

## SAFELY DISPOSE OF SHARPS, SYRINGES, AND NEEDLES Free sharp containers available to Lake, Mason, and Wexford County residents

November 9, 2020 – Beginning November 16, 2020 individuals can dispose of syringes, needles and other sharps at DHD#10 offices in Lake, Mason, and Wexford counties. Please note that no sharps will be collected at other DHD#10 offices at this time.

Individuals may drop off sharps disposal containers at the offices from 8:00am – 4:30pm Monday-Friday. Sharps brought into the office must be sealed in either a standard bio-hazard sharps container or another hard plastic, puncture resistant container such as one used for laundry detergent. Loose sharps will not be accepted inside the building. Medications will not be accepted at any DHD#10 offices.

Alternatively, a 24-hour drop box will be available on the external wall of the buildings. This option is intended for small amounts of loose sharps that are not in a container. For safety purposes, sharps containers should not be left on the ground outside of the drop box.

Free sharps containers will be provided as well and can be picked up inside the building.

"Our communities have expressed the need for a safe, easy to use location to dispose of sharps and we're now able to provide that" said Angie Gullekson, Public Health Educator for DHD#10. "This program will encourage residents to dispose of these items that otherwise may end up in our parks, streets or waterways. Safe disposal will help reduce accidental needle sticks and potential disease transmission."

If you have specific questions about this project, please contact DHD#10's Angie Gullekson at 231-876-3813.

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## MEDIA CONTACT

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## **COUNTIES SERVED:**

Crawford Kalkaska Lake Manistee Mason Mecosta Missaukee Newaygo Oceana Wexford



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