



CALIFORNIA HARM REDUCTION SUPPLIES

August 2022

As of January 1, 2021, California law allows individuals to possess syringes for personal use: **Health & Safety Code (HSC) section 11364(c)**. California law also allows people to possess additional safer drug use supplies when acquired from a syringe services program **HSC 121349.1**.

In keeping with California law, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), Center for Infectious Diseases, Office of AIDS (OA) has designated all materials included in the OA Harm Reduction Supply Clearinghouse as necessary to prevent the spread of communicable diseases or prevent drug overdose, injury, or disability. Any materials in which drugs are prepared or administered may potentially transmit disease or cause injury if shared or reused. Providing new supplies helps reduce sharing and reuse and allows opportunities for health education and engagement.

Additional information can be found on our **CDPH/OA Syringe Exchange Programs website**.

Clearinghouse supplies, and supplies typically provided by California Syringe Services Programs (SSPs) include, but are not limited to those listed on the following pages. (Note: brands and packaging may vary.)

SUPPLY

FUNCTION

WHY

Sterile Needles and Syringes



Used to inject drugs

Reduces the transmission of HIV, hepatitis C virus (HCV) and other infectious blood borne diseases caused by sharing of syringes

Containers for Mixing Drugs (Cookers)



Used to heat and mix water and powder or solid forms of drugs to convert into an injectable solution

Reduces the transmission of HIV, hepatitis C virus (HCV) and other infectious blood borne diseases caused by sharing of cookers

Cotton Pellet Filters



Used to filter liquid drug solutions and can also be distributed in non-pellet form

Reduces impurities that cause bacterial and other infections

SUPPLY

FUNCTION

WHY

Tourniquets



Used to locate and identify a vein for injection

Reduces trauma to veins and skin tissue caused by using items such as belts and shoelaces

Alcohol Wipes



Used to clean the skin around the injection site before injecting

Reduces soft tissue infections, including abscesses, prevents transmission of blood borne pathogens and bacterial infections caused by unwashed skin around the injection site

Sterile Water and Saline Ampules or Bottles



Used to mix with powder or solid forms of drugs for injection

Reduces risk of blood borne bacterial infections, endocarditis and soft tissue infections including abscesses caused when using non-sterile water

SUPPLY

FUNCTION

WHY

Ascorbic Acid (vitamin C powder)



Used as an acidifier to convert drugs into an injectable solution

Reduces risk of fungal and bacterial infections, abscesses and vein damage caused by other acidifiers such as lemon juice

Straws



Used for snorting or inhaling vapor

Reduces the transmission of HIV, hepatitis C, bacterial and other infectious disease by reducing nasal tears and scratches associated with snorting drugs

Glass Straight Pipes



Used for smoking/vaping drugs. Glass is resistant to high temperatures

Reduces the risk of transmission of infectious diseases by sharing of pipes

SUPPLY

FUNCTION

WHY

Glass Bulb Pipes



Used for smoking/vaping drugs

Reduces the risk of transmission of infectious diseases by sharing of pipes

Pipe Covers



Used to reduce burning of lips during smoking/vaping

Reduce the risk of burns, cuts and protect lips from chipped or cracked stems, which reduces the transmission risk for HIV and hepatitis C

Metal Screens



Used for inhalation of drug vapor when smoking/vaping

Reduces the risk of burns to the mouth and throat

SUPPLY

FUNCTION

WHY

Naloxone



Medication used to block the effects of opioids and rapidly reverse opiate overdose

Reduces overdose fatalities.
Possession and administration by laypeople permitted by California law and encouraged as a strategy to stem the overdose epidemic

Fentanyl Test Strips



Used to detect the presence of fentanyl in drug dose

Reduces risk of overdose by informing the person of the detection of fentanyl in their drug dose

Condoms



Used as a barrier during sex

Reduces the transmission of infectious pathogens, prevents pregnancy