

HARM REDUCTION

Community Action for Sharps Safety

What is the purpose?

Community Sharps Disposal Bins (CSDB) are provided to protect the public from needle-stick injuries - which can expose the injured person to blood-borne illness such as Hepatitis or HIV. Needles have been found in public areas, and it is not safe to dispose of them in regular garbage or recycling containers. There are already many smaller needle disposal containers in the community, including ones public restrooms, and restaurant restrooms.

Who will use them?

CSDB units have been used successfully in many other Ontario communities. We will be installing six bins throughout the County, check them regularly, and measure their impact on reducing improper needle disposal. We expect that with the proper knowledge and tools (gloves and tongs and a small hard plastic container), any adult who finds a needle, could collect and dispose of them safely in the bins. This could include people who inject drugs, their family members or caregivers and outdoor workers.

What are the potential locations for these and why were they chosen?

Locations were chosen using a targeted approach in consultation with first responders, municipalities and neighbours.

What happens if they get overfilled?

LPH will assist in implementing a proper maintenance and monitoring schedule to prevent misuse and keep the areas clean.

Will it make the neighbourhood unsafe?

No, if anything it will make the neighbourhood safer as more needles will be disposed of properly. CSDBs have not been shown to increase drug use in these areas as the locations selected were based on where sharps have already been found.

Don't these diseases only affect people who use drugs?

Hepatitis C and HIV are blood borne infections and are not just transmitted via sharps. They can also be transmitted through unprotected sexual activity and improperly sterilized tattoo and piercing equipment.

Will people hurt themselves trying to clean up found needles on the ground and putting them in the disposal bins?

Our communication plan will include educating the public on how to dispose of sharps safely and increasing their comfort level with the CSDBs.

There will also be decals on the bins that show who to contact and how to safely dispose of found sharps.

www.lambtonhealth.on.ca



**Lambton
Public Health**



**Community Action
for Sharps Safety**



**North Lambton
Community Health Centre**