Category A Waste Handling & Packaging Procedures
Guidelines for a Suspected or Confirmed Case of Ebola

• With a suspected or confirmed Ebola case immediately contact the local/state health department and CDC.

• All waste generated from a suspected/confirmed patient should be treated as special Category A DOT waste as follows:

  1. Make sure you are utilizing all PPE and following all applicable guidelines as directed by the following link from the CDC: [http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/hcp/environmental-infection-control-in-hospitals.html?mobile=nocontent](http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/hcp/environmental-infection-control-in-hospitals.html?mobile=nocontent)

  2. Place soft waste or sealed sharps containers into a primary medical waste bag (min 1.25 or 1.5ml – ASTM tested; can be provided by Stericycle).

  3. Apply bleach or other virocidal disinfectant into the primary bag to sufficiently cover the surface of materials contained within the bag; securely tie the bag.

  4. Treat the exterior surface of the primary container with bleach or other virocidal disinfectant.

  5. Place the primary bag into a secondary bag and securely tie the outer bag.

  6. Treat the exterior surface of the secondary bag with bleach or other virocidal disinfectant.

If you HAVE Stericycle 55 gallon special Category A DOT Waste “GREEN DRUMS” on site go to Step 10 below
If you do NOT have special Stericycle 55 gallon special Category A DOT Waste “GREEN DRUMS” on site continue to Step 7 below

  7. The double bagged waste should then be placed on a hard non-porous surface in a secure room close to the point of use. Make sure the collection area is clearly labeled special Category A DOT Waste.

  8. Contact your Stericycle representative who will arrange delivery of the special Category A DOT Waste containers (containers can be shipped for overnight delivery).

  9. As soon as your special Category A DOT Waste Containers arrive follow step 10 below.

  10. The double bagged waste should then be place into special Category A DOT Waste packaging/drums provided by Stericycle with the liner tied securely and container closed per the packaging instructions provided. Label the special Category A DOT Waste with provided labels.

  11. Store the special Category A DOT Waste containers separate from other regulated medical waste in a secure area preferably isolated and with limited access.

• Stericycle recommends using disposable sharps containers for suspected/confirmed Ebola cases. The disposable container should be sealed and disposed of as special Category A waste following the instructions above. If a reusable sharps container is inadvertently used that container should also be sealed and disposed of inside the bags with the Category A waste.
• Contact your Stericycle representative who will begin the process with the DOT to acquire a “Special Permit” as required.

  • Stericycle has been advised by the DOT and CDC that we must address each situation on a case by case basis until such time that they have an all encompassing protocol.
  • Once the Special Permit has been granted, Stericycle will provide a current copy of the special permit to be maintained at the Generator’s site as per DOT regulations.
  • Contact your Stericycle representative should you need additional supplies to properly package Category A waste.
  • We will develop additional guidance for contingency planning as more information becomes available.

Additional information sources:

CDC directly at CDC.gov <http://CDC.gov>


http://www.phmsa.dot.gov/portal/site/PHMSA/menuitem.6f23687cf7b00b0f22e4c6962d9c8789/?vgnextoid=4d1800e36b978410VgnVCM100000d2c97898RCRD&vgnextchannel=0f0b143389d8c010VgnVCM1000008049a8c0RCRD&vgnextfmt=print