

Regulated Medical Waste Management Plan



[Duanesburg Central Schools]

Updated January 2021

Introduction

The purpose of this section is to outline procedures for the handling and disposal of Regulated Medical Waste in order to minimize employee exposure and injuries from Regulated Medical Waste. The plan describes procedures for the management of Regulated Medical Waste generated on-site.

Individuals responsible for overseeing the Plan are:

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General Information

Biohazardous waste includes any waste item that is contaminated with a biological material that is an infectious disease transmission risk (e.g. blood, human sourced materials) or an environmental release risk (i.e., recombinant DNA).

Some wastes associated with biological materials must be disposed of in special ways because they may have been contaminated with infectious organisms or agents. These potentially infectious or biohazardous materials are defined by New York State regulations as **Regulated Medical Waste**.

Regulated Medical Waste (Infectious /Biohazardous Waste)

Regulated medical waste is defined by New York State as waste capable of transmitting disease to humans, including that which was generated in the diagnosis, treatment, or immunization of human beings or animals, in research pertaining thereto, or in production and testing of biologicals.

In accordance with New York State law, all regulated medical waste must be segregated and placed into properly labeled containers at the point of generation. Waste must be contained in a way that prevents its accidental release. Solid regulated medical waste that is placed in a red bag or sharps container must not be disposed of in household trash.

Regulated Medical Waste Disposal

Regulated medical waste should be segregated from other waste types and into the following subdivisions: sharps, liquid waste, and solid waste. Each regulated waste type must be contained in proper containers.

Regulated Medical Waste Categories

Regulated medical waste categories include:

Sharps

- Discarded used or unused needles, hypodermic needles, and complete syringes, even if not exposed to any infectious agents
- Broken glass, or other sharp materials in contact with infectious agents
- Items used in human patient care, medical research, and clinical laboratories

NOTE: Glass and plastic material (other than syringes) that have not come in contact with infectious materials do not have to be disposed as sharps, but must be contained in a rigid-sided container. These containers do not have to be red in color or labeled as a biohazard container. Needles must be disposed of as sharps regardless of contamination.

Cultures and Stocks

- Agents infectious to humans including human-sourced materials.
- Devices used to transfer, inoculate or mix infectious materials.
- Materials used in the cleanup of spills of any of the above items
- Human Blood, Blood Products, and Human Pathological Wastes
- Discarded waste blood and/or blood components such as serum or plasma
- Containers and/or materials containing free-flowing blood or blood components
- Materials saturated with blood or blood components

NOTE: Bandages, gauze, and feminine hygiene products used to absorb menstrual flow are not considered regulated medical waste. Organs and tissues fixed in preservatives are hazardous waste, since the fixatives used are hazardous materials.

Mixed Wastes

If Regulated Medical waste also contains hazardous or pharmaceutical chemicals, the chemical constituents take precedence during disposal procedures and can be expensive to dispose.

- Avoid mixing chemical waste with regulated medical waste streams.
- Properly dispose of pharmaceutical products via an appropriate waste stream.
- Sharps containers or red bags are not an appropriate disposal method for unused medicines.

Regulated Medical Waste Disposal Practices

Personal Protective Equipment

Personnel handling materials that are classified as Regulated Medical Waste shall wear specialized clothing, such as lab coats, gloves, and eye and face protection. Personal protective equipment shall be readily available through the school district.

Warning Signs/Labels

A Biohazard warning sign shall be placed on doors to rooms where Regulated Medical Waste is being generated or temporarily stored. Warning labels or signs must be placed on receptacles used to temporarily hold Regulated Medical Waste.

Regulated Medical Waste (RMW) shall never be disposed of as conventional garbage. All Regulated Medical Waste shall be placed in specialized labeled containers for transport and disposal. These containers shall have the words "Biohazard" or labeled with the universal warning sign. When transporting RMW (even through hallways), the generator's name and address must be printed on the outer container or have stickers with such designation adhered to the containers.



Guidelines for Sharps Disposal

Material that can cause percutaneous injury and that has come in contact with infectious material or potentially biohazardous material, must be disposed of in a properly labeled Sharps container. At the end of each workday, all containers should be temporarily closed if not ready for disposal.

1. Sharps containers must be labeled with the biohazard symbol and the word "Biohazard". It is generally a red container made of rigid plastic.
2. Do not overfill the container – close and store for disposal when $\frac{3}{4}$ full.
3. Tightly close or tape closed the lid of a full sharps container ready and transport to the HS Med Room or the ES Nurse's Office, in leak-proof secondary containment.
4. Store in the HS Med Room or the ES Nurse's Office. Be sure to affix a RMW label with the generator name and room location that is legible and easily visible on the outside of the container. At no time should Sharps boxes be left unattended or unsecured.



Guidelines for Solid RMW Disposal

Solid RMW (e.g. contaminated items, blood-soaked materials, Abbott Binax Rapid COVID-19 tests), which are not capable of puncturing a plastic bag, should be placed in a RED biohazard bag. Bags should be placed in rigid containers that can be closed to avoid puncture and leakage of the bag contents. At the end of each workday, all containers should be temporarily closed if not ready for disposal.



1. Red bags must be labeled with the biohazard symbol and the word "Biohazard".
2. When $\frac{3}{4}$ full, close the red bag and tie tightly.
3. Transport filled containers in labeled, leak-proof secondary containment to the HS Med Room or the ES Nurse's Office.
4. *Do not store full containers of RMW at the point of use. All full waste containers should be moved to storage as soon as possible.*
5. Store in the HS Med Room or the ES Nurse's Office until disposal. At no time is Regulated Medical Waste to be left unattended or unsecured.



Storage Locations and Transport to Storage Locations

Regulated Medical Waste storage areas must be designed or equipped to prevent unauthorized access.

Transport regulated medical waste to storage areas by placing the primary waste container into a labeled secondary container that is rigid and sealable. The transport container should be marked prominently with signage indicating that contents are regulated medical waste. Place the waste on a cart or other conveyance system. Reusable secondary containers should be washed and decontaminated whenever the liner is compromised, visual inspection shows that the container has come in contact with waste, and as needed.

Containers contaminated with spilled or leaked Regulated Medical Waste must be repackaged before transport.

Regulated medical waste storage areas must display prominent signage indicating the space is used to store regulated medical waste. The space must also be designed or equipped to prevent unauthorized access; designed or located to protect waste from the elements, and prevent access by vermin; hold the waste at a temperature that prevents rapid decomposition

and resultant odor generation; be appropriately ventilated; be of sufficient size to allow clear separation of RMW whenever non-medical waste is stored in the same area.

Regulated medical waste shall not be stored for a period exceeding thirty (30) days, except that a site generating under fifty (50) pounds of regulated medical waste per month and not accepting regulated medical waste for treatment from other facilities, may store waste for a period not exceeding sixty (60) days.

Point of Use and Storage Areas for Regulated Medical Waste

- Regulated Medical Waste is generated in the following locations:
 - **ES Nurse's Office**
 - **HS Nurse's Office**

- Regulated Medical Waste is stored in the following locations:
 - **ES Nurse's Office**
 - **HS Nurse's Office**

Packaging of Regulated Medical Waste for Disposal

Once the containers are at a capacity where they are full or filled with material as not to cause the containers' integrity to be jeopardized, the container shall be closed, and the transport container shall be sealed. **Full is defined as 75% of capacity.** Do not overfill.

Full and sealed containers shall be moved to a room for storage until packaged using a mail back system or until a licensed waste hauler is scheduled to pick up a shipment for transport to a licensed treatment facility.

Packaging of regulated medical waste for disposal should follow criteria required by medical waste haulers or mail back system. Use provided medical waste containers.

If given corrugated boxes for packing of regulated medical waste make sure to set up the boxes properly.

- Seal the box bottom flaps securely with packing tape. For autolocking boxes, engage bottom flaps securely.
- Line the container with a red bag.
- Fill the bag with waste items and tie the bag tightly when the container is $\frac{3}{4}$ full. Bags must be hand tied by gathering and twisting the neck of the bag and using a tie or hand knot to secure the bag.
- For corrugated boxes, seal the top of the box with tape. For autolocking boxes, engage the top flaps.
- Check markings on the box to verify that the biohazard symbol and the word "Biohazard",

and other federal markings are present. Ensure the box is positioned upright.

- Containers must be less than 50 lbs. and be completely closed with no bag material visible once the secondary container is closed.

Sharps containers must be placed in puncture resistant containers and be properly closed prior to being placed in designated secondary containers. Loose sharps are prohibited and should not be outside of rigid, labeled plastic containers.

Disposal of Regulated Medical Waste

Regulated Medical Waste shall be transported from school district property by a licensed vendor to a licensed treatment facility or by a mail back system.

The school district will be using the following licensed medical waste hauler/mail back system:

United States Post Office

Labeling

Secondary containers of regulated medical waste must include

- The generator facility name and address;
- The transporter's name and permit number;
- The date of shipment;
- Identification of the RMW contents (e.g., sharps, chemotherapeutic waste, and pathological waste); and
- The word biohazard or the universal biohazard symbol

In addition, a Medical Waste Tracking Form is required.

Other Precautions

- At no time shall eating or drinking be allowed in areas where Regulated Medical Waste is generated or stored.
- Proper personal hygiene practices shall be used after handling Regulated Medical Waste. Hands should be washed following the handling of Regulated Medical Waste.
- Non-disposable personal protective equipment shall not leave the work area. Home laundering of lab coats is prohibited. Any disposable personal protective equipment shall be disposed of appropriately at the point of use.
- Should there be a lapse of time between the generation and pick-up of Regulated Medical Waste, ensure the waste does not putrefy and become odiferous.
- Any questions regarding Regulated Medical Waste should be directed The ES or the HS Nurse.

Training

- All persons generating Regulated Medical Waste or involved in the on-site management of Regulated Medical Waste shall be trained in accordance with the requirements of the OSHA Exposure to Bloodborne Pathogens regulations (29 CFR 1910.1030) and receive training in the management of Regulated Medical Waste.
- The transport of Regulated Medical Waste is regulated by the United States Department of Transportation as a hazardous material while it is in transport. All affected employees (those who perform the functions of either packaging or signing the shipping papers) must complete DOT hazardous materials training initially and every three years thereafter.

Source Reduction

- Any waste that is not considered Regulated Medical Waste (e.g., food waste, paper towels and other paper waste) should not be put in receptacles designated for Regulated Medical Waste. A separate conventional waste receptacle should be available for such waste.