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Prime Medical Disposal, LLC Regulatory and Safety teams have been closely monitoring the outbreak of COVID-19 (formally known as novel coronavirus, 2019-nCoV), particularly developments made in infection control related to the proper management of medical waste generated during treatment of patients infected with the virus. We are managing waste generated during treatment of COVID-19 in healthcare facilities across the Central Valley, including quarantine sites.

Prime Medical Disposal follows the guidelines published by the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#) and [OSHA](#).

COVID-19 Medical Waste Management

The [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#) has determined 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 or sharps.

Packaging Guideline Reminders

Though new regulations or guidance documents have not been created by the CDC or other regulatory agencies specific to handling regulated medical waste or sharps derived from the treatment of COVID-19 patients, Prime Medical Disposal would like to remind our customers of the importance of following current regulations, especially those from DOT regarding the proper packaging of regulated medical waste and sharps, as well as our Waste Acceptance Policy.

Please note:

- Generators are responsible for packaging waste for transport to treatment facilities. Prime Medical Disposal drivers do not package waste.
- 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 container must be securely closed.
- Closed bags must not be visible once a secondary container (box or reusable tub) is closed.
- Improperly packaged containers or damaged containers will be denied pickup or returned to the generator.
- Reusable sharps containers should not be packaged in RMW containers but rather placed on the racks for standard processing.



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COVID-19 Medical Waste Packaging

[CDC guidance](#) states that medical waste coming from healthcare facilities treating COVID-19 patients should not be managed any different than those without. Healthcare facilities should follow all normal medical waste packaging conditions and standard disposal procedures, which vary depending on the type of waste.

In-Hospital / Facilities Service Procedures

For hospitals with an on-site in-service technician servicing the sharps containers under our services, the following guidelines apply:

- In the interest of limiting community spread of COVID-19, for a limited time, service technicians will not be entering any patient isolation rooms regardless of isolation room signage. We believe it is prudent to limit the number of people that enter such rooms.
- Technicians will be checking in at nurse's stations to ask about any rooms we should not be entering. If rooms are identified, the technician will not service containers. This applies to patient rooms, procedure areas, emergency departments and other areas.
- Containers in isolation rooms and areas which could not be serviced should be serviced by your staff and brought to the soiled utility room. Our technician will then service the container from this location. Our intent is to protect patients, employees and community members by limiting the number of people that enter isolation areas.
- It is acceptable to continue utilizing Prime Medical Disposal reusable sharps containers in areas with COVID-19 patients.

The CDC has created a resource page, and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) is providing worker safety guidance for healthcare employers and workers with an overview of existing OSHA Standards that apply to preventing and recording occupational exposure to COVID-19. Prime Medical Disposal will keep its customers and team members informed of significant regulatory developments. (please see some helpful links below)

[CDC Resources for Medical Professionals](#)

[CDC Resources for Households](#)

[CDC Guidance for Businesses and Employers](#)

[CDC Handwashing Posters](#)

[EPA Disinfectants to use Against COVID-19](#)

[California Department of Public Health Guidance -COVID-19](#)

We will continue to keep all of our current customers well informed of any changes or developments in regulatory procedures for COVID-19 medical waste disposal.



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Thank you so much for your partnership, and together we will get through this challenging time.