



## Monroe County Health Department

Monroe County, Indiana

Health Department

119 W. 7th Street  
(812) 349-2543

Futures Family Planning Clinic

338 S. Walnut Street  
(812) 349-7343

Public Health Clinic

333 E. Miller Drive  
(812) 353-3244

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**February 5th, 2016**

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### **MONROE COUNTY SYRINGE EXCHANGE OPENING**

**BLOOMINGTON** – Penny Caudill, administrator of the Monroe County Health Department, announces the opening of a county syringe exchange program, operated in agreement with Indiana Recovery Alliance (IRA).

“We are so excited to have this available in the community. Syringe exchange programs not only prevent infections and save lives, they save money, link people to treatment and lower the risk of accidental needle sticks” says Caudill. Caudill also wants to thank the many local organizations and people who supported and assisted with this project.

The program will operate from the IRA office at 500 W. 4<sup>th</sup> Street, suite 2 in Bloomington and by mobile unit. Program hours and mobile locations can be found by accessing the IRA website at [www.indianarecoveralliance.org](http://www.indianarecoveralliance.org) or on the IRA Facebook page.

The syringe exchange program will provide free syringes, prevention supplies and HIV and Hepatitis C testing. Referrals will be given to those wanting treatment or other social services. The program will also offer harm reduction and naloxone education.

Monroe County is the 4<sup>th</sup> county in Indiana approved to have a syringe exchange program by the State Health Commissioner, Jerome Adams, following Fayette, Madison and Scott Counties. Scott County was the first approved after the onset of a large HIV and hepatitis C outbreak in 2015.

The Health Department applied to open a syringe exchange program following the declaration of a public health emergency from rising Hepatitis C cases from IV drug use by Health Commissioner, Dr. Thomas Sharp.

Because of lack of resources and staff time, the health department has approved the IRA to operate the syringe exchange services, The IRA is a non-for-profit 501c3 that is staffed by volunteers and funded by grants and donations.

For more information, visit the Monroe County Government website, at [www.co.monroe.in.us](http://www.co.monroe.in.us) and click on the Health Department page.

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