

## What to do if you find a needle or syringe?

### What to do if you find a needle and syringe?

You may find a needle or syringe in many different places, for example:

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- Bus Stations
- Houses
- Car Parks
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- Gardens
- Shops
- Pubs
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- Public Toilets
- Nightclubs
- School Playgrounds

If you find a needle or syringe inform the owner of the building, or if found in a public place then inform the local council who will come to collect it.

- **DO NOT TOUCH IT**
- **DO NOT** kick it down the drain
- **DO NOT** let friends or pets touch it
- **DO NOT** hide it
- **DO NOT** put it in a dustbin, litter bin, or down a toilet

**Children should tell a grown up e.g. mum, dad, teacher, or police officer.**

**The needle or syringe may not be collected immediately:**

If you feel you have to move it for the safety of yourself or others, then follow these steps:

- Find a sealable container to put the needle in e.g. plastic drinks bottle.
- Protect your hands by wearing disposable gloves and use tongs or tweezers.
- Place it into the container – sharp end first.
- Then wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water as soon as possible.
- Keep it safe and secure until it is collected.



### **If someone is injured by a needle.....**

Encourage bleeding for a minute or two by squeezing the wound gently.

If a needle breaks the skin, contact your local A&E Department or GP for advice.

There is a low risk of getting a blood borne infection from a needle injury i.e. HIV, Hepatitis B.

If you are an injecting drug user always dispose of used injecting equipment in a safe manner. Never throw it in a litterbin, down the toilet or drain or leave it lying around. Return it to the needle exchange otherwise someone always has to clear it up!

## **WHO TO CONTACT**

### **Location**

Bracknell Forest Borough Council

### **Working Hours**

01344 352000

### **Out of Hours**

01344 786515

If you are worried about a needle injury, for confidential advice contact your local A&E Department, GP, New Hope or the blood borne virus nurse who is located at New Hope on a Friday afternoon.

Royal Berkshire Hospital

0118 322 5111

Frimley Park Hospital

01276 604604

Wexham Park Hospital

01753 633000

NHS Direct

0845 4647

### **Other Useful Contacts:**

Bracknell Forest Drug & Alcohol Action Team

01344 351653/351749

New Hope

01344 312360

Thames Valley Police

0845 8 505 505

Crime Stoppers

0800 555 111

FRANK

0800 77 66 00

