

YOU FOUND A NEEDLE, WHAT SHOULD YOU DO?



Children: What should you do if you find a needle?

- You should NEVER touch the needle
- Tell an adult right away what you found
- If you are hurt or poked by the needle, tell an adult
- If you are poked, see a doctor right away.

Adults: How should you collect a found needle?

- Do not touch it with your bare hand; use gloves or tongs to pick up the needle
- Be careful not to stick yourself with the needle
- Put the needle in a container with a lid (preferably something that is puncture resistant) and close the lid tightly
- Take the container to the police, medical facility or a hazardous waste disposal site
- If you poke or scratch yourself with the needle, see a doctor right away
- Wash the needle stick area with soap and water as soon as possible

What are blood-borne diseases?

These are diseases that are carried in the blood. They are not spread through everyday contact.

- In North Dakota, HIV, Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C are examples of blood-borne diseases

What is the risk of injury from a needlestick? The risk of catching a blood-borne disease like Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C or HIV from a needle stick is rare.

Even though infection is rare, adults should not pick up needles unless necessary and children never should.

For more information:

visit www.ndhealth.gov/disease or call 800.472.2180.