

## **COVID-19 HEALTH CARE RISK WASTE**

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### **DEFINITION OF HEALTH CARE RISK WASTE**

Waste capable of producing any disease and includes but is not limited to the following:

- Laboratory waste, Pathological waste, Isolation waste, Genotoxic waste, infectious liquids and infectious waste, sharps waste, chemical waste, and pharmaceutical waste.

### **EXPECTED COVID 19 HEALTH CARE RISK WASTE**

- Nasopharyngeal (NP) and oropharyngeal (OP) flocked swabs
- Gloves
- Thermometer
- Surgical and or N95 mask
- Tissue for patient to wipe nose after sample collection
- Specimen and other laboratory generated infectious waste
- General infectious waste generated from positive COVID 19 patient in self-isolation or quarantined
- Matress liner: Penetration of liquid in mattresses such as urine or faecal matter
- PPE: All personal protective equipment used by health care givers e.g. professional nurse, doctors, supporting staff etc.
- Laboratory derived waste classified as general infectious or highly infectious waste follow prescribed procedure as per NHLS or NICD guideline and policies

### **REQUIRED HEALTH CARE RISK WASTE CONTAINERS**

**All waste generated from suspected and confirmed patients or generated at a quarantine facility is classified as isolation waste**

- Red plastic bags – recommended sizes 50L: 60 µm, 85L:80µm, 140L:80µm, 650L:80µm
- Bio-hazardous cardboard boxes with a lid: 50L or 140L
- Bio-hazardous waste tape (1 roll of tape per 10 cardboard box sets) or cable ties
- Sharps container: 1.5L / 2.5L
- Dark green Pharmaceutical/Chemical waste container

### COVID HEALTH CARE WASTE CONTAINMENT FUNCTIONALITY

**Cardboard box set:** Isolation waste including any item used by the person under investigation and all food presented to the person under investigation

**Bio-hazardous waste tape and cable ties:** Sealing of box set and red liner

**Sharps container:** Sharps waste containment of sharp objects

**Red liners:** Heavily soiled PPE (Such as masks, Gloves, N95 mask, theatre masks) and other items used by the medical staff or person under investigation

**Dark green container:** Left over medication from COVID-19 isolation cases and mercury containing thermometers

**Red Matrass liner:** In Health care settings or quarantine facilities where mattresses or pillows have been heavily soiled and disposable linen

### MANAGEMENT OF HEALTH CARE RISK WASTE

All health care risk waste generated from activities involving case investigation, quarantine or health care practices should be categorised as isolation waste.

Isolation health care risk waste in health establishments should be managed within guidelines, policies, and standard operating procedures of the Department of Health

Environmental Health Practitioners to ensure all generated isolation waste is containerized, stored, transported, and treated in line with prescriptions in legislation and departmental policies and standard operating procedures

Officials assigned as tracers will collect generated HCRW waste from suspected or confirmed patients at home or by designated drivers from Department of Transport or otherwise specified

### GENERAL

COVID-19 health care risk waste consumables should be sourced from registered health care waste service providers.

All health care risk waste generated from case investigations and roadblocks should be stored at the closest public health establishment such as clinic's, hospitals or CHC's and marked COVID-19 with the date and place of origin.

Storage of filled health care waste consumables should be pre-arranged and confirmed with the public health establishments Health Care Risk Waste Officer or Environmental Health Practitioner.

