

## Health Ministries Network News

### **Whatcom County Health Department starts needle disposal pilot program**

Joni Hensley, RN, Public Health Nurse Supervisor and HMN Board of Director

As the opioid epidemic intensifies, the Whatcom County Health Department (WCHD) is addressing the issue of used needles found in public places. The Department is now offering free needle clean up kits to businesses and community groups who want to safely clean up needles found on public property.

The pilot program was developed at the request of local business and community organizations and is funded with Whatcom County waste management funds. Each kit contains gloves, safety glasses, a sharps disposal container and instructions for collection.

The Whatcom County Health Department provides free clean-up kits for businesses and community members who wish to clean up and safely dispose of used needles found on private or public property. The kits contain safety equipment and instructions about how to safely handle needles. The department will accept the used needle clean up kits for proper disposal. A link to a video explaining how to use the kits can be found [here](#).

They can be picked up from the WCHD Communicable Disease Division at 1500 N. State Street during normal business hours.

