

Colorado Readiness Checklist

01 / COMPLIANCE & REGULATORY READINESS

Sharps Waste Handling Compliance

- ☐ Verify that your sharps containers are secure, locked, and not accessible to unauthorized persons (especially important in pediatric, LTC, and mixed-use facilities).
- ☐ Ensure sharps containers are serviced on a schedule that prevents overfill or overflow (per state/OSHA standards).
- ☐ Confirm documentation and manifests for all medical waste / sharps pickups — are disposal records logged and stored per Colorado medical waste regulations?
- ☐ Confirm segregation of waste streams (hazardous, biohazard, sharps, non-contaminated) according to Colorado health department regulations.

Facility Licensing & Audit Preparedness

- ☐ Confirm all waste disposal vendors are registered and licensed to operate in Colorado.
- ☐ Review most recent state or local audits/inspections — note any prior findings and whether they were resolved.
- ☐ Confirm you have up-to-date MSDS/SDS sheets (or equivalent) for all regulated waste stored or handled onsite.

Employee Training & Documentation

- ☐ Confirm that staff who handle sharps/waste have up-to-date training records (OSHA Bloodborne Pathogens, Hazardous Waste Handling, Infection Control).
- ☐ Confirm there is a documented Sharps / Medical Waste policy, including procedures for sharps disposal, spill response, and compliance checks.

02 / SAFETY & RISK MITIGATION

Sharps Container Safety & Design

- ☐ Ensure containers in use are properly designed for your facility type (e.g. pediatric-safe, tamper-resistant, reusable if available). Daniels Health reusable sharps containers' sealed, one-way entry and safety-engineered closures are a notable upgrade over open-lid or throw-away bins.
- ☐ Confirm sharps containers are placed at safe, supervised locations (not within reach of unauthorized personnel or patients, especially children or residents in aged care).

Waste Pickup & Waste Volume Management

- ☐ Audit current sharps/waste volume and pick-up frequency — check for overfill risk or missed pickups.
- ☐ Evaluate whether sharps and medical waste streams are consolidated appropriately to minimize risk and maximize logistic efficiency (e.g. reuse, compacting, consolidation).

Incident & Exposure Reporting Protocols

- ☐ Confirm there is a standard protocol for needlestick / sharps injuries or accidental exposures — including reporting, follow-up, and prevention plans.
- ☐ Ensure any prior incidents are logged and reviewed, and corrective actions are documented (container change, staff re-training, etc.).

Colorado Readiness Checklist

03 / COST & OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCY

Waste Pickup & Waste Volume Management

- ☐ Review current waste spend: Are you paying for single-use sharps disposal? What’s the cost per container or per pound of waste?
- ☐ Compare with potential savings using reusable sharps containers – fewer disposables, less waste volume, more predictable spend. Daniels Health often highlights long-term cost savings and disposal consolidation as benefits.

Space Utilization & Storage Management

- ☐ Check on-site storage space for sharps/medical waste – is it taking up valuable real estate? Could reusable containers or more efficient pickup reduce your storage footprint?
- ☐ Confirm that waste staging areas comply with regulatory spacing, ventilation, and containment guidelines.

Vendor Service Reliability & Turnover Risk

- ☐ Confirm that your waste disposal vendor provides regular, documented pickups.
- ☐ Evaluate vendor’s flexibility (can they adjust service frequency up/down?) – especially important for fluctuating volume facilities (e.g. surgery centers, dialysis, labs).
- ☐ Review vendor’s customer service history: delayed pickups, missed pickups, or compliance lapses = risk.

04 /SUSTAINABILITY, REPUTATION & ESG READINESS

Reusable Sharps Solutions

- ☐ Assess whether your facility is using single-use sharps containers – if yes, checklist recommends evaluating reusable safety-engineered containers like our Sharpsmart line (safer, cost-effective, less waste).
- ☐ Estimate waste volume reduction and potential environmental impact (e.g. pounds of plastic/landfill avoided per year).

Regulatory & ESG Reporting Preparedness

- ☐ Confirm your facility’s ability to document and report waste disposal, disposal volumes, and compliance steps (useful for accreditation, audits, or ESG/CSR reporting).
- ☐ Review recent or upcoming regulatory changes at state/federal level – ensure you have a vendor capable of compliance, audit documentation, and responsive service (Daniels often markets this as a differentiator).

GAP SUMMARY WORKSHEET

GAP IDENTIFIED	ACTION NEEDED	TARGET DATE