

John H. Armstrong, MD, FACS State Surgeon General & Secretary

Vision: To be the Healthlest State in the Nation

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE December 11, 2015 Contact: PIO Daniel Chacreton 352-569-3106 Daniel.Chacreton@flhealth.gov

HEALTH OFFICIALS TO BEGIN SHARPS DISPOSAL PROGRAM

Sumter County – Starting January 4, 2016, The Florida Department of Health in Sumter County (DOH-Sumter) will begin a used needle collection program at all three of its sites (Bushnell, Wildwood and The Villages). The program will allow local residents to dispose of needles, syringes with needles, and lancets that have been used by them or a family member in the treatment at home of an allergy, acute illness, or chronic disease such as diabetes. A bio-hazard-approved sharps container may be purchased for a small fee depending on the size required (Small - \$4.00, Medium - \$5.00, Large - \$7.00). When the sharps container is full, the container may be returned for storage and proper disposal. The fee charged will cover the container cost, plus the cost of handling, storage and disposal. Only approved containers provided by the department will be accepted. Due to regulatory, safety and liability concerns, we cannot accept non-health department provided containers, improperly or overfilled containers, used sharps/syringes directly or other biomedical waste.

Locations where containers may be purchased and dropped off between 8 am and 5 pm (closed for lunch 12-1):

The Villages: 8015 East C-466 352-689-4675

- Bushnell: 415 E. Noble Avenue 352-569-3102
- Wildwood: 104 Rutland St. 352-689-6520

This program will provide citizens a means of disposal of used needles and syringes in a safe and more environmentally efficient manner. For questions regarding this program, please contact Mr. Keith Hunter who may be reached at 352-569-3122.

The Department works to protect, promote and improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county and community efforts.

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