



Implementation Guidance for Mobile Syringe Service Providers

This document provides operational guidance on compliance with Multnomah County Ordinance 1342.

Ordinance Summary

Effective June 25, 2026, Multnomah County Board of Commissioners approved [Ordinance 1342](#). This ordinance establishes location limits for mobile syringe service programs (SSPs). Specifically, this ordinance prohibits mobile syringe service programs within 1000ft of k-12 schools.

Key Dates

- The ordinance became effective on July 25, 2026.
- Staff implementation began on August 24, 2026.
- The ordinance is scheduled to sunset on January 1, 2028, or before that date by board vote.

Key Definitions

To ensure compliance, it is critical to distinguish between the types of service locations defined in the policy.

Location Type	Definition	Status under Ordinance
Mobile or Temporary	Any site not in a fixed, permanent "brick-and-mortar" facility.	Subject to 1,000-ft restriction.

Location Type	Definition	Status under Ordinance
	This includes vans, mobile units, or temporary pop-up stations.	
Fixed Facility	A permanent "brick-and-mortar" building.	Not covered by this restriction.

Exclusions from the Ordinance

The 1,000-foot restriction applies to the distribution of syringes by mobile programs. It does NOT apply to:

- **Clinical Treatment.** Services provided by a licensed health professional for clinical patient treatment. For example, a health system's mobile clinic.
- **Specific Supplies.** The mobile distribution of naloxone or wound care supplies.
- **Outreach & Referrals.** Activity focused on providing referrals to services and treatment.
- **Individual Proximity.** The ordinance applies to service providers, not the individuals utilizing those services.

Compliance & Operational Guidance

Before initiating mobile services, providers are encouraged to take the following steps:

- **Verify Locations.** Use the [Interactive Map](#) to find the 1,000-foot boundary around any school. This will ensure your site is outside the restricted zone.
- **Needle Disposal Planning.** Establish a plan to safely gather and dispose of all used needles.
- **Community Connection.** Check in with neighbors to help create safe spaces for schoolchildren. Also, provide them with contact information to reach you if issues arise.

Waiver and Exception Process

A waiver process exists for permanent "brick-and-mortar" SSPs located within a school zone. A limited-term waiver may be granted to operate a mobile site on or next to the program's property only if:

1. The permanent facility is temporarily inaccessible (e.g., due to facility damage) and,
2. The mobile site is located adjacent to the program's primary facility.

Providers must notify the Health Department to start the waiver process.

Enforcement Framework

This ordinance is managed through a **complaint-driven education and enforcement framework**.

- **Public Reporting.** The public may report concerns via the program's dedicated website, email, or phone line.
- **Resolution Process.** Initial efforts will focus on educational outreach and technical assistance. We will provide a formal notification of violations. The goal is to resolve issues and ensure future compliance.
- **Repeated Violations.** The County may elevate enforcement actions if repeated violations occur after providing education.

Program Contact Information

For questions regarding compliance, the waiver process, or the interactive map, please contact:

Safe School Zones Program

Phone: 503-988-1030

Email: ssz-complaints@multco.us