UC RIVERSIDE
Environmental Health & Safety

12 MONTHS OF RESEARCH SAFETY
OCTOBER 2021
SHARPS SAFETY GUIDELINES

Types of Sharps

Sharps injuries are among the most commonly reported injuries in research and clinical settings. Sharps are devices, such as needles, scalpels, and lancets, which are used to cut or pierce skin, blood vessels, or tissue. Sharps also have various other uses in research such as syringes used to load materials into equipment. Individuals working with sharps should take the necessary precautions to prevent injury and exposure to biological, chemical, or other potentially hazardous agents.



Safety Guidelines to Prevent Injuries and Illness

Eliminate or substitute sharps

- Eliminate sharps from procedure whenever possible.
- Use blunt tip needles instead of sharp needles.
- Use safety-engineered sharps such as protective sheath or retractable needle syringes.


Avoid altering or modifying needles

- Do not break or shear needle from the syringe hub.
- Do not bend needles.
- Do not remove needle from disposable syringe.

Avoid recapping

- Do NOT recap needles for disposal and whenever possible during procedures.
- If recapping is required for a procedure, use a recapping device or the one-hand scoop method. Never recap needles using one hand to hold the cap and the other to hold the needle/syringe!

CONTACT US

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Email: ehsbiosafety@ucr.edu
Website: https://ehs.ucr.edu/laboratory/biosafety
Report an Incident, Injury or Safety Concern Here

Questions?

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Needle and syringe disposal instructions

- Place sharps containers close to where needles and syringes are used.
- Dispose in puncture-resistant containers (red or black sharps container provided by EH&S).
- Place needle and syringe without recapping directly into the sharps container.
- Do not reach inside sharps containers.
- Never walk around room with an uncapped needle or syringe.
- Don't leave uncapped needles or syringes on counters or tables.
- Close/seal and dispose of containers once it reaches the labeled fill line. Do not overfill containers.

INSTITUTIONAL BIOSAFETY COMMITTEE (IBC) TRANSITION & BIOLOGICAL USE AUTHORIZATION (BUA) PROCESS UPDATE

Starting January 2022, administration of the Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC) will be transitioned from Office of Research Integrity to EH&S. Additionally, Biological Use Authorization (BUA) protocols will be submitted through Risk and Safety Solutions (RSS) Biosafety.

For now, Principal Investigators (PIs) should continue submitting their BUA protocols through the existing BUA Portal.

Additional information and more details (including training for RSS Biosafety) will be announced soon.

Key Dates:

October - December 2021: Notification to Principal Investigators and training to use RSS Biosafety. Existing BUA information will be migrated into RSS Biosafety

January 2022 and beyond: PIs begin using RSS Biosafety to submit new, renewal, and amendment protocols. Continuing training for PIs and other personnel filling out BUAs.

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