

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** 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(helpline will be on packet or online) for latest product-specific treatment advice as written information may be out of date.
- **Take a digital or hard copy of the Farmer Needlestick Injuries–Risk and Recommended Treatment** document with you (access via QR code in this flyer).
- 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

Needlestick injury wound care

- Keep the wound site clean and dry.
- Keep use of affected area to a minimum.
- If swelling/pain/redness/throbbing persist, seek further medical attention.
- Attend any 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: Record the date, product used and circumstances of incident to assist with follow up care.

Safety matters - report injuries!

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

Scan the QR code on the inner page for more information!

 NATIONAL CENTRE FOR
FARMER HEALTH  ncfh@wdhs.net
 (03) 5551 8533

www.farmerhealth.org.au

Updated: July 2023



Farm-related Needlestick Injuries

 NATIONAL CENTRE FOR
FARMER HEALTH

in partnership with

 **wdhs**
Western District
Health Service

 **DEAKIN**
UNIVERSITY

What are needlestick injuries?

Accidental injection with a needle intended for an animal

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.

The dangers of a needlestick

Farmers often initially report none of the injected substance entered their body, but later find they are seriously affected.

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 including:

- Infection from contaminated needle.
- Inflammation and/or reaction from substance.
- Physical damage to tissue beneath injection site.



FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

Including Risk and Recommended Treatment Table

Consequences of delaying medical/surgical treatment may lead to:

- Ongoing pain.
- Reduced movement at injection site.
- Amputation of the finger.
- Chronic granulomatous reactions at injection site.
- Loss of income due to being unable to work.

Serious side effects include:

- Miscarriage.
- Death.



Know the risks and first aid

Read the Material Safety Data Sheets prior to using products – particularly those containing oil-based adjuvants which are highly irritating and non-degradable.

Common vaccines with oil adjuvants

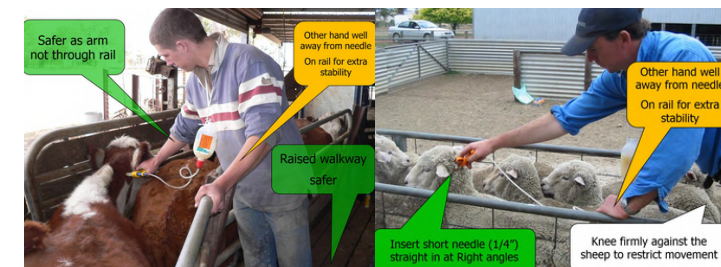
- | | |
|--------------------|------------------------|
| • Gudair® | • Vibrovax® |
| • Silirum® | • Bovilis® S |
| • Piliguard® | • Ovilis Campyvac® |
| • Bovilis® Rotavec | • Bovilis® MH & Corona |
| | • Bovilis® MH+IBR |

Prevention is always best

- **Approach animal over the top of (not through) 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.
- Use the **shortest needle** possible that is recommended for specific product application.
- **Use pliers or needle removal tool** and dispose of used needles in an enclosed sharps container.
- **Do not tent** animal's skin with non-vaccinating hand.

Complacency leads to serious injury

How to safely give a vaccination:



Source: David Rendell