

NE ICAP School Infection Prevention and Control

Disposal of Medical Waste and Sharps in Nebraska Schools



**Infection Control Assessment
and Promotion Program**

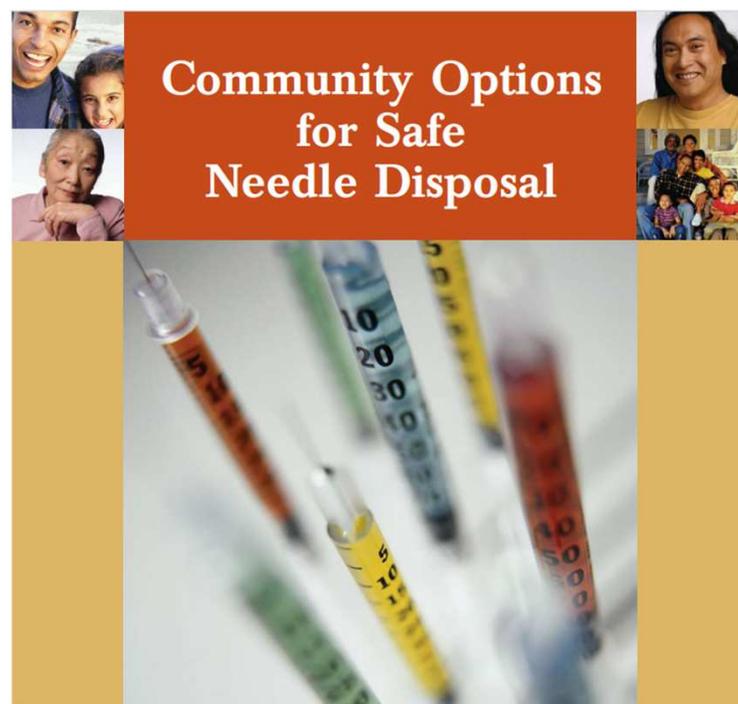
Infectious Waste and Sharps Disposal

[Community Options for Safe Needle Disposal \(epa.gov\)](http://epa.gov)

All infectious waste must be

- Rendered non-infectious or
- Sent for disposal at a permitted facility

Schools, churches, and government agencies are regulated facilities, the same as businesses. They do not qualify for any household exemption.



[NDEE Pubs Forms \(ne.gov\)](http://ne.gov)



What is considered infectious sharps waste?

All discarded items from diagnosis, treatment, or immunization which can potentially transmit disease by breaking the human skin, and includes:

- Hypodermic needles
- Scalpels
- Razor blades
- Breakable glass containers
- Blood vials
- Culture dishes
- Used slides
- Glass products
- Broken glass
- Other sharp items that have come into contact with or have been contaminated by material considered infectious (e.g., lancets)

Nebraska [Title 132 - Integrated Solid Waste Management Regulations](#)

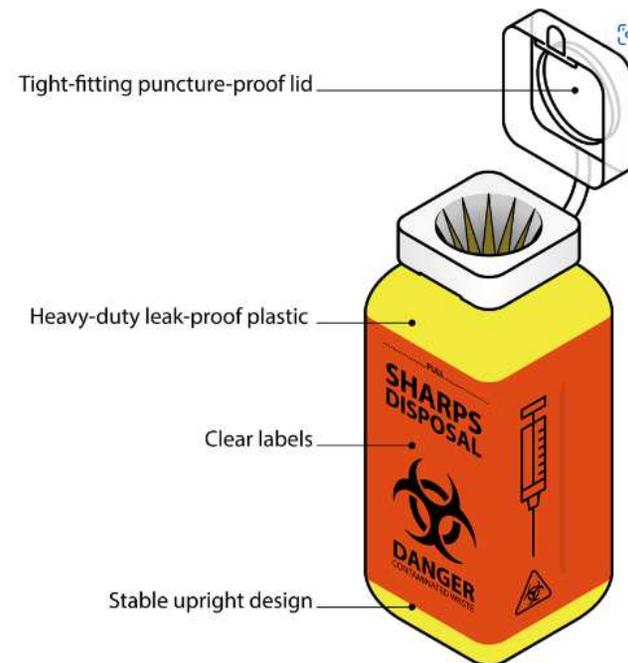


Image from [FDA.gov](https://www.fda.gov)

What is considered infectious waste?

Nebraska Title 132 “Integrated Solid Waste Management Regulations”

Infectious waste is a special waste and is defined as:

Blood, Blood Products and Body Fluids. This classification includes fluid blood, blood products and body fluids, and any items contaminated with any of these fluids, **if a pourable quantity** (ability of a liquid or semi-solid form to drip or flow) is present. The term blood and blood products includes serum, plasma, and other blood components. The term body fluid includes semen, vaginal secretions, cerebrospinal fluid, synovial fluid, pleural fluid, peritoneal fluid, pericardial fluid, amniotic fluid and any other body fluid visibly contaminated with blood.

Non-Infectious Medical Waste

Most medical waste may be disposed at a permitted municipal solid waste disposal area if they have not been contaminated with something that is considered infectious.

- Bandages
- Dressings
- Human Waste
- Bedding



Blood & Body Fluid Disposal Recommendations



Always use appropriate personal protective equipment to clean blood and body fluids (e.g., disposable gloves, eye protection)



Blood & Body Fluids should be completely absorbed by disposable material (e.g., paper towels) so it is not dripping or pourable



Place in plastic bag to keep contained



Dispose of in regular trash

Alcohol-Based Hand Sanitizer

- Alcohol-based hand sanitizer was produced in large quantities during the COVID-19 pandemic and have started to reach or exceed expiration dates.
- **Expired hand sanitizer should not be used pass the expiration date.**

Alcohol-based hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol is an ignitable hazardous waste and can be very dangerous when poured down the drain. The liquid and vapors in water pipes and sewer systems can cause fires and explosions



Alcohol-Based Hand Sanitizer Disposal

Alcohol-based hand sanitizer must be discarded the same as all other liquid hazardous waste at a hazardous waste drop-off location