began funding syringe access after a local state of emergency was declared because of the HIV epidemic. SFDPH funds organizations to provide access to syringes, alcohol wipes, biohazard waste containers, as well as other sterile injection equipment to reduce the transmission of bloodborne viruses such as HIV and Hepatitis C. In addition, because overdose is the leading cause of death among injection drug users, SFDPH supports overdose prevention by providing take-home prescriptions of naloxone.


On January 1, 2006, Governor Schwarzenegger signed Assembly Bill (AB) 136. The bill amends previous legislation to allow counties and cities to authorize syringe programs in their jurisdictions without the necessity to declare a state of local emergency.

Beginning January 1, 2015, licensed pharmacists have the discretion to sell hypodermic needles and syringes to adults age 18 and older **without** a prescription to reduce the spread of HIV, hepatitis C and other blood-borne diseases. **There is no longer any limit** on the number of needles and syringes that an adult may purchase and possess. These changes to California law were made by Assembly Bill 1743 (Ting, Chapter 331, Statutes of 2014).

California code specifies that pharmacists, physicians and syringe exchange programs are all authorized sources for nonprescription syringes for disease prevention purposes.

Each syringe program site coordinator has an identification card readily available to present to any police officer. These identification cards are printed on bright yellow paper with red lettering.

Please direct questions about the programs to Eileen Loughran, Community Liaison, Community Health Equity & Promotion Branch, San Francisco Department of Public Health at (415) 437-6218. Each program supported by the SFDPH will have a copy of this bulletin.


GREGORY P. SUHR
Chief of Police

**San Francisco Department of Public Health, Community Health
Equity & Promotion Branch Syringe Access and Disposal Programs**

Monday, 12pm - 5pm: 149 Turk Street at Taylor

Monday, 4pm - 6pm: 3rd Street and Innes Ave. look for white van

Monday, Friday 5pm - 7pm: Corner of Haight and Cole, outside

Monday, 7pm – 8:50pm: Ivy Street, in garage, under Tom Waddell btw Polk & Van Ness

Monday, 7pm - 9pm: 330 Ellis btw Jones and Taylor

Tuesday, 10am - 12 noon: 117-A Sixth Street, near Mission

Tuesday, 12pm - 5pm: 149 Turk Street @ Taylor

Tuesday, 2pm - 5pm: 730 Polk Street, 4th floor, btw Ellis & Eddy transgender only

Tuesday, 3pm- 6pm: St. James Infirmary, 1372 Mission Street at 10th St.

Tuesday, 6pm - 8pm: Duboce, near Church and Market, in bikeway behind Safeway

Tuesday, 7pm - 9pm: 330 Ellis btw Jones and Taylor

Wednesday, 5pm - 7pm: Corner of Haight and Cole, outside

Wednesday, 2pm - 4pm: 117-A Sixth Street, near Mission

Wednesday, 6pm - 8pm: Weise street off 16th St, btw Mission and Julian

Thursday, 12pm - 2pm: Martin de Porres, 225 Potrero Ave, btw 15th & 16th St.

Thursday, 6pm - 8pm: Ladies' Night, 165 Capp Street, btw 16th & 17th St.

Thursday, 7pm - 9pm: Hemlock Alley, off Polk, btw Post and Sutter

Friday, 12pm - 5pm: 149 Turk Street at Taylor

Friday, 12pm - 2pm: 117-A Sixth Street, near Mission

Friday, 5pm - 7pm: Corner of Haight and Cole, outside

Friday, 6pm - 8pm: 234 Eddy Street, btw Jones and Taylor.

Friday, 7pm - 9pm: Corner of 16th and Mission (mobile outreach)

Saturday, 2pm - 5pm: 730 Polk Street, 4th floor, btw Ellis & Eddy transgender only

Saturday, 3pm - 11pm: 117-A Sixth Street, near Mission.

Sunday, 12pm – 5pm: 149 Turk Street at Taylor

*Please Note that sites may change. This information can also be found at SFHIV.org