



01 February 2021

MEMORANDUM

**FOR : ALL REGIONAL EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS
ALL BUREAU DIRECTORS
ALL HEAD OF ATTACHED AGENCIES**

FROM : THE UNDERSECRETARY
Legal, Administration, Human Resources and Legislative Affairs


**SUBJECT : DIRECTING ALL DENR OFFICES TO PROPERLY MANAGE
ALL COVID-19-RELATED HEALTH CARE WASTES
IN RESPECTIVE PREMISES**

Consistent with the Interim Guidelines on the Management of COVID-19-related health care wastes adopted through Resolution No. 1364, Series of 2020 by the National Solid Waste Management Commission (NSWMC) being chaired by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, you are hereby directed to ensure proper handling and management of COVID-19-related healthcare wastes generated in your respective premises including but not limited to face masks, cotton, tissue papers, that are potentially infectious and contaminated.

As such, you are instructed to provide sufficient number of yellow bins and bags for the storage and disinfection of these COVID-19 healthcare wastes and ensure strict coordination with the local government units within your areas of jurisdiction, for the proper hauling and transport of these wastes to treatment and disposal facilities approved by the Department through the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB). Attached is copy of NSWMC Resolution No. 1364, Series of 2020 for your reference and guidance.

Submit a report on the status of your compliance to EMB-Solid Waste Management Division as the NSWMC Secretariat not later than February 15, 2021.

For strict compliance.


ATTY. ERNESTO D. ADOBO JR., CESO I

MEMO NO. 2021 - 115



Office of the President
NATIONAL SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMISSION
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
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Tel Nos. (632) 920-2252 / 920-2279

NSWMC Resolution No. 1364, Series of 2020

**ADOPTING THE INTERIM GUIDELINES ON THE MANAGEMENT OF COVID-19
RELATED HEALTH CARE WASTE**

WHEREAS, His Excellency, President Rodrigo Roa Duterte, issued Proclamation No. 922, s. 2020, on March 8, 2020, declaring a State of Public Health Emergency throughout the Philippines due to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19);

WHEREAS, Presidential Proclamation No. 929, s. 2020, was subsequently issued on March 16, 2020, declaring a State of Calamity throughout the Philippines and imposing an Enhanced Community Quarantine throughout Luzon;

WHEREAS, the Bayanihan to Heal As One Act or the RA 11469 was enacted and approved on March 24, 2020, *declaring the existence of a national emergency from the corona virus disease 2019 (COVID 19) situation and a national policy in connection therewith, authorizing the President of the Republic of the Philippines for a limited period of time and subject to restrictions, to exercise powers necessary and proper to carry out the declared national policy and for other purposes;*

WHEREAS, with the declaration of a State of National Emergency, increasing volume of COVID-19 related wastes are generated not only from health care facilities, community quarantine units, and temporary treatment and monitoring facilities but also from the people living within the enhanced community quarantine areas;

WHEREAS, to prevent the spread or transmission of disease, a national policy was issued for hygiene practices and mandatory wearing of facial masks, which are usually disposed of as general waste and ending up mixed with the municipal waste stream.

WHEREAS, it is therefore assumed that all COVID-19 related waste (i.e., face masks, cotton, tissue papers, etc.) generated from the households, offices and the like, are potentially infectious and contaminated;

WHEREAS, proper management of these wastes shall be given priority to ensure the welfare and safety of the community and all personnel directly involved in the management of potentially infectious and contaminated wastes related to COVID 19.

WHEREAS, there is a need to provide guidelines on the proper handling and management of all COVID-19 related health care waste generated from all households, offices, schools, churches and other facilities deemed as safe shelters which temporarily house frontliners, public markets, commercial and industrial sources, and the like, including guidelines on ensuring the occupational health and safety of waste workers

NOW THEREFORE. BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, to adopt the



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- a. COVID-19 Related Waste Management Plan Template.
- b. Occupational Health and Safety Plan for Waste Handling and Management of Covid-19 Related Waste
- c. Step by step procedures of waste segregation and storage
- d. Chemical Disinfection Procedures of Infectious Waste, Vehicles and Equipment Used in the collection and transport, treatment and disposal including facilities (i.e. motor pool)
- e. List of Best Available Intermediate Treatment Technologies with Description
- f. Manifest System for Infectious Waste
- g. Level of Microbial Treatment Efficiency of Infectious Waste

APPROVED on the 25th day of April 2020

BENNY D. ANTIPORDA
Undersecretary for Solid Waste
Management and Local Government Units Concern
Alternate to the Chairman, NSWMC





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Interim Guidelines on the Management of COVID-19 Related Health Care Waste

I. Background:

With the declaration of a State of Public Health Emergency, increasing volume of COVID-19 related wastes are generated not only from health care facilities, community quarantine units, and temporary treatment and monitoring facilities but also from the people living within the enhanced community quarantine areas.

There is a difficulty in determining areas that are free from COVID-19 pending the results of COVID mass testing. To prevent the spread or transmission of disease, a national policy was issued for mandatory wearing of facial masks and hygiene practices. However, used masks were usually disposed of as general waste and ending up mixed with the municipal waste stream. It is therefore assumed that all COVID-19 related waste (i.e., face masks, cotton, tissue papers, etc.) generated from the households, institutions and the like, are potentially infectious and contaminated.

Thus, proper management of these wastes shall be given priority to ensure the welfare and safety of the community and all personnel directly involved in the management of potentially infectious and contaminated wastes related to COVID 19.

These guidelines are being issued to ensure that

- a.) all wastes are properly segregated and not mixed with other domestic solid waste,
- b.) public health and environment are protected and
- c.) waste workers (i.e. collection and transport, treatment and disposal) will not be exposed to all environmental and health hazards.

II. Objective:

To provide guidelines on the proper handling and management of all COVID-19 related health care waste generated from all households, institutions, commercial and industrial sources, including guidelines on ensuring the occupational health and safety of waste workers.

III. Scope and Coverage:

These interim guidelines shall cover all Local Government Unit or LGUs, households (such as residence or places of abode, condominiums, apartelles), offices, schools, churches and other facilities deemed as safe shelters which temporarily house frontliners, public markets, and the like. It shall also cover waste service providers (i.e. waste collection and transport, treatment and disposal services).

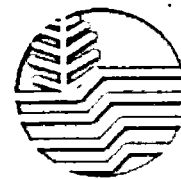
These guidelines may also apply to private commercial and industrial sources of domestic solid waste.

IV. General Guidelines:

- a. All LGUs shall develop a COVID 19 waste management plan consistent with all



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- b. All LGU managed or contracted waste service providers (waste collection, transport, treatment and disposal) shall adopt the LGUs COVID 19 waste management plan and formulate and develop their Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) plan to guide and protect the waste workers;
- c. All COVID-19 related wastes (including but not limited to used face masks, cottons, tissue papers, testing kits, etc.), shall be considered as infectious and contaminated health care waste;
- d. Appropriate Personal Protective Equipment or PPEs (including but limited to coveralls, face masks and/or goggles, gloves and closed shoes/industrial boots) shall be provided and used by personnel directly engaged in the collection, transport and storage, treatment and disposal of infectious and contaminated health care wastes;
- e. Infectious and contaminated health care wastes shall be stored and collected separately from other domestic wastes and shall be in accordance with the DOH HCWM manual (i.e. yellow container or plastic bags or properly labeled container/bags);
- f. Handwashing stations shall be made available in the garage and motor pool, waste treatment and disposal facilities, to ensure hand hygiene practices;
- g. Waste service providers shall adopt and implement a manifest system to ensure that the collected infectious wastes are properly recorded, treated and disposed. Records shall be kept by LGUs for monitoring purposes;
- h. The LGUs shall conduct orientations on COVID 19 proper waste management to include segregation, proper storage of infectious waste, collection, transport, and disposal to all stakeholders;
- i. A composite team that includes City/Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Officer or his designate and the City/Municipal Health Officer maybe created to develop, implement and monitor these guidelines.

V. Specific Guidelines:

- a. Waste Generation
 - i. COVID-19 related infectious and contaminated health care waste (such as but not limited to face masks, cottons, tissue papers, testing kits etc.) generated from the households, offices, schools, churches and other facilities deemed as safe shelters which temporarily house frontliners, public wet markets, commercial and industrial sources, and the like;
 - ii. Masks, gloves, and any other disposable PPEs used by waste workers during collection and handling of waste, cleaning and disinfection activities of the vehicle and facilities;
- b. Segregation and Storage at Source
 - i. Waste generators shall strictly implement proper waste segregation at source and ensure that COVID 19 related infectious waste are not mixed with other domestic solid wastes;
 - ii. Infectious waste shall be stored in yellow plastic bags/container bins or any storage bags/container bins properly labeled;
 - iii. Waste containers shall be properly covered and contained to prevent access of animals or children;
 - iv. The labeled storage bags/container bins shall be closed and shall not be too full to prevent hand contact during handling/delivery for collection;
 - v. Waste generators are encouraged to do proper disinfection of COVID-19 related Infectious and contaminated health care waste;



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- vi. Waste generators are encouraged to follow instructions on the safe handling of infectious and contaminated health care waste for collection as well as proper hygiene practices;

c. Collection and Transport

- i. Proper chemical disinfection of infectious and contaminated health care waste shall be done by waste collection personnel during waste collection and transport, to reduce/minimize biological hazards and exposure of waste collectors and transporters;
- ii. Infectious and contaminated health care waste shall be collected and transported on a separate schedule, or contained in a separate container within the collection vehicles for storage of infectious waste to ensure that infectious waste is not mixed with other wastes;
- iii. Waste collection personnel shall be oriented on the proper handling of infectious and contaminated health care wastes, the hazards associated with it and must wear appropriate PPEs;
- iv. Manual sorting of wastes in the collection vehicles and disposal facilities shall not be allowed;
- v. Regular disinfection/sanitizing activities to collection and disposal vehicles and equipment, including facilities shall be conducted.

d. Treatment and Disposal

- i. All infectious and contaminated health wastes shall be properly treated with the best available technologies (i.e. sterilization, thermal processing like pyrolysis and gasification, incineration, etc.) approved by the DENR, DOH and other concerned regulatory agencies;
- ii. Waste treaters shall ensure that treatment efficacy of the technology is in accordance/compliant to the waste treatment guidelines stipulated in the HCWM manual or JAO DOH-DENR on Health Care Waste Management. The-microbial laboratory test results shall be submitted to DOH and DENR for validation as prescribed;
- iii. Waste disposal facility operators shall develop a dedicated or separate cell for treated infectious waste or residues;
- iv. All treated infectious and contaminated health care waste and/or residues shall be disposed of in a separate cell within the approved sanitary landfill;
- v. Waste disposal personnel should be informed about the classification of the waste being delivered (i.e. treated infectious and contaminated care health waste) to take precautionary measures i.e. wearing of PPEs (including but limited to coveralls, face masks and/or goggles, gloves and closed shoes/industrial boots), maintaining safe distance and avoid direct contact with the waste.

e. Occupational Health and Safety (OHS)

- i. All waste service providers shall develop and formulate their own occupational health and safety plan for the strict implementation and guidance of their personnel;
- ii. All waste service personnel shall strictly adhere to enhanced hygiene norms, including frequent change and cleaning and disinfection of PPEs (including but not limited to coveralls, face masks and/or goggles, gloves and closed shoes/industrial



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- iii. All waste service providers shall ensure that disinfectants and hand sanitizers are made available in every collection vehicle;
- iv. All waste service providers shall orient and train workers on the proper usage and maintenance of PPEs; conduct training on OHS including description of the hazards in the workplace, environmental and administrative controls, properties of the PPEs, etc.;
- v. All waste workers shall observe basic hygiene practices (i.e. wash hands with soap and water, avoid touching face, mouth, eyes, nose, or open sores and cuts while handling infectious or special waste, etc.) to reduce the risks and protect against illness due to exposure to infectious wastes.

