

Managing COVID-19 Solid Waste

Coronavirus in Oregon

The presence of Coronavirus, or COVID-19, has raised questions about the disposal of material that may be exposed to the disease. The [Centers for Disease Control](#) (CDC) recommends routine procedures for managing coronavirus solid wastes. This fact sheet is intended for the general public and solid waste handlers to clarify disposal methods for materials potentially exposed to the disease.

General waste materials exposed to COVID-19

Cleaning and disinfecting activities in homes, businesses, and other non-healthcare locations (such as hotels, schools, casinos, sports venues, etc.) will generate solid waste such as used facemasks, gloves, disposable wipes, disposable clothing and similar materials potentially exposed to the virus.



Oregon rules generally treat personal protective equipment, cleaning and disinfection waste, and other materials that may have been exposed to germs as general solid waste. This material should be sealed in a trash bag and placed with regular trash. These trash materials can be handled by waste collectors and transfer stations like other solid waste generated from these locations. The sealed trash bag should be disposed of in landfills that are permitted to accept municipal solid waste.

This guidance is consistent with the CDC's advice for the disposal of these types of materials.

If you have questions about whether your waste collector, transfer station, or landfill is implementing special handling instructions, DEQ recommends contacting them directly.

Other waste materials exposed to COVID-19

Hospitals, clinics, nursing homes and other health-care related facilities may generate other wastes potentially

exposed to COVID-19. These wastes may include materials such as medical equipment, laboratory reagents, and laboratory specimens. These facilities are generally knowledgeable on the special handling procedures, packaging requirements, and treatments necessary to manage their unique waste materials.



CDC, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=86976091>

Additional resources

- OHA's [frequently asked questions](#) document (<https://ordeq.org/OHAwasteFAQs>)
- DEQ's [infectious waste webpage](#) (https://ordeq.org/DEQ_Waste)
- [Emerging Respiratory Infections: COVID-19](#) (<https://ordeq.org/waste>)
- [Preventing COVID-19 Spread in Communities](#) (https://ordeq.org/CDC_COVID-19)
- [Resources for Home](#) (https://ordeq.org/CDC_home)
- [Recommended Precautions for Election Polling Locations](#), (https://ordeq.org/CDC_community).
- The [CDC](#) and the [OHA](#) websites contain information on the federal and state response to COVID-19.

Alternative formats

DEQ can provide documents in an alternate format or in a language other than English upon request. Call DEQ at 800-452-4011 or email deqinfo@deq.state.or.us.



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