



Lexington-Fayette County Health Department
Needle Exchange Program
Participant Rights and Responsibilities

At the Lexington-Fayette County Health Department (LFCHD) we seek to provide exceptional care and the best possible experience for every participant in the Needle Exchange Program. We want to work together with you to ensure that you receive the care, compassion and services you need. By understanding your rights and responsibilities, you can help us to help you.

AS A PARTICIPANT, YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO:

- Be treated with respect and dignity, regardless of race, ethnicity, sex or gender expression, sexual orientation, national origin, religion, class, medical status, or physical or mental ability. We strive to create a safe place, free from violence, threats and hateful language.
- Receive available services, supplies, information and education. We strive for prompt service [and to offer needle exchange to help assure safer conditions].
- Be respected and have the right to privacy. You will be asked to provide a unique identifier so that services can be tracked for reporting and funding accountability.
- Be provided confidential testing services upon request.
- Declare to law enforcement that you are a participant in the program and possess needles. Kentucky law states: "Prior to searching a person, a person's premises, or a person's vehicle, a peace officer may inquire as to the presence of needles or other sharp objects in the areas to be searched that may cut or puncture the officer and offer to not charge a person with possession of drug paraphernalia if the person declares to the officer the presence of the needle or other sharp object. If, in response to the offer, the person admits to the presence of the needle or other sharp object prior to the search, the person shall not be charged with or prosecuted for possession of drug paraphernalia for the needle or sharp object or for possession of a controlled substance for residual or trace drug amounts present on the needle or sharp object." KRS218A.500 (6) (a).

PARTICIPANT RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Be responsible for the needles you are given and return used needles to the LFCHD Needle Exchange Program in safe disposable containers.
- Treat staff, volunteers and community members with courtesy and respect without physical, sexual, verbal and/or emotional abuse, threats or intimidation.
- Keep the area safe and refrain from engaging in any drug activity that puts LFCHD Needle Exchange Program at risk of closure.
- Do not buy, sell or loan money or property, or engage in any illegal activity, while on the premises.
- Protect the confidentiality of other participants encountered while participating in the LFCHD Needle Exchange Program.
- Take only what is needed and dispose of used materials and supplies properly.
- Clean up drug-related waste in the community and bring needles gathered off the street to the LFCHD Needle Exchange Program.

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LFCHD is an equal opportunity employer that welcomes, respects and serves with dignity all people and does not discriminate, including in hiring, or employment, or admission, or access to, or treatment in its programs or activities on the basis of race, color, gender, national origin, religion, disability, handicap, age, Vietnam or other veteran status, gender expression, sexual orientation or any other status protected by relevant law.