



MID-MICHIGAN DISTRICT HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Your public health team, connecting with our communities to achieve healthier outcomes

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Health Department offers free sharps disposal program

Stanton- Each and every day, hundreds of Montcalm County residents use sharps (needles, syringes, or lancets) at home to manage medical conditions like allergies, arthritis, cancer, diabetes, hepatitis, HIV/AIDS, migraines and multiple sclerosis. Ideally, all of these sharps would be placed in a sharps container and properly disposed of. Unfortunately, far too many are thrown in the trash, which poses a risk of injury or potential infection to anyone who encounters them.

Historically, residents in our area have had few options for disposing of sharps. The Medication Disposal Coalition of Montcalm County/YOUTHINK Montcalm, of which the health department is a member, has been working to find a solution to this problem for over a year. After months of planning, both groups are pleased to announce that the Mid-Michigan District Health Department is now offering free sharps disposal to Montcalm County residents.

Residents may bring their full sharps containers to the Health Department, which is located at 615 North State Street in Stanton, Monday through Friday from 10:00 a.m. to noon and 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Sharps **MUST** be in one of the following containers:

- A medical sharps container. If you'd like to purchase one, check with your local pharmacy or retailer like Walmart.
- A plastic laundry jug or metal coffee can. Just be sure to label the container "Sharps."

It is important to note that:

- Sharps will not be accepted unless they are in one of the containers listed above.
- The health department will not have sharps containers available.
- The container's lid should be closed and taped shut.
- This program is for Montcalm County residents only.
- The Health Department will not be accepting pills or liquids, only sharps. If you have pills or liquids to dispose of, you may do so at one of the following medication drop box locations: Carson City Police Department, Greenville Department of Public Safety, Lakeview Police Department, or Montcalm County Sheriff's Department in Stanton or Howard City. Call first to find out hours of operation.

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2- Sharps program

Loose sharps thrown in the garbage can injure family members (including children), injure garbage collectors, end up in places where they are a danger to the public, or fall into the hands of people with substance abuse problems. Throwing sharps containers in the trash is not safe either. Once in the garbage truck, sharps containers are likely to break open from the pressure of trash compactors. Sanitation workers then run the risk of sharps contact while sorting trash or in landfill operations. In addition, sharps that aren't disposed of properly pollute the environment and increase the risk of disease infection. The best solution to reducing the risk from sharps is to take them to a sharps collection center.

If you have questions about the Health Department's sharps program, or about the medication disposal program, you may visit www.mmdhd.org or call 989-831-3669.

Mid-Michigan District Health Department serves the residents of Clinton, Gratiot and Montcalm Counties.

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