

Needlestick First Aid

- **Allow the wound to bleed freely** and **DO NOT** squeeze injection site - this can spread product further into tissue
- **Clean affected area** to remove dirt and product from surrounding skin and prevent it entering wound
- If relevant advise your first aid officer and/or direct supervisor
- **Go straight to your doctor or the nearest hospital emergency department** - early treatment is quicker and simpler
- **Take the vaccine packaging/label with you** if you can or write down the name of the product you were using
- **Contact vaccine manufacturer** (helpline will be on packet or online) for latest product specific treatment advice - written information may be out of date
- **Take a digital or hard copy of Farmer Needlestick Injuries–Risk and Recommended Treatment** document (access via QR code) with you
- If the doctor or hospital is far away, call the **Poisons Information Hotline on 13 11 26** for initial advice

ALL needlestick injuries require immediate attention (even if you have no pain) - early treatment is simpler and less invasive

Needlestick injury after care

- Keep the wound site clean and dry
- Keep use of affected area to a minimum
- If swelling, pain, redness or throbbing persist, seek medical attention
- Make sure you attend your follow-up appointment with your doctor
- If unsure about anything ask your doctor

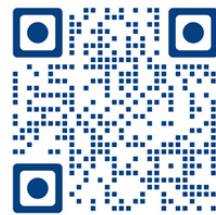
Documenting your injury

Employees: report injury to your employer, supervisor or occupational health and safety officer so they can ensure you receive the best care and help with your recovery

Owner Operators: make a record of the date, product used and circumstances of incident to assist with follow up care.

Safety Matters - Report Injuries!

Help maintain safety by logging your injury through the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Authority Adverse Experience Reporting System - help keep the use of essential products as safe as possible.



Further information and resources

 **NATIONAL CENTRE FOR FARMER HEALTH**
✉ ncfh@wdhs.net
☎ (03) 5551 8533
www.farmerhealth.org.au



Farm-related Needlestick Injuries

 **NATIONAL CENTRE FOR FARMER HEALTH**

in partnership with

 **wdhs**
Western District Health Service

 **DEAKIN UNIVERSITY**

What are needlestick injuries?

"Inadvertent injection with a needle intended for an animal"

Needlestick injuries are common: 80% of livestock farmers have experienced a needlestick injury at some point in their lives.

Needlestick injuries often occur due to:

- **Sudden movement** from the animal being injected.
- **Inadequate restraint** of animals.
- **Risky vaccination technique.**

"Severe injury can result from just a small prick"

Injuries include:

- Infection from contaminated needle.
- Inflammation and/or reaction from substance.
- Physical damage to underlying structures.

Delaying medical/surgical treatment may lead to:

- Ongoing pain.
- Reduced movement at injection site
- Amputation of the finger
- Chronic granulomatous reactions at injection site
- Miscarriage
- Death



The dangers of a needlestick

Farmers often initially report none of the injected substance entered their body, but are later found to be seriously effected.

- Injectable substances intended for livestock (e.g. vitamins, vaccines, antibiotics, hormones) can react differently in the human body
- A seemingly 'insignificant' injury can develop into something much more serious
 - A small prick can cause damage deep into muscle and other structures.
 - A minuscule amount of substance can cause serious harm
 - The person may not experience pain initially, but may be affected a day/days later

Know the risks and first aid actions:

Read the Material Safety Data Sheets

prior to administering products – particularly those **containing oil-based adjuvants** which is highly irritating and non-degradable



Risk & Recommended Treatment table

Common vaccines with oil adjuvants

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------------------|
| • Gudair® | • Vibrovax® |
| • Silirum® | • Bovilis® S |
| • Piliguard® | • Ovilis Campyvax® |
| • Bovilis® Rotavec | • Bovilis® MH & Bovilis® MH+IBR |
| • Corona | |

Prevention is always best

- **Approach animal over the top of railings** (not through the railings) with vaccinating hand
- Keep the **non-vaccinating hand far away** from the needle (e.g. on the rail)
- **Stabilise your body**
- Ensure handler or race has **minimal room for livestock to move**:
 - tightly pack animals in race to minimise movement
 - lock in head bail
 - Use knee to hold smaller animals
- **Always use safety vaccinator** with shroud for products with oil adjuvants to reduce risk
- Use the **shortest needle** possible as recommended for specific product application
- **Use pliers or needle removal tool** to remove used needle and dispose of in an enclosed sharps container
- **Do not tent** animal's skin with non-vaccinating hand

"Complacency leads to serious injury"

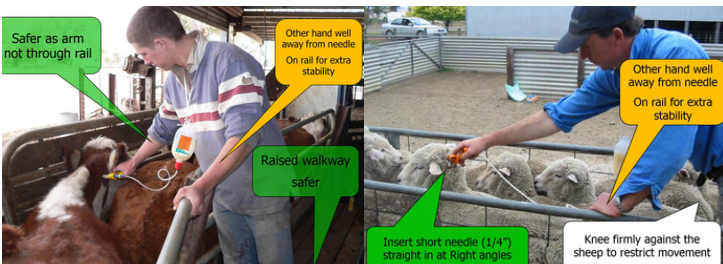


Figure 1 shows the correct techniques for giving an animal an injection.