

## Animal Care and Use Program | Occupational Health and Safety

### SOP for Recapping Needles at an Agricultural Animal Facility

#### Scope

This SOP pertains to those on agricultural facilities who use needles. Research shows that 80% of farm workers have accidentally stuck themselves with a needle. Recapping needles poses an increased risk of needlestick to the worker. Most needlesticks are minor but serious injury could result including:

- Skin infection
- Allergic reaction
- Deep tissue wound
- Miscarriage due to accidental injection of a hormone product
- Serious cardiovascular event or death due to accidental injection of Tilmicosin/Micotil

#### Purpose

A guideline to avoid the recapping of needles where possible and techniques to follow if recapping is necessary.

#### References

Proper use on swine and hog farms: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Afr3crfg7WQ>

Proper use on dairy farms: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0vGDcn4RnUw>

[https://www.osha.gov/dsg/topics/agriculturaloperations/hazards\\_controls.html](https://www.osha.gov/dsg/topics/agriculturaloperations/hazards_controls.html)

<http://www.fda.gov/medicaldevices/productsandmedicalprocedures/homehealthandconsumer/consumerproducts/sharps/ucm263259.htm>

<http://umash.umn.edu/resources/pdf/Needlestick-Farmworkers-FactSheet.pdf>

#### Procedures

A multi-dose vaccination gun with retractable needle would be the optimum solution; however, cost may be the limiting factor.

If you need to recap a needle, do not bend or break the needle and **NEVER** remove the needle from the syringe by hand. This could result in accidental needle sticks, cuts or punctures. Recapping should **ONLY** be performed using a mechanical device or the one-handed technique. **ANY RECAPPED NEEDLE MUST BE PLACED IN AN APPROPRIATE SHARPS CONTAINER AT THE NEXT AVAILABLE OPPORTUNITY.**

What guidance does **OSHA** give on recapping fill needles? OSHA is pretty blunt about recapping needles – they don't recommend it!!

**The one-handed needle recapping method:**

1. Place the cap on a flat surface with something firm to “push” the needle cap against
2. Holding the syringe with the needle attached in one hand, scoop the needle into the cap without using the other hand
3. Push the capped needle against a firm object to “seat” the cap onto the needle firmly using only one hand or lift the syringe/needle vertically and once the tip of the needle is completely covered, use the other hand to secure the cap in place
4. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AYUbpBLceTg>

**It is recommended that you should NEVER RECAP NEEDLES that have been used for:**

- Sedatives (E.G., xylazine)
- \*\*Tilmicosin (Micotil)
- Oil-based products or vaccines
- Modified live vaccines
- Hormones
- Antibiotics
- Johne’s Vaccine
- Brucella abortus strain RB51 vaccine

\*\*Injection of this drug into humans has been associated with fatalities

**If you do stick yourself with a needle, you should:**

- Make sure the animal is secure
- Properly dispose of the needle
- Remove gloves and wash needlestick area thoroughly
- Tell your supervisor and complete injury report within 24 hours

**Seek medical attention during working hours at:**

Carle Occupational Medicine  
810 W. Anthony Drive  
Urbana, IL 61801  
217-383-3077

Safeworks Illinois  
1806 N. Market Street  
Champaign, IL 61820  
217-356-6150

**Seek medical attention after hours at:**

Carle Hospital ER  
611 W. Park Street  
Urbana, IL 61801  
217-383-3313

OSF Heart of Mary Medical Center ER  
1400 W. Park Street  
Urbana, IL 61801  
217-337-2131

**If appropriate, take the Safety Data Sheet of the product you were using.**

**Contacts**

If you have any questions, please contact:

Occupational Health and Safety Specialist  
217-244-0781

AACUP Office  
217-265-6790