

# NEEDLESTICK PREVENTION

## PRODUCERS AND VETERINARIANS

Needlestick injuries are usually minor, but they can be serious.

### Most common injuries

- Skin infections
- Allergic reactions
- Deep tissue wounds that require surgery

### Less common injuries

- Miscarriages due to hormone products
- Serious cardiovascular events (Micotil/tilmicosin)
- Suppression or coma from sedatives like xylazine
- Systemic infections
- Allergic reactions to antibiotics

### How Common are Needlestick Injuries?

Needlestick injury research shows that over **80% of farm workers** and **73% of swine veterinarians** working in animal agriculture have accidentally stuck themselves. Vaccines are the most common type of product involved in needlestick injuries.

## IMPLEMENT A COMPREHENSIVE NEEDLESTICK PREVENTION PROGRAM

### Employee Practices

- Slow down - don't rush with injections
- Restrain animals properly
  - » Get help from coworkers
  - » Use the correct equipment and techniques
- Don't put needle caps in your mouth
- Discard bend needles - don't use or straighten
- Don't carry needles/syringes in your pockets
- Use approved sharps containers
- Don't remove needles from sharps container
- Don't recap needles
- Report all needlestick injuries to management
- Contact your healthcare provider

### Management Practices

- Train employees about
  - » Safe needle handling
  - » Safe injection procedures
  - » Type of drugs used
- Routinely re-train employees to reinforce safety procedures
- Provide safe animal handling equipment; ensure proper staffing
- Provide readily accessible sharps container for safe needle disposal
- Provide needle/syringes with protective devices, such as retractable needles or hinged syringe caps
- Remind employees to use caution when using products of concern
- Pregnant employees should not inject hormones
- Encourage employees not to rush
- Encourage employees to report injuries
- Employee should contact a healthcare provider

### Products of Most Concern

Tilmicosin (Micotil®)

Sedatives (e.g. Xylazine)

Oil-based adjuvants

*Brucella abortus* Strain RB51 vaccine

Modified live vaccines (e.g. Erysipelas vaccine)

Johne's vaccine

Hormones - especially if pregnant

Antibiotics - especially if allergic

### MORE INFORMATION:

[umash.umn.edu/needlestick](http://umash.umn.edu/needlestick)

[www.cdc.gov/niosh/stopsticks/sharpsinjuries.html](http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/stopsticks/sharpsinjuries.html)



Funding for this publication was made possible (in part) by the cooperative agreement award U54OH010170 to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The views expressed do not necessarily reflect the official policies of the Department of Health and Human Services, nor does mention of trade names, commercial practices, or organizations imply endorsement by the U.S. Government.

