SAFE NEEDLE HANDLING

1. Prepare Sharps Container

- Keep your sharps container nearby with the lid securely applied to prevent spillage.
- Before using your sharps container, line it with the provided absorbent pad.

2. Handle Needle Safely

- Keep your needle capped until you need it.
- Secure organisms, flasks, and vials prior to uncapping your needle.
- After using the needle, do not remove it from the syringe.

3. Dispose of Needle

- Do not recap used needles. Dispose of them immediately in the proper sharps container.*
- When disposing of chemically contaminated sharps, record chemical contaminants on a chemical waste label on the side of the container.
- Dispose of your sharps container when it is ¾ full. Do not overfill. Ensure both the lid and round opening on the lid are secured.

*If your procedure requires recapping, you must contact Research Safety for approval to recap.

Did you know:

- Contaminated needle sticks can inject substances into the body, potentially causing serious injuries.
- Needle sticks account for 10% of injuries at Northwestern.
- Breaking a used needle can aerosolize any chemical residue in the dead volume.
- The dead volume is the space in the needle tip that contains residual chemicals.
- Most needle injuries occur on the non-dominant hand.