**Needles and Sharps from households are now accepted for disposal at Hennepin County Drop-off Facilities**

**Social Media**

Facebook

Starting March 1, 2016, needles and sharps will be accepted from households for disposal at Hennepin County’s Drop-off Facilities in Brooklyn Park and Bloomington. For proper prep and directions, go to www.hennepin.us/green-disposal-guide/items/needles-sharps.

Twitter

Starting 03/01/2016, needles and sharps will be accepted from households for disposal at @HennepinEnviro Drop-off Facilities. Get info: http://ow.ly/XWTSN

**Newsletter**

Safe disposal options for household needles and sharps

It’s important to manage and dispose of sharps (needles, lancets, and syringes) safely to prevent injury and disease transmission from needle-sticks.

Because of the increased need to safe disposal options, sharps from households will be accepted at the county’s drop-off facilities in Brooklyn Park and Bloomington starting March 1, 2016. You must follow these steps to use the drop-off facilities.

1. Prepare your needles and sharps
* Store in a rigid, puncture-resistant, plastic container with a screw-on lid. Examples include empty laundry detergent bottles with screw-on lids. You can also purchase a sharps disposable container from a pharmacy. Do NOT use a glass container.
* Label the empty container, “Do not recycle: Household sharps”
* Put used needles in the container point-first.

Note: Do not put unused medicines contained in sharps (epi—pens) in your container.\*\*

* Only fill your container half full of needles and sharps.
* Keep the lid screwed on the container to prevent spills.
1. Remember to bring

Proof of residency, such as a driver’s license, is required.

1. Dispose of needles at the county’s drop-off facilities

Staff will guide you to the needles and sharps drop-off area. Your sharps must be in a proper container, and you will be responsible for placing your container into the drop-off bin.

**Note:** Sharps will not be accepted if not in a rigid, puncture-resistant plastic container with a screw-on lid. Staff will not handle needles and sharps.

For a complete list of safe disposal options for sharps – including mail-in and destruction options—see www.hennepin.us/green-disposal-guide/items/needles-sharps.

\*Hennepin County does not accept needles and sharps from businesses—which includes healthcare facilities, pharmacies, pharmaceutical representatives, doctors’ offices and veterinary clinics.

\*\*Hennepin County does not accept medicines or unused medicines contained in sharps (epi-pens) at the county drop-off facilities.