

Dear Veterinary Facilities,

Occupational needlestick injuries are still a common occurrence and can happen at any time during use, disassembly, and disposal of the needle. Needlestick injuries can occur in **any setting** and injure **anyone** who has potential exposure to needles, blood, and body fluids. This can include veterinary professionals, home health care providers, dental professionals, surgical professionals, and sanitation workers.

Even though OSHA's bloodborne standard generally applies to occupational exposures to human blood, blood components, and other potentially infectious materials, voluntary compliance with OSHA's bloodborne pathogen standard is still recommended by AVMA.

Here are some additional tips to help protect your employees from needlestick injuries:

- Provide education and training on bloodborne pathogens and needlestick injuries annually.
- Evaluate needlestick hazards in the workplace regularly.
- Provide safety engineered sharps to your employees.
- Provide education and training on how to use a new device.
- Include non-managerial employees in device selection and annual evaluation.
- Ensure employee compliance with safe work practices.
- Assign a staff member to oversee sharps injury prevention.
- Encourage employees to report their needlestick injuries.
- Encourage employees to seek help if injured.
- Provide sharps containers in easily accessible locations.
- Provide appropriate personal protective equipment.
- Promote a workplace safety climate by prioritizing employee health and safety.
- Consider starting a CDC [Stop Sticks](#) campaign.



For additional resources on needlestick prevention:

[OSHA Bloodborne Pathogens and Needlestick Prevention](#)

[PEOSH Bloodborne Pathogens Standard \(29 CFR 1910.1030\)](#)

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