

Whitley county Health Department
Harm Reduction Program
Participants Rights and Responsibilities

At the Whitley County Health Department (WCHD) we seek to provide exceptional care and to be the best possible experience for every participant in the Harm Reduction 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 help you.

AS A PARTICIPANT, YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO:

- Be treated with respect and dignity, regardless of race, ethnicity's or gender expression, sexual orientation, national origin, 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 syringe services to help assure 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 a presence of needles or other sharp objects in the areas to be searched that may cut or puncture an 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 sharp objects. If, in response to the offer, the person admits to the presence of the needles or other sharp object prior to search, the person shall not be charged with or prosecuted for possession of drug paraphernalia for the needle or sharp object 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:

- You must return used needles to the health department in order to receive new needles, even if you have not been to our exchange in months
- Be responsible for the needles you are given and return used needles to the WCHD Harm Reduction Program in safe disposable containers.
- Treat 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 WCHD Harm Reduction 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 confidentiality or other participants encountered while participating in the WCHD Harm Reduction 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 WCHD Harm Reduction Program.

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WCHD 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, or treatment in its program or activities or 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.