

# Avoid Infections, Clean First

- Before injecting, remember to **wash your hands** with water and soap.
  - If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Make sure to **clean the injection site** well with alcohol, soap and water, or other disinfectant prior to injection.
  - This step is important to prevent germs on your skin to enter your body.
- Always use **clean needles and equipment**.
  - If you don't have new works, clean what you have with bleach.



Some injecting drug users have been recently diagnosed with a serious blood infection caused by a germ called Group A Streptococcus (GAS).



GAS can be found in a person's nose and throat. It spreads through contact with droplets from an infected person's cough or sneeze or from contact with sores from a GAS skin infection. Serious, sometimes life-threatening infections may occur when GAS gets into the blood. Avoid getting an infection,

clean the injection site every time before hitting up!

Need clean needles and supplies? Contact AHOPE at 617-534-3976.



Boston Public Health Commission  
Infectious Disease Bureau  
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[www.bphc.org/idb](http://www.bphc.org/idb)

*If you have an infection or if you get a fever, see a healthcare provider.*