

## H1N1 Trash Disposal Guide

Trash from areas with known or suspected cases of Influenza A (H1N1) should be managed with as little handling as practicable. Gloves must be worn and hands must be washed (or sanitized if a sink is not available) upon removal of gloves.

- 1) **Solid Wastes - such as gloves, masks, and sanitation supplies** from routine cleaning and disinfect of surfaces do not meet the regulatory definition of Biomedical Waste. Place this material in sealed trash bags and discard in the nearest dumpster.

Solid Waste should be placed into a sealed trash bag (NOT a Red Bag) and placed into a dumpster a minimum of handling. Always wear gloves and wash hands as soon as gloves are removed.

- 2) **Liquid wastes such as disinfectant solutions or mop bucket solutions** should be absorbed before placing in the trash or disposed of down the drain to the sanitary sewer.

- 3) **Biomedical Waste** includes:

**Contaminated sharps** (such as syringes), unwanted **vials of vaccine** (full or empty), and other waste **items dripping or saturated with Human Blood or Other Potentially Infectious Materials** (OPIM).

OPIM includes the following **Human Body Fluids**: semen, vaginal secretions, cerebrospinal (head/backbone) fluid, amniotic (birth) fluid, peritoneal fluid (abdomen), pericardial (heart) fluid, pleural (lung/chest), synovial (joints), saliva from dental procedures, and any body fluid visibly contaminated with blood.

Biomedical waste does not include urine, feces, or vomit unless they contain visible blood.

**Red Bags** are biomedical waste and must never be used for regular trash.

*Biomedical waste is regulated by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), the Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA), and the Department of Transportation (DOT).*

Only trained employees are permitted to handle Biomedical Waste. All training must be documented.

For more Info contact: Department of Safety & Environmental Management  
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