

SAFE PROCEDURES: NEEDLES OR OTHER SHARPS

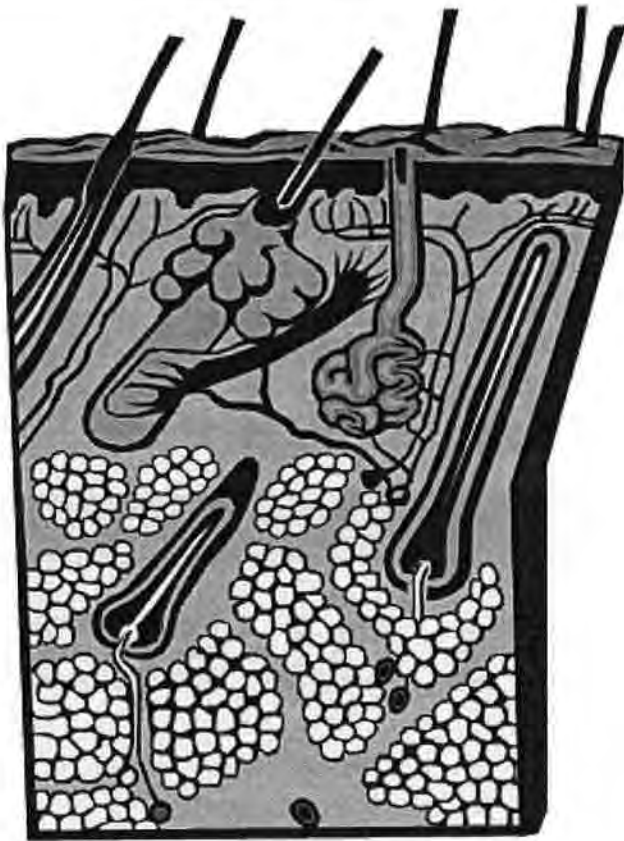
- If found, needles or other sharps must not be recapped.
- They should be disposed of in rigid, puncture resistant containers with sharp side facing down.
- These containers should be in the nurse's office.
- Notify appropriate personnel.



IF AN INCIDENT OCCURS BUT YOU'RE NOT EXPOSED...

- If a spill of blood occurs (e.g., a student cuts him or herself or has a nose bleed) and you are **not** exposed:
- Call the appropriate personnel (e.g., nurse) for treatment of injured person
- Secure the area
- Call the appropriate personnel (e.g., custodian) for clean up

IF AN EXPOSURE OCCURS...



- If body fluids, particularly blood, get into an opening in the skin, wash the area with soap and running water
- **Applying bleach to the skin is not recommended**
- If body fluids, particularly blood, get into the eyes, flush with water or a saline solution

STEPS TO TAKE IF EXPOSED

- Report the incident to the appropriate personnel (e.g., the nurse, principal, department head)
- Seek medical attention immediately

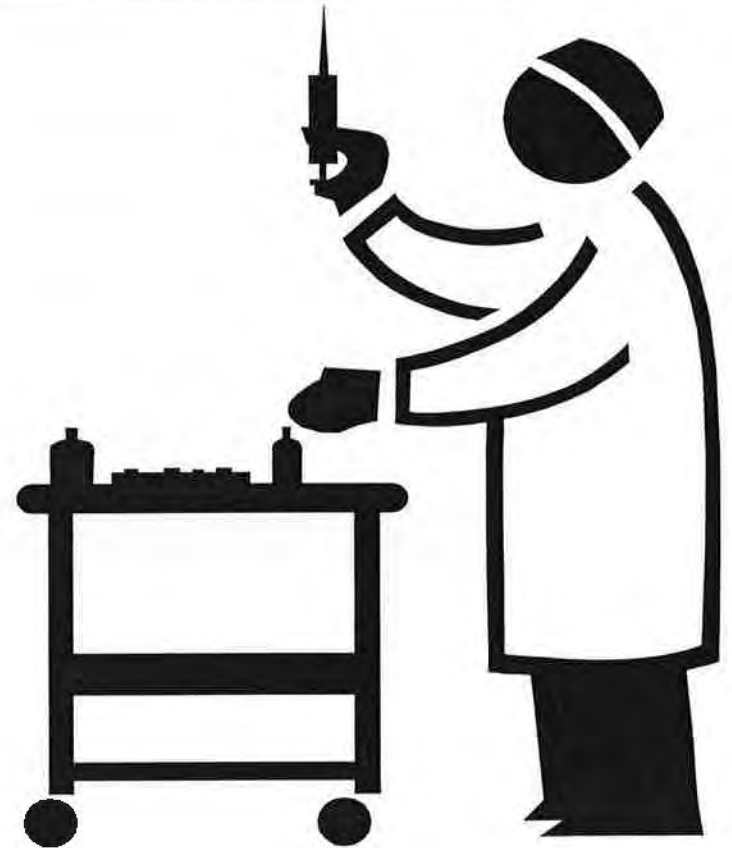
WHEN IS MEDICAL ATTENTION APPROPRIATE?



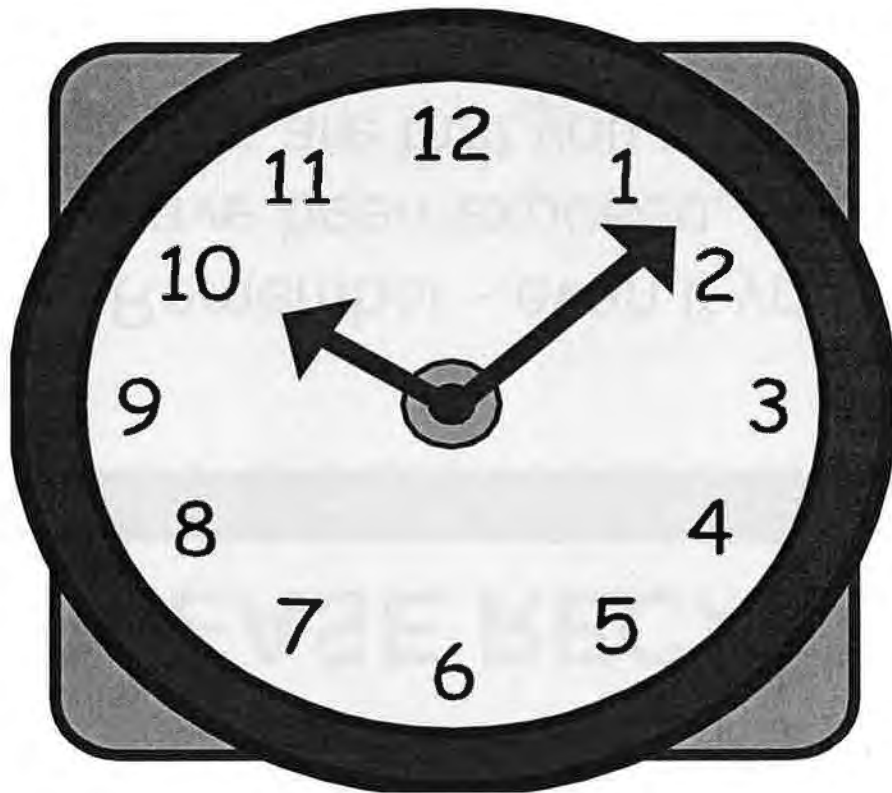
- Follow-up (medical attention) is needed if you have an unprotected exposure. Examples are:
- Blood splashing into an open cut or into the eyes
- An accidental needlestick
- A bite that breaks the skin

POST-EXPOSURE FOLLOW-UP

- Whether you need treatment is dependent on different factors, such as type of exposure.
- If necessary, medication is available that may decrease an individual's risk of becoming infected with at least some of the diseases.



TREATMENT AFTER AN EXPOSURE



- If medication is indicated, the sooner it is provided after an exposure, the more effective it will be.
- Other treatment that may be appropriate include blood test and counseling.

PLEASE RECALL...

- Remember - even if you have been exposed, the odds are that you will not become infected.



TRAINING



- Training on infectious diseases and their prevention should be offered to new employees and annually thereafter.

RESOURCES (STATE)

- MA Division of Occupational Safety (DOS)
 - Tel: (617) 969-7177
 - website: www.state.ma.us/dos
- MA Department of Public Health (DPH)
 - Tel: (617) 624-6000
 - web site: www.state.ma.us/dph

RESOURCES (FEDERAL)

- Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC)
 - tel: 1-800-311-3435 or 1-888-232-3228
 - web site: www.cdc.gov
- National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH)
 - tel: 1-800-356-4674
 - web site: www.cdc.gov/niosh

RESOURCES - FEDERAL (CONT'D)

- Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)
 - tel: 617-565-9860
 - web site: www.osha.gov