HANDLING SYRINGES, NEEDLES AND SHARPS

1. Always wear gloves and other appropriate protective clothing, including eye protection.
2. Scalpels should only be held by the handle and kept in a safe place when not in use.
3. Use scissors rather than razor blade when cutting, if possible.
4. Needles should never be recapped, bent, broken, removed or otherwise manipulated by hand.
5. Pliers should be used to remove corroded scalpel blades or tight fitting hypodermic needles from a holder or syringe.
6. Needle caps on new needles should be kept in place at all times until used.
7. Never put hands into vessels to retrieve needles.
8. Never test the degree of sharpness of a blade by the finger touch method.
9. Needles and other sharp instruments should be disposed of in clearly marked designated puncture resistant sharps containers and not in ordinary rubbish or plastic bags.
10. When a sharp container is three-fourths full, put on gloves, seal container and advise technical staff, they will organise disposal of container.
11. If a needle stick injury occurs, wash with soap and water, report incident to your PI or First Aider immediately, Eoin Fleming: 1679/1687, Alex Zhdanov: 1687.

HANDLING BIOLOGICAL MATERIALS

1. All Biological materials collected should be treated as potentially infectious for blood-borne diseases regardless of their known infectious status.
2. Use appropriate barrier precautions - gloves, gowns, masks, eyewear to prevent exposure to skin and mucus membranes.
3. Gloves should be changed after handling biological samples.
4. Wash hands immediately after removing gloves.
5. Place biological materials in secure containers to prevent leakage.