



RED DEER'S NEEDLE DISPOSAL **GUIDE**



Alberta Health
Services

turning
point



vantage
community services



downtown
Red Deer
Business Association



RED DEER
PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Primary Care
Network
RED DEER



THE CITY OF
Red Deer



SAFE HARBOUR
SAFE PEOPLE. SAFE COMMUNITY.

WHY DO WE NEED A GUIDE?

Drug and needle debris is a challenging issue for Red Deer, but our community is not alone. Cities across the globe are tackling this issue with strategies to ensure individuals and communities are as safe and healthy as possible.

Needles are used by people with specific health conditions and addictions. Safe disposal of these needles reduces the chances of injury. The majority of needles in our community are disposed of safely by the people who have used them, however, there is still work to be done to respond to community needle debris. People who use needles and the community at large have a shared responsibility for safe disposal.

A number of Red Deer agencies and community members have come together as the Public Injection & Debris Committee, a subcommittee of the Downtown Community Development Committee, to address the growing concern of drug and needle debris.

THE GOALS SPECIFIC TO NEEDLE DEBRIS ARE TO:

- » Raise community awareness about needle safety
- » Reduce the number of discarded needles
- » Provide options for safe disposal of needles
- » Reduce risk and prevent injury to the public who find discarded needles
- » Empower the community to take appropriate action related to needle safety

The committee uses *The Red Deer Alcohol & Drug Strategy* as its guide to ensure people who use needles can access safe disposal options, and that drug and needle debris in the community is dealt with promptly and safely.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS OF TOUCHING OR BEING POKED BY A DISCARDED NEEDLE?

Anyone can get hurt if they accidentally get poked. The majority of people will not get sick by picking up or being poked by a used needle, but it is important to be cautious. We know picking up other people's garbage with bare hands is not a good idea because it's an easy way to come in contact with germs. Needles are not like other garbage and require special care and attention.

When a person finishes using a needle, some of that person's blood may still be inside the needle. If you

get poked by a needle and the blood enters into your bloodstream you could get sick.

When viruses in needles are exposed to the open air, most will die within minutes, however some could take hours or longer. There is no way to know how long a needle has been lying where you found it, so it is best to be safe.

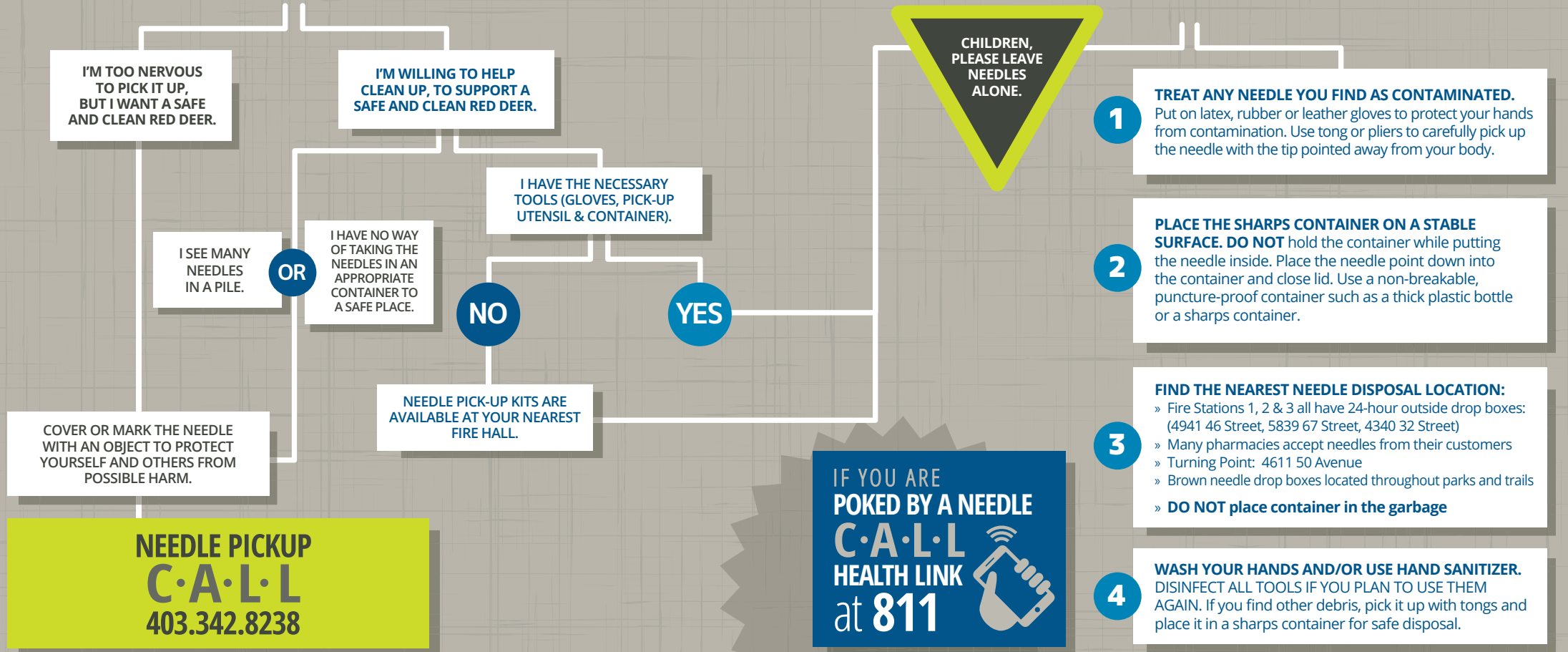
For more information on communicable diseases, visit myhealth.alberta.ca



I FOUND A NEEDLE



HOW TO DISPOSE OF A NEEDLE SAFELY



THANK YOU

To the City of Edmonton and its Capital City Clean Up partners for sharing their safe needle disposal tool kit as a resource.

The Public Injection & Debris Committee includes the following partners:

Alberta Health Services

The City of Red Deer

Turning Point Society of Central Alberta

Red Deer Downtown Business Association

Red Deer Primary Care Network

Red Deer Public Schools

Safe Harbour Society

Vantage Community Services

Read more about *The Red Deer Alcohol & Drug Strategy* at reddeer.ca

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