



SAFETY NOTICE

Sharps Safety Reminder

RISK MANAGEMENT & SAFETY

Date: July 2019
Category: Sharps Safety

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There have been several recent syringe and sharps related incidents on campus. For those who work with or around these devices, we ask that you follow these practices to help avoid injury:

➤ *Substitute When Possible*

- ◇ Find alternative ways to administer an agent or perform tasks without using a sharp.
- ◇ Use retractable blades or needles, self blunting tips, needleless systems, or any other safety engineered product.
- ◇ Use disposable safety scalpels with a fixed blade to eliminate the need to remove and replace blades.



➤ *Practice Safe Sharps Handling Techniques*

- ◇ Take your time and use extreme caution.
- ◇ Avoid recapping needles whenever possible. If recapped, use a needle holder.
- ◇ When working with a blade or razor, always cut away from yourself. Use forceps or a tool to hold the specimen.
- ◇ Never leave exposed razors or uncapped needles on the workbench. Use a needle holder, container, or magnet to mitigate sharps exposure.
- ◇ Uncap needles only when they are about to be used. Use a [hemostat](#) to loosen and remove the cap.
- ◇ Properly restrain or anesthetize animals before performing animal procedures involving sharps.

For additional information on sharps, please click [here](#).

All safety communications can be found at <https://riskmanagement.nd.edu/communication/>.

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