



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Free Sharps Disposal at Chippewa County Dept of Public Health Extended

*Program continues through June with expanded access and pop-up event at YMCA*


CHIPPEWA FALLS, Wis., June 9, 2025 – After collecting more than 250 pounds of sharps in May, the Chippewa County Department of Public Health, in partnership with the Chippewa County Healthy Communities Coalition, is extending its free sharps disposal program through the month of June.


Throughout June, residents can safely dispose of needles and syringes at no cost by visiting the Chippewa County Department of Public Health during regular business hours. To further increase access, a pop-up collection event will take place on Monday, June 16 during the Monday Market at the Chippewa Falls YMCA.


“Rural communities face unique challenges when it comes to health and safety resources,” said Brittney Fortuna, Chippewa County Health Officer. “We’re proud to offer this service in our own backyard and make it easier for residents to safely dispose of sharps without stigma or barriers.”

The program provides individuals and families with a free, secure, and confidential way to discard used needles and syringes, helping prevent injuries, protect sanitation workers, and reduce the risk of disease. For many in rural areas, this service offers an alternative to costly disposal methods.

### June Sharps Disposal Drop-Off Details:

 **Chippewa County Department of Public Health**  
711 N. Bridge St., Room 121,  
Chippewa Falls, WI 54729

 **Hours:**  
Monday through Thursday, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

 Sharps must be placed in **sealed, strong plastic containers** to ensure safe handling.





### Pop-Up Sharps Disposal Event:

- **Date:** Monday, June 16
- **Time:** 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- **Location:** Chippewa Falls YMCA, 611 Jefferson Ave., Chippewa Falls

*Both loose sharps and sharps in sealed, puncture-resistant containers will be accepted.*

This initiative was launched in May in recognition of International Harm Reduction Day, which supports practical strategies to minimize the health and social harms associated with substance use and chronic illness.

“Harm reduction is about offering support without stigma,” said JoAnna Bernklau, Planning and Promotion Specialist at Chippewa County Department of Public Health. “Harm Reduction saves lives. Stigma doesn’t.”

Residents can also access additional tools through the Public Health Kiosk, located in the lobby of the Chippewa County Jail (50 Spruce St.), which provides 24/7 access to free Narcan (naloxone), medication disposal bags, hygiene kits, gun locks, and more.

To learn more about harm reduction efforts and local support services, visit the Chippewa County Harm Reduction Services webpage: <https://www.chippewacountywi.gov/government/public-health/community-health/harm-reduction>

This initiative was made possible with support from Marshfield Clinic Health System and the Northwoods Coalition through harm reduction funding.

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### About the Chippewa County Department of Public Health

The Chippewa County Department of Public Health is a Level III accredited agency committed to preventing, promoting, and protecting the health of all who live, learn, work, and play in Chippewa County. Guided by values of Partnership, Respect, Innovation, Dedication, and Equity, the department strengthens public health through education, outreach, and community collaboration, with a vision to make Chippewa County the healthiest place to live.

### About Chippewa County Healthy Communities

Chippewa County Healthy Communities (formerly Chippewa Health Improvement Partnership) is a community-led coalition dedicated to improving health and well-being in Chippewa County. The coalition unites residents and partners to address local health priorities and promote equitable access to resources through collaboration, education, and outreach.

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