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#### NOTICE TO EMPLOYEES:

## Sharps Disposal & Needle-Stick Injury Prevention

EMTA recognizes some employees are at risk of encountering “Sharps”, such as hypodermic needles, broken glass, and additional hazardous drug paraphernalia. Please follow the best practices below to help prevent needle-stick injuries, as well as what to do if a needle-stick injury occurs.

### Dealing with Contaminated Sharps

The general population has access to specific areas of EMTA Property & Grounds. If you encounter a Sharp, DO NOT pick the item(s) up - Please immediately reach out to your supervisor and make note of its location.

### Safe Handling & Disposal of Sharps

Your supervisor has access to disposable gloves and a Sharp Box to safely dispose of the Sharp(s). EMTA ensures appropriate personal protective equipment in the appropriate size is readily accessible and issued to employees.

### Dangers of Sharp Injuries

The most serious infections stemming from needle-stick injuries are all transmitted through blood or bodily fluid, and include Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, & HIV, the virus that causes AIDS.

### Needlestick Injury Procedure

In the event where a needle-stick injury does occur, the individual should gently squeeze the area around the puncture to encourage it to bleed, ideally by holding the wound under running water for at least five (5) minutes. DO NOT SUCK THE WOUND. Wash the affected area with plenty of soap but avoid scrubbing the affected area while you are washing it. Dry and cover the wound with a waterproof dressing. The individual should report the incident to their supervisor immediately for further instruction.

Hepatitis B vaccinations are available within 24 hours to all unvaccinated employees who report an incident where exposure to potentially infectious matter occurs. Please see EMTA's Bloodborne Pathogen Exposure Control Plan for more details.

**EMTA firmly believes in the safety of all our employees. If you see something, say something!**