

Why Syringe Access?

- Syringe access is a public health intervention that is a global best practice to reduce the spread of HIV and hepatitis C. It saves lives, makes the community healthier, and is supported by the California Health Department, and the Centers for Disease Control.
- The city of San Francisco has been providing syringe access since 1993. Data indicates that our early adoption of syringe access has contributed to the low level of HIV among San Franciscans who inject drugs.
- The Health Department continues to provide programs and care to help people who inject drugs to be as healthy as possible. This in turn protects the health of our community.
- We practice harm reduction and disease prevention strategies such as syringe access, naloxone (Narcan) to reverse overdoses, and fentanyl testing. We also provide treatment on demand with same-day methadone, increased access to buprenorphine and a wide array of substance use services to help people with addiction to recover, and reduce their use of needles.