NEEDLE SAFETY:
AVOID NEEDLE STICK INJURIES (NSI)

DE Code Title 29 § 7993 provides registered members of Wilmington’s Needle Exchange Program (NEP) with legal immunity from state paraphernalia laws for syringe possession, even when needles contain trace amounts of controlled substances. Experience shows that NEP initiatives lower the risk of transmission of HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis C, and other blood-borne pathogens to police officers by:
1. encouraging suspects to volunteer syringe possession during Terry stops and inventory searches,
2. collecting and securing dirty needles that could otherwise pose danger to police and others,
3. reducing the spread of infectious disease among drug injectors, thus lowering police exposure to these pathogens.

When conducting questioning or search of someone you think may possess syringes:
★ Ask if suspect is carrying syringes, and where they are located,
★ Inform the person that you will not confiscate syringes or arrest them for syringe possession,
★ Use extreme caution and proper barrier protection (i.e., stick-resistant gloves) when performing a pat-down to protect against NSI,
★ If you experience NSI, immediately contact your Infectious Disease Exposure Officer at (302) _____.

For questions about the NEP program, call ______.