



Needle Clean-Up Kit and Disposal Program Expands in Snohomish County

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Pick-up and drop-off locations added as part of ongoing response to opioid epidemic

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 25, 2018

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SNOHOMISH COUNTY, Wash. – Since rolling out the free needle clean-up kit program in September 2017, over 800 kits have been distributed by the Snohomish Health District. These kits have ensured the safe and proper disposal of more than 10,000 syringes. Starting today—and as a result of Opioid Response Multi-Agency Coordination (MAC) Group efforts—the program is expanding to make it simpler and safer for residents and business owners to clean up and dispose of needles found in the community.

The kits include a sharps container, heavy-duty gloves, safety glasses, tongs, hand sanitizer and simple instructions for safe collection. There are now 11 locations where free clean-up kits can be picked up during normal business hours:

- Arlington Police Department, located at 110 East Third Street in Arlington
- Bothell Police Department, located at 18410 101st Avenue Northeast in Bothell
- Everett City Hall, located at 2930 Wetmore Avenue in Everett
- Granite Falls Police Department, 205 S Granite Ave, Granite Falls, WA 98252
- Lynnwood City Hall, located at 19100 44th Avenue West in Lynnwood
- Monroe Police Department, located at 818 West Main Street in Monroe
- Sheriff's Office South Precinct, located at 15928 Mill Creek Blvd in Mill Creek
- Sheriff's Office North Precinct, located at 15100 40th Avenue Northeast in Marysville
- Sheriff's Office East Precinct/Sultan Police Department, located at 515 Main Street in Sultan
- Snohomish Health District, located at 3020 Rucker Avenue, Suite 104 in Everett
- Snohomish Police Department located at 206 Maple Ave in Snohomish
- Stanwood Police Department located at 8727 271st Street Northwest in Stanwood

Previously, the Snohomish Health District was the only location accepting returned clean-up kits for free disposal. Beginning April 22, through a partnership with Snohomish County's Solid Waste Division, approved sharps containers with the Snohomish Overdose Prevention stickers can be returned during normal business hours to:

- Airport Road Recycling & Transfer Station, located at 10700 Minuteman Drive in Everett
- North County Recycling & Transfer Station, located at 19600 63rd Avenue Northeast in Arlington
- Southwest Recycling & Transfer Station, located at 21311 61st Place West in Mountlake Terrace
- Monroe Police Department, located at 818 West Main Street in Monroe
- Snohomish Health District, located at 3020 Rucker Avenue, Suite 104 in Everett

Please note that milk jugs, soda bottles and tin cans are not accepted sharps containers. As a reminder, it is unlawful to dispose of needles in solid waste containers in Snohomish County. Full details of the program can be found at www.snohomishoverdoseprevention.com/clean-up.

"As we work to lessen the impacts of the opioid epidemic on our community, these pragmatic efforts to make our community safer will have lasting impact," said Dave Somers, Snohomish County Executive. "This is a very concrete sign that our partial activation of the emergency management system is targeting the problems that matter most to our residents. I appreciate the partnerships across the community that will help remove needles and make our parks, streets and back country safer for everyone."

In addition to the kits, the City of Everett and the Snohomish Health District developed a short video on how to safely collect and dispose of used needles.

VIDEO: What to do when you find a needle

"When we launched this program last fall, our primary goal was to keep community members safe while they were out doing neighborhood clean-ups," said Jefferson Ketchel, administrator for the Snohomish Health District. "Thanks to the partnership of Snohomish County Solid Waste, and the cities of Arlington, Everett, Lynnwood and Monroe, the program is simpler and more convenient."

Used needles left in public and private places are both a nuisance and potential safety concern. Whether they're used to inject medicines like insulin or for illegal drugs, used needles can spread diseases like Hepatitis C through accidental needle pokes. While the risk of contracting a disease from a needle-stick injury is very low, you can further reduce that risk by using the right equipment and procedures.

For more information on efforts being done through the Opioid Response MAC Group, please go to www.snohomishoverdoseprevention.com. This website and accompanying social media accounts were developed to be a one-stop shop for resources. Whether trying to understand

the problem, prevent addiction, or save a life, this is a place to find information for that first next step.

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