SAFE WASTE DISPOSAL – COVID-19

• Using a pen or permanent marker, deface the vial by scratching over the label taking care not to cover the batch number & expiry date
• Discard injection equipment as a unit immediately after use
• Use approved sharps containers for the safe disposal of syringe & needle units
• Unsafe disposal can spread diseases & poses a danger to health and the environment
SAFE WASTE DISPOSAL – COVID-19

Dangers to health:
• Leaving used syringes and needles in the open or on the ground puts the community at risk

Dangers to the environment:
• Throwing away used needles and syringes in a river (for example) contaminates water used for drinking and washing
DISPOSAL OF SYRINGES – COVID-19

• Discard needles, used vials, ampoules and syringes into a puncture resistant yellow sharps container.
• Never recap or disconnect the needle from the syringe.
• Do not fill the safety box more than 3/4 of its capacity or up to the red line marked on the container.
DISPOSAL OF SYRINGES – COVID-19

• Ensure the box is clearly marked as “COVID-19” in accordance with the Provincial SOP for the Management Of COVID 19 Waste distributed on 3 April 2020 from the Facilities Management Directorate.

• Seal the sharps container before transporting it to the facilities HCRW CSA prior to collection.
Handling of COVID-19 vaccine vials after opening

- Put used vaccine vials and unopened vaccine vials which have expired or suffered heat exposure into a yellow sharps container and mark it clearly as “COVID-19”.
- Open vials posing a risk of cuts may be classified as sharps waste.
Handling of COVID-19 vaccine vials after opening

To ensure safe handling of the sharps container:

• Do not handle or shake the container more than necessary.
• Never squeeze, sit or stand on the container.
• Hold the container at the top above the level of the needles and syringes or with the handle if there is one.
• Keep safety boxes in a dry, safe place, out of reach of children and the public, until they have been safely disposed of.