

REGULATORY & SAFETY GUIDANCE

Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) – Regulated Medical Waste and Sharps Packaging Guidance (United States)

Updated March 2020

Stericycle's Regulatory and Safety teams have been closely monitoring the outbreak of COVID-19 and have been working closely with Regulatory Agencies. Stericycle has been considering all aspects of proper management, treatment and disposal of medical waste, generated during care of COVID-19 patients, as related to both healthcare and waste workers. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has continuously updated their guidance and recently provided more clarity regarding waste management. Specifically, the CDC stated "Medical waste (trash) coming from healthcare facilities treating COVID-2019 patients is no different than waste coming from facilities without COVID-19 patients." This specific guidance provided Stericycle with the needed clarity to discontinue our prior guidance on the use of specific packaging and additional labeling of regulated medical waste and sharps generated in the care of COVID-19 patients. Updated guidance is on the following page. This new guidance specifies the management of regulated medical wastes generated in areas where there are confirmed cases of COVID-19, including isolation rooms and lab areas.

For questions, please email us at: Ask-Regulatory@Stericycle.com.

These instructions are subject to change as new information becomes available or as regulatory circumstances change. All Stericycle customers and team members will be notified in the event of significant changes.

Please Note:

- At the onset of coronavirus patients in the United States, Stericycle created coronavirus-related packaging guidelines to ensure the safest management for the protection of Stericycle team members, our customers' staff and facilities as well as the larger community. With updated guidance from the CDC on medical waste produced during COVID-19 patient care, we have been able to simplify procedures in our COVID-19 Packaging Guidelines. **Please see the updated instructions on the next page.**
- Generators are responsible for disseminating this information to their facility operations and employees

Online Resources:

- CDC:
[CDC.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index)
- OSHA:
[OSHA.gov/SLTC/novel_coronavirus](https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/novel_coronavirus)
- Stericycle:
[Stericycle.com/novel-coronavirus](https://www.stericycle.com/novel-coronavirus)

See next page for packaging instructions 



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COVID-19 Packaging Instructions

Regulated Medical Waste

(Non-Sharps Waste) Red Bag:

1. Dispose of regulated medical waste into red bag and tie off bag properly
2. Place tied bag into current regulated medical waste containers provided by Stericycle
3. Close and seal box/container; no additional marking instructions required as previously communicated

Single-Use Sharps Containers and Reusable Sharps Containers (SMS/Biosystems) Service:

Note: Stericycle in-service technicians will not enter COVID-19 confirmed patient isolation rooms and will not change out sharps containers. Stericycle is also requiring that reusable sharps containers from COVID-19 patient rooms be disposed as follows:

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Close container per manufacturer's instructions or seal reusable containers with red cap | 3. Place tied bag into current regulated medical waste containers provided by Stericycle |
| 2. Place closed container in a red bag and tie off bag properly | 4. Close and seal box/container; no additional marking instructions are required as previously communicated |



Pathological Waste, Trace Chemotherapy Waste, and Pharmaceutical Waste management

Follow current, standard procedures and Stericycle's Waste Acceptance Policy.

Laboratory Wastes

Follow current, standard procedures and Stericycle's Waste Acceptance Policy and any other additional CDC or local health department requirements.

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We protect what matters.

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