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To be done after revision as per international accreditation guidelines

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Waste Management Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)

Objectives & Scope

This chapter intends to outline the standardized procedure implemented in this laboratory for the appropriate disposal of generated non-infectious, infectious and sharp waste. The waste generated in this COVID-19 facility / lab should be categorized as category B waste.

This SOP is applicable to and should be followed by all the staff of the laboratory.

Abbreviations and Definitions

- LM Laboratory Manager
- SOP Standard Operating Procedure
- *Sharps* Articles including needles, broken glass, surgical blades, Pipette tip, and any other thing that has the potential to cut or Scratch the skin.
- *Category B waste* Exposure to which do not cause permanent disability, life-Threatening or fatal disease

Tasks, Responsibilities and Accountabilities

Task	Responsible	Accountable
Removal of infectious and sharp waste from the laboratory units	Support staff	LM
Removal of non-infectious wastes from the non-infectious area of the laboratory	Support staff	LM
Removal of infectious and sharp waste from the yellow room	Outside waste management company personnel	LM

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General Considerations for Waste Management

- Minimize waste production in COVID-19 facility.
- Identify waste producing areas and classify the generated waste into different categories.
- The waste generated in different units of the laboratory shall be classified as Municipal, Non-hazardous, Hazardous and Sharp waste.
- Provide necessary number of receptacles with proper labels for the type of waste produced in different units of the laboratory.
- Color-coded bins should be preferred for each type of the waste. Yellow bags should be used for infectious materials requiring disposal by incineration. The domestic/municipal waste should be discarded in black bags. Recyclable waste, including outer packaging and other such items, should be segregated in White bags.

Procedure

Disposal of non-infectious waste

- Non-infectious waste should include material used outside the testing facility units.
- In non-infectious areas like offices and food areas, the face masks and such other waste should be discarded in domestic waste when no longer required.
- Masks used by non-technical staff, and visitors should be discarded in Offensive waste.
- Such waste should be discarded in white polythene bags.
- The filled bags shall be disposed-off in municipal waste by the support staff on daily basis.

Disposal of Infectious waste

- Waste generated inside the laboratory area shall be considered as infectious.
- All infectious waste shall be discarded in yellow bags placed in designated step-on lidded waste bins that are clearly labeled with the biohazard symbol.
- Masks used by technical staff should be discarded in offensive or infectious waste, depending on activities performed while wearing the mask.
- The yellow bags should not be filled more than 2/3 of the capacity.
- The bags should be immediately transferred after proper sealing to yellow room when the bags are two-third filled.
- The yellow room shall be emptied within stipulated time (preferably on

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daily basis) to not over burden the facility and prevent causing nuisance.

- The waste in yellow room shall be transported by the outside waste disposal services for incineration. Due to high sample load, 24/7 hours working and three shifts in a day, the amount of waste generated daily is in huge quantity. Thus, all the waste generated should be frequently transported to yellow room and the outside waste disposal company should remove the waste on daily basis.

Disposal of sharps

- Sharps include needles, surgical blades and broken glasses.
- The sharps shall not be mixed with non-sharps infectious waste.
- A properly labelled sharp container shall be put in place and used exclusively for the disposal of sharps.
- Sharps containers upon filling up to the designated level shall be transported in the container for disposal rather than in yellow bags.
- The sharps should be autoclaved and then sent for incineration.

Related Documents

- ISO 15189:2012 - Medical laboratories — Requirements

Related Forms

- N/A

References

- NCCLS GP-5 Proposed Standard. Clinical Laboratory Hazardous Waste, 1986.
- C0611-COVID-19-Waste-Management-Guidance-SOP-v4-Final
- COVID-19 waste management standard operating procedure, 5 January 2021, Version 4
- HTM_07-01
- <https://ehs.weill.cornell.edu/faq/pipette-tip-considered-sharp#:~:text=According%20to%20the%20WCM's%20waste,placed%20in%20a%20sharps%20container.>

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Attachments

- Annex 1: Waste Segregation Chart (Acquired as such from WHO LQSI Website Example Documents)



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