



Recommendations for solid waste facilities regarding COVID-19-related waste

March 31, 2020

In light of the public health emergency declared by Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham and the executive and public health orders in effect, the New Mexico Environment Department issues the following recommendations to solid waste facilities for COVID-19-related waste:

1. Any waste materials generated by a medical facility and ***suspected*** or ***known*** to be contaminated with COVID-19 are to be managed as an infectious waste as defined in the NM Solid Waste Rules, [20.9.2.7.1 NMAC](#).
2. No solid waste facility shall accept infectious waste without the appropriate permit for disposal, transfer, processing, or transformation. [NM Solid Waste Act and NM Solid Waste Rules, 20.9.8.9 NMAC]
3. See a [list of permitted haulers and solid waste facilities](#).
4. Any solid waste facility permitted by NMED to accept infectious waste shall continue to comply with the terms and conditions of the facility's permit, including the facility's Operations Plan.
5. The generator of infectious waste (classified as "special waste") must assure the waste is:
 - disposed of at a solid waste facility permitted to accept the special waste, or
 - treated at a permitted facility to render it a non-special waste prior to disposal, including assuring that it is no longer infectious post-treatment (at which time it may be disposed of at a municipal solid waste landfill). [NM Solid Waste Rules, 20.9.8.8 NMAC]
6. A solid waste facility may request to alter a facility's normal days or hours of operation in response to the COVID-19 situation or other considerations. Contact George Schuman, Manager, Solid Waste Permit Section, as soon as possible at (505) 827-2328 or george.schuman@state.nm.us.
7. All household-generated waste (including waste known or suspected of contamination with COVID-19) is handled using standard best management practices for municipal solid waste, as such waste is not considered regulated infectious waste unless the waste was generated within the residence by a professional home health care provider.

The SWB will continue to oversee compliance of these facilities and pursue enforcement where necessary under the criteria specified by New Mexico's rules and regulations and in accordance with executive and public health orders.

Contact us:

Solid Waste Bureau (SWB), (505) 827-0197
SWB.inbox@state.nm.us

Additional COVID-19 resources for solid waste facilities:

[National Waste and Recycling Association](#)

[Solid Waste Association of North America](#)

[Association of State and Territorial Solid Waste Management Officials \(ATSWMO\)](#)