



Sharps Disposal Drop Box Community Project

*Community Risk Reduction Services Program
Baltimore City Health Department*



Brandon M. Scott
Mayor, Baltimore City
Michelle Taylor, MD, DrPH, MPA
Commissioner of Health, Baltimore City

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BaltimoreHealth 
health.baltimorecity.gov

Why is Sharps Disposal Important?

- Sharps (needles, lancets, syringes) pose a significant public health risk if improperly disposed of.
- Unsecured sharps can injure individuals and spread infections.
- Safe disposal protects the community and the environment.



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How Can BCHD Help

- Provide resources such as grabbers, gloves, and portable sharps containers.
- Provide educational materials (posters, flyers, digital content) to promote the drop boxes.
- Partner with community associations to enhance access to safe disposal.
- Install and maintain drop boxes in key locations across the city.

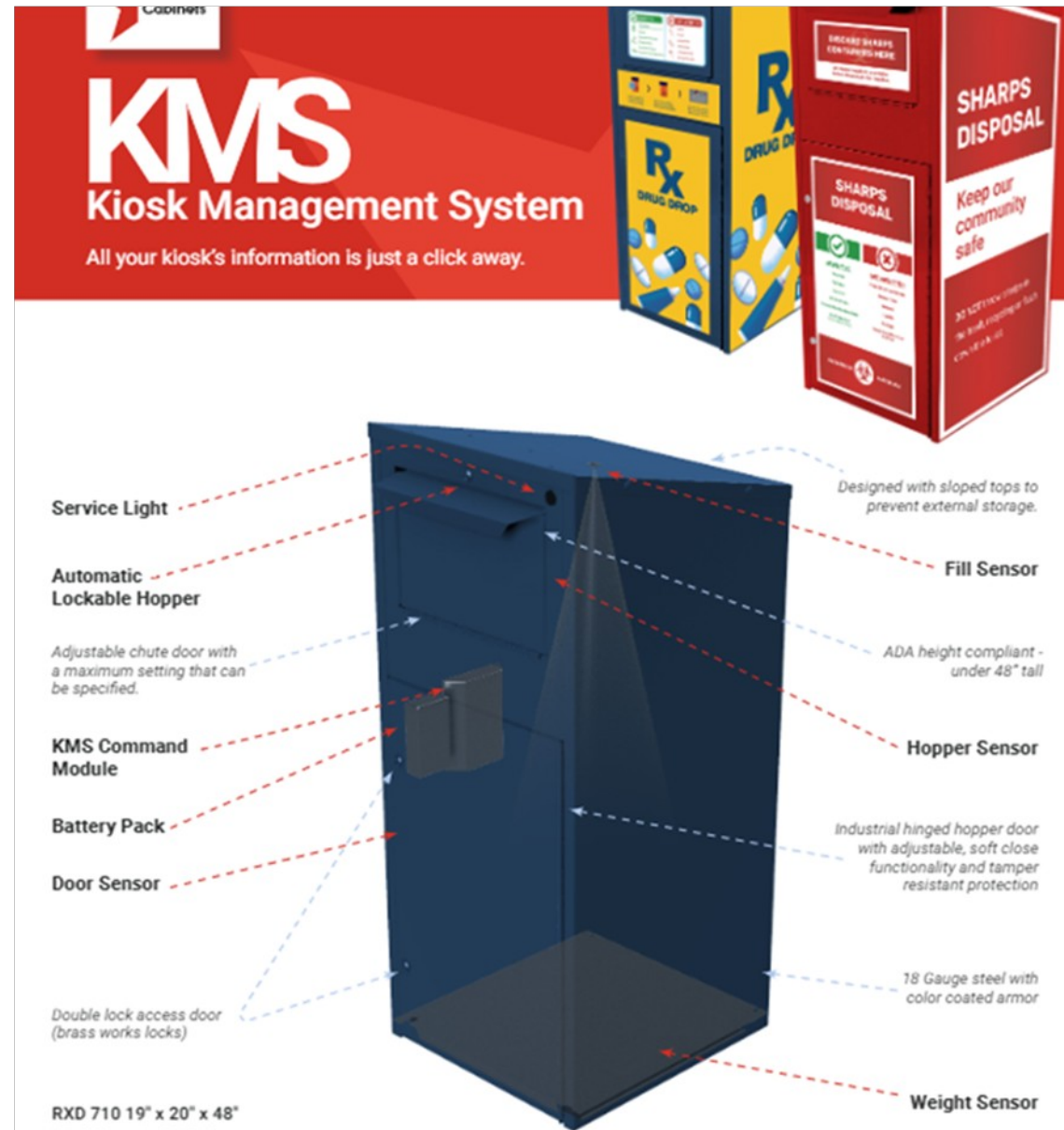


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Safety Features

- Tamper-resistant door locks
- Sensors to monitor the weight and capacity and send alerts



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How are Communities Identified

Community locations and needs are evaluated using a data-driven, community-focused approach.

- 311 syringe litter complaints
- Data analysis
- Community input - identify hotspots where the community is most concerned about needle disposal and safety
 - Dec. 2023 – syringe litter survey
 - community association meetings



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Sharps Drop Box Projects in other Cities

- **Miami-** experienced a 49% decrease in syringe litter after implementing a syringe disposal box as part of a Syringe Services Program
- **Seattle-** 88% of respondents in a survey reported feeling safer with a needle collection drop box in their neighborhood
- **Philadelphia-** some residents see the drop boxes as a potential solution to address syringe litter and safer public spaces in their neighborhood

SYRINGE DISPOSAL AMONG PEOPLE WHO INJECT DRUGS BEFORE AND AFTER THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A SYRINGE SERVICES PROGRAM – PMC | [Sharps Collection Program](#) | [seattle.gov](#) | [Needle drop boxes land in Kensington parks and SEPTA stations](#) Y



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Installation and Operation

- BCHD coordinates the installation and maintenance of drop boxes.
- Drop boxes will be placed at strategic, easily accessible community locations (e.g., fire stations, recreation centers, parks, community-based organizations).
- Drop boxes will be well-maintained, regularly emptied, and monitored by BCHD to prevent misuse, overflowing, or neglect.



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Benefits

- Supports public health by providing residents with a safe, convenient way to dispose of sharps.
- Prevents discarded needles from being left in public spaces like parks, streets, and playgrounds.
- Reduces the risk of injury from discarded needles, particularly for children and pets.
- Demonstrates the community's commitment to health and wellbeing.



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SHARPS DISPOSAL DROP BOXES

Found a syringe? Help keep our community clean and safe
- dispose of it properly at any of the below locations:

Amazing Grace Lutheran Church

2424 McElderry St.
Southwest Baltimore | McElderry Park Community

Baltimore City Fire Department | Engine 47

2608 Washington Blvd.
Southwest Baltimore | Morrell Park Community

Charm City Care Connection

1214 N. Wolfe St.
East Baltimore | Broadway East Community

DPW Northwest Transfer Station

5030 Reisterstown Rd.
Northwest Baltimore | Lucille Park Community

DPW Sisson Street Drop-Off Center

2840 Sisson St.
Northwest Baltimore | Jones Fall Community

Greater Baybrook Alliance

2601 S. Hanover St.
South Baltimore | Brooklyn Community

St. Luke's Church on the Avenue

800 W. 36th St.
Northwest Baltimore | Hampden Community

Westport Liquor & Grocery Store

2244 Annapolis Rd.
Southwest Baltimore | Westport Community



The Community's Role

- Assist in identifying drop box locations within the community.
- Help with outreach efforts by sharing information with community residents.
- Provide feedback on the program's effectiveness.
- Encourage community members to use the sharps disposal drop boxes.
- Communicate needs/concerns to BCHD
 - i.e., damages to the drop box



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Next Steps

1. Share information about the drop box initiative with community residents (community's social media pages, newsletters, email listserv, etc.)
2. Discuss potential locations for a drop box in your community.
3. Schedule a site visit for the chosen location (must be on public property).
4. Schedule the installation of drop boxes.



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FAQs

1. Will this attract more people who inject drugs to the area?
2. Once it's installed, if issues arise, can we have it removed?
3. Why was my community chosen?



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Questions, comments, concerns?

baltimorecityoit@baltimorecity.gov



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