

# **Police officials warn of public health risks associated with needle exchange program**

The Costa Mesa Police Department has concluded that a proposal by the Orange County Needle Exchange Program (OCNEP) to distribute syringes in the Westside of Costa Mesa has the potential to increase discarded needles in the city and present a safety risk to residents and others.

According to the Department of Public Health website, the Orange County Needle Exchange Program has submitted an application to operate its needle exchange program daily in Costa Mesa from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. in an area bounded by (N) West 18th Street, (E) Monrovia Avenue, (S) West 16th Street, (W) the outer border of Armstrong Petroleum.

The Costa Mesa Police Department submitted a response to the California Department of Public Health opposing the program.

[Click here to read the response.](#)

Members of the public who are interested in more information or commenting on this program can visit the California Department of Public Health's application page [here](#).

Responses can be sent to this email address [SEPApplication@cdph.ca.gov](mailto:SEPApplication@cdph.ca.gov).

[Click here to read the full application by the Orange County Needle Exchange Program.](#)