

COVID-19 Regulated Medical Waste Management and Disposal



March 18, 2020

During this time of uncertainty and strain on the healthcare space and clinicians, we want all our partners to know that Daniels Health will continue to support you.

We have been closely monitoring the outbreak of COVID-19 and are able to compliantly manage medical waste generated during treatment of patients infected with the virus.

Our team has and will continue to consult with experts like the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the World Health Organization (WHO), and expert microbiologists like Terry Grimmond. We have created a page on our website dedicated to all our resources and updates around COVID-19 that you can explore [here](#).

Please continue reading this poster in full as it contains important information around waste handling and your service provided by Daniels.

Medical Waste Management during COVID-19

The CDC has stated that medical waste generated in the treatment of COVID-19 patients and patients under investigation (PUIs) be managed in accordance with routine procedures.

There are **no additional packaging or transportation requirements** from the Department of Transportation (DOT) for regulated medical waste (RMW).

NOTE: "Medical Waste" is defined by the EPA as healthcare waste that may be contaminated by blood, body fluids or other potentially infectious materials and is often referred to as regulated medical waste.

Important Guidelines Regarding the Packaging of COVID-19 Waste

Although the CDC or other regulatory agencies have not created new regulations specific to the handling of medical waste or sharps derived from the treatment COVID-19 patients, Daniels Health would like our customers to understand the existing regulations – particularly those from the DOT regarding the packaging of regulated medical waste.

The responsibility of packaging waste for transport to treatment facilities lies with you, the waste generator.

Steps for Properly Tying an RMW Bag



FILL

Insert full, sealed sharps containers or RMW



TIE

If using a liner, seal by twisting and tying by hand into a single knot



SEAL

Close lid securely and store in waste storage area until ready for collection

For COVID-19 onsite waste containment, RMW Guidelines state:

- ✓ A single, leak-resistant biohazard bag is usually adequate for containment of regulated medical wastes, provided the bag is sturdy and the waste can be discarded without contaminating the bag's exterior.
- ✓ Contamination or puncturing of the bag requires placement into a second biohazard bag.
- ✓ Each bag must be hand tied by gathering and twisting the neck of the bag and using a tie or hand knot to secure the bag, and each Regulated Medical Waste Container must be securely closed.
- ✓ The bag containing Regulated Medical Waste **must not be visible** once the container is closed.

Update to our Long-Term Care facilities regarding waste pickup

We understand that for the safety of your residents, many facilities in the industry are restricting building access to essential personnel only. We recommend waste is brought to the loading dock where our drivers will complete the pickup and transport off site for processing and disposal.

As we continue on this journey...

Please remember to reference www.danielshealth.com/COVID-19 for updates and resources. Daniels Health will continue to provide you consistent and comprehensive service.

If you should have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out at care@danielshealth.com.