



For a map of needle disposal bins, visit:  
[cityofgp.com/needleresourceguide](http://cityofgp.com/needleresourceguide)

For more information:

780-538-0380  
[csd@cityofgp.com](mailto:csd@cityofgp.com)

[cityofgp.com/needleresourceguide](http://cityofgp.com/needleresourceguide)



# Grande Prairie Needle Disposal Guide

The Opioid Task Force Committee includes the following partners:



Grande Prairie  
Public School  
District No. 2357



PEACE WAPITI PUBLIC  
SCHOOL DIVISION NO. 76



## Why do we need a guide?

Drug and needle debris is a challenging issue for Grande Prairie, 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 for those in the community. 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. People who use needles and the community at large have a shared responsibility for safe disposal.

A number of Grande Prairie agencies and community members have come together as the Opioid Task Force to address the growing concern of drug and needle debris.

### The goals specific to needle debris are:

- 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.

## What are the risks of touching or being poked by a discarded needle?

Anyone can potentially get hurt if they accidentally get poked by a needle, however the majority of people will not get sick. You can not get sick by picking up a needle if you take the proper precautions. We know picking up other people's garbage with bare hands is not a good idea because it's an easy way to come into contact with germs. Needles are not like other garbage and require special care and attention.

When a person finishes using a needle, some of their blood may still be inside the needle. If you get poked by the needle and the blood enters your bloodstream, you could potentially 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. It is best to be safe.

For more information on communicable diseases, visit:

[myhealth.alberta.ca](http://myhealth.alberta.ca)

**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, as well as the City of Red Deer for sharing their Needle Disposal Guide.

