FACTSHEET: **Management of COVID-19 Waste**

COVID-19 Medical Wastes

According to the Alabama Department of Public Health, COVID-19 test wastes must be disposed of as medical waste. This includes all test kit components potentially exposed to the virus. Households are exempt from this requirement. ***For questions regarding this requirement, please contact the Alabama Department of Public Health.***

If your business performs or requires COVID-19 testing, ADEM requires you to follow the steps below. Contact ADEM regarding the below requirements.

1. Submit a Form 410 to the Department to become a registered medical waste generator (found on the ADEM Website under "ADEM Forms".)
2. Familiarize yourself with ADEM Division 17 regulations (found on the ADEM Website under "Alabama Environmental Regulations and Laws".)
3. Create a Medical Waste Management Plan (see 335-17-2-.01). This plan is to be kept at the facility and employees need to familiarize themselves with the plan. This plan is only sent to ADEM upon request.
4. Ensure bagging/packaging meets the requirements of Division 17 regulations.
5. Contact ADEM when the business ceases to generate medical waste.

Generators have the option to enter into an agreement with a third party (e.g. a third party Covid testing provider) to handle the medical waste generated as a result of a COVID-19 testing program. The third party will assume the generator's responsibility for onsite waste management and transport to a permitted medical waste storage or treatment facility.

COVID-19 Non-Medical Wastes

According to the CDC, solid waste (trash) coming from healthcare facilities treating COVID patients is no different than solid waste coming from facilities without COVID-19 patients, with the exclusion of test kit components. CDC's guidance states that management of laundry, food service utensils, and medical waste should be performed in accordance with routine procedures for the specific type of waste generated. This also includes PPE waste generated in the workplace setting.

For more information on COVID-19 related topics, please contact the ADPH at (334) 206-5300 or click on this link: Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) | Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH) (alabamapublichealth.gov) or the Centers for Disease Control at (800)232-4636 or use this link: Guidance for COVID-19 | CDC

For questions regarding this factsheet or medical waste management related questions, contact ADEM's Medical Waste Management Program at (334) 271-7859 or medicalwaste@adem.alabama.gov

ADEM Permitted Medical Waste Treatment Facilities and Medical Waste Transporters:

Medical Waste Treatment Facilities

Medical Waste Transporters