



MedStar Health

Hospital - Waste-Handling Guidance: COVID-19 March 16, 2020

Public health authorities, such as the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and World Health Organization (WHO), do not recommend special handling of waste generated from COVID-19 patients.

Regulated Medical Waste (Non-Sharps Waste) Red Bag

1. Place all non-sharp Regulated Medical Waste in red bag. Regulated Medical Waste (non-sharp) includes:
 - a. Materials saturated with blood or bodily fluids;
 - b. Containers of blood;
 - c. Potentially infectious materials; or
 - d. Empty IV Bags with Patient Information
2. Ensure all bags are properly tied off.
3. Dispose of as Regulated Medical Waste in accordance with routine procedures for the Hospital.

Note: Non-sharp waste generated within the room that does not meet the above definition of Regulated Medical Waste may be disposed of in ordinary trash.

Red RMW Sharps Containers – Single Use

1. Close all single-use containers per manufacturer's instructions ensuring they are locked in the closed position.
2. Place sharps container in a red bag and tie off bag properly.
3. Dispose of red bag as Regulated Medical Waste in accordance with routine procedures for the Hospital.

Red RMW Sharps Containers – SMS/Biosystems Reusable

1. Place seal on container (red cap or other locking mechanism for container).
2. Place reusable sharps container in a red bag and tie off bag properly.
3. Dispose of red bag as Regulated Medical Waste in accordance with routine procedures for the Hospital.

Note: The use of Single Use RMW Sharps Containers is recommended in areas where COVID-19 Patients will be treated.

Linens in Blue Bag

1. Place all used linens in blue bag and tie off properly.
2. Process linens using normal procedures.