

Clinical and Offensive Waste – Covid-19 Guidance, 07/04/20

Technical Advice Note: GWTAN 001b

This technical note advises on the necessary procedures that are to be adopted during the ongoing situation with Covid-19, and applies with immediate effect and until further notice. The guidance applies to all healthcare establishments and businesses that generate clinical and / or offensive waste.

The procedures contained within this document have been agreed between Guernsey Waste, Public Health Services, The Office of Environmental Health and Pollution Regulation and HSC Estates.

All staff that are involved in the disposal of clinical or offensive waste must be made aware of their responsibility arising from this note, and appropriate training in relation to this guidance should be provided by the management team of any facility that generates clinical waste.

“HTM 07-01: Safe management of healthcare waste”, provides guidance on the best practice for managing waste generated by the healthcare sector. The segregation of waste is critical to aid safe handling and collection. Sorting at the point of origin allows the waste to follow the appropriate route for recycling, treatment and/or safe disposal.

It is the responsibility of the staff at a healthcare establishment or business to ensure that best practice is carried out by separating and depositing the waste into the correct waste stream. The transport and treatment of waste is controlled under the Environmental Pollution (Guernsey) Law, 2004, and the Environmental Pollution (Waste Control and Disposal) Ordinance, 2010.

Clinical Waste

Clinical waste is defined as any waste which unless rendered safe, may prove hazardous, or may cause infection to any person coming into contact with it. This may consist wholly or partly of: human or animal tissue; blood or other body fluids; excretions; drugs or pharmaceutical products; swabs or dressings; syringes; needles or other sharp instruments. This also covers any waste arising from: medical; nursing; dental; veterinary; pharmaceutical or similar practices, investigation, treatment, care, teaching or research, and includes the collection of blood for transfusion.

HSC Estates are responsible for the disposal of Clinical Waste through the incinerator at the PEH.
Contact: 01481 725241 ext. 4207

Offensive Waste

Offensive waste describes healthcare and similar municipal waste which is both non-infectious and non-hazardous, but may cause offence to those coming into contact with it due to its appearance or smell. This waste is separate from clinical and hazardous waste, and does not require specialist treatment or disposal. Examples include incontinence waste, nappies, feminine hygiene products, and used but uncontaminated PPE (i.e. used PPE that has not been in contact with an infected patient).

Offensive waste can be processed with general waste at the Waste Transfer Station, Longue Hougue. Contact: Guernsey Waste 01481 221234

Additional Procedures for Covid-19

For healthcare establishments and businesses that have one or more residents with confirmed or suspected cases of Covid-19 all offensive waste **must** be treated as clinical waste. All other waste shall be quarantined for 72 hours prior to disposal as general waste. Segregated recyclable waste shall also be quarantined for 72 hours. These measures shall remain in place until advised by Public Health Services.

As a precautionary measure, for homes that do not have residents with confirmed or suspected cases of Covid-19, offensive waste and all other waste shall be quarantined for 72 hours prior to collection and disposal as general waste. Segregated recyclable waste shall also be quarantined for 72 hours.


All bags of waste and recycling shall be date labelled stating when quarantine commenced.






It shall be the responsibility of the healthcare establishment or business to make the necessary arrangements with their waste collection contractors to ensure that waste is segregated and only collected after the 72 hour quarantine period has passed.

Waste Transport

All businesses that transport waste are required to hold a valid Licence for Waste Transport Operations (or an Exemption), issued by the Office of Environmental Health and Pollution Regulation (Contact 01481 711161). This applies to both Clinical Waste and Offensive Waste as well as other waste materials.

The type and colour of containers used for waste types will accord with the following:

Waste Type	Container	Colour Code / Disposal Method
Municipal/Household Waste – Recyclable <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Waste Paper ✓ Shredded Confidential Paper ✓ Newspapers/Magazines ✓ Cardboard ✓ Plastics ✓ Tins ✓ Beverage Cartons 	Recyclable Bag  NO clinical waste or used personal protective equipment	Colour and frequency to be specified by collection contractor. Delivery to appropriate processing facility. Smaller businesses may be able to opt into the Parish collection scheme. Quarantine for 72 hours before collection.
Municipal/Household Waste – Non-Recyclable <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Non-recyclable paper (paper towels/wipes) ✓ Empty Non-recyclable Packaging ✓ Sweet wrappers ✓ Used Medicine Tots ✓ Plastic Film (e.g. crisp packets) 	Black Bag or similar  NO clinical waste or used personal protective equipment	Suitable for processing as Refuse Derived Fuel (RDF) for energy recovery - not suitable for contaminated items or patient identifiable material. Quarantine for 72 hours before collection.

<p>Municipal/Household Waste – Food Waste</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Vegetable Peelings ✓ Cooked Food (Left-overs) ✓ Tea Bags & Coffee Grounds ✓ Out-of-date Food ✓ Pet Food ✓ Dead Flowers 	<p>Dedicated Food Waste Bin with Liner</p>  <p>NO clinical waste, used PPE or liquid waste</p>	<p>Suitable for processing for Anaerobic Digestion for energy recovery at the WTS. Smaller businesses may be able to opt into the Parish collection scheme.</p> <p>Quarantine for 72 hours before collection.</p>
<p>Offensive Waste</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ PPE used for patient care (e.g. gloves & aprons) providing no infection risk exists ✓ Soiled non-infectious dressings ✓ Empty catheter/stoma bags ✓ Incontinence Pads ✓ Contaminated Paper Towels (body fluids) ✓ Sanitary Products 	<p>Tiger-Stripe Bag</p>  <p>NO clinical waste, sharps or other Municipal Waste</p>	<p>Suitable for processing as Refuse Derived Fuel (RDF) for energy recovery - not suitable for contaminated items or patient identifiable material</p> <p>Quarantine for 72 hours before collection unless the waste is from an establishment with confirmed or suspected cases of Covid-19 in which case it shall be classed as clinical waste.</p>
<p>Clinical Waste</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Waste which is contaminated with blood or bodily fluids or arises from a patient with a known or suspected infection ✓ Cytotoxic or Cytostatic wastes (excluding sharps) 	<p>Yellow Clinical Waste Bag</p>  <p>NO sharps or other Municipal Waste</p>	<p>For disposal by incineration only – bags can be purchased from HSC and <u>must</u> have the required barcode tracking label affixed.</p>
<p>Clinical Waste – Sharps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ used needles/syringes used to administer medication ✓ razors ✓ lancets ✓ scalpels/blades ✓ venepuncture needles/syringes 	 <p>NO empty packaging, cotton wool, sterets, PPE, etc.</p>	<p>Yellow / Red Lid For disposal by incineration only.</p> <p>Boxes should not be filled higher than the line indicated on the box.</p>
<p>Glass Bottles & Jars</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ used glass bottles and jars <p>NOT suitable for empty medicine bottles – these MUST be disposed of as clinical waste or returned to the pharmacy.</p>	 <p>NO plate glass, pyrex, toughened glass, etc.</p>	<p>Container and collection frequency to be agreed with collection contractor. Delivery to Waste Transfer Station. Smaller businesses may be able to opt into the Parish collection scheme.</p> <p>Quarantine for 72 hours before collection.</p>

Clinical and offensive waste must be discarded into the appropriate bags/bins. For specific guidance on the safe disposal of Sharps please contact the Infection Control Office at the PEH.

When disposing of nappies, feminine hygiene products, used but uncontaminated PPE and incontinence waste a decision must be made by staff whether the waste is offensive or infectious. Infectious waste must be treated as clinical waste.

Gelled body fluids, aprons, gloves, colostomy bags, etc. should be disposed of via the offensive or infectious (clinical) waste stream as appropriate.

Staff should wear the correct PPE when handling waste which is classed as clinical waste.

It should be noted that if a nursing/residential home has an individual case or outbreak of diarrhoea and vomiting or respiratory illness, offensive waste must be classed as clinical for the duration of the individual case or outbreak.

Waste Bag Procedures

- All bags should be filled to a maximum of $\frac{3}{4}$ full;
- Spilt or contaminated bags must be placed into a second bag of the same colour;
- Bags are to be tied and tagged when removed from the bin to ensure they are securely sealed;
- All waste bags **MUST** be marked with the details relating to the source and/or care provider responsible for the waste, and the date it is tagged to enable the source to be traced should an incident occur. **The date is also essential to confirm that the waste has been quarantined for the required 72 hour period.**
- Care should be taken when handling bags so they do not tear;
- Hold filled bags away from the body to avoid injury;
- Bags should be stored in a secure area prior to collection;
- The frequency of collection will be dependent on the contractor, but should be a minimum of weekly for Clinical Waste;
- Clinical Waste must be segregated from all other waste prior to collection.

Waste Transfer Station PPE Requirements:

If delivering directly to the Waste Transfer Station you will be required to open a tipping account. PPE requirements for the Waste Transfer Station are safety footwear, hi-viz jacket / bib, hard hat, safety glasses, appropriate safety gloves and hearing protection. Long trousers and long sleeved shirts/tops are also required. **Waste shall only be delivered after the 72 hour quarantine period has passed. Consideration should be given to wearing a face mask during delivery at the Waste Transfer Station to avoid the spread of Covid-19.**

References

Department of Health (2013) Environment and sustainability Health Technical Memorandum 07-01: Safe management of healthcare waste

Royal College of Nursing (2014) The management of waste from health, social and personal care RCN guidance

Waste Industry Safety & Health Forum (WISH) (2015) Managing Offensive/Hygiene Waste Safely

Further Information

For further information on the management of Clinical/Offensive waste, please contact the Infection Prevention & Control Office or the Public Health Team at the PEH on 01481 725241, or Guernsey Waste either by telephone on 01481 221234, or email: recycle@gov.gg.

Clinical Waste Flow Chart:

