



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

**Canton City Public Health**  
Nursing

October 18, 2019

Dear SWAP Participant:

This letter is to inform you of changes to our syringe service program and also provide an explanation. For those participants that bring more than 50 used needles to SWAP, we will be exchanging for a maximum of 50 new needles, effective immediately.

When we began SWAP (6/23/2017), the intent was to provide an individual with enough needles to use a new one every time he/she injects in a week. As the program moved forward, we began exchanging 1:1 based on the number of used needles being returned. As a result we have been exchanging 400+ needles with various participants. This distribution has significantly impacted the inventory of needles that we have available to continue to run the program.

As many of you are or should be aware, there are many barriers to purchasing needles for SWAP. At this time, we only have enough inventory to continue the program for an additional 12 months. Therefore, by limiting the number of needles being distributed weekly, we are hopeful that the program can be sustained for an additional 6 months.

It is only with your support and participation that we are able to continue to prevent the spread of diseases which is the overarching goal of our program.

We thank you for your understanding.

Respectfully,

Diane Thompson, RN, MSN  
Director of Nursing  
Canton City Public Health