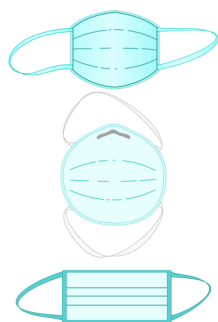




Proper Disposal of Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) at COVID-19 Testing Locations

COVID-19 is a respiratory tract illness spread person-to-person and, in some cases, can be fatal. Some wastes, including COVID-19 test kits, personal protective equipment, and similar items that could come into contact with the virus, should be separated from other materials as soon as practicable to avoid unnecessary exposure.

This fact sheet is intended to provide clarification on the proper disposal of personal protective equipment (PPE) at community-based testing sites and other medical facilities established to test for COVID-19 in Illinois. This information is provided to protect individuals working at and visiting these facilities as well as permitted waste haulers disposing of waste generated at these locations.



COVID-19 Testing and Potentially Infectious Medical Waste

Potentially Infectious Medical Waste (PIMW) includes waste generated in connection with the diagnosis, treatment, or immunization of human beings. For the purpose of COVID-19 community-based testing sites and other medical facilities established for testing, all materials that could come into contact with any bodily fluids of an individual that has or is suspected of having COVID-19 should be handled as PIMW. COVID-19 community-based testing sites and other medical facilities conducting testing should store used PIMW on-site in lined, secure receptacles for proper disposal.

Treatment and Disposal of PIMW

PIMW can only be transported by a [licensed PIMW hauler](#) to a permitted transfer, storage, or treatment facility. All PIMW must be treated prior to disposal to eliminate the potential for infections. Once PIMW has been treated, it can be placed in a landfill. For more information, visit: <https://www2.illinois.gov/epa/topics/waste-management/factsheets/Pages/general-regulations.aspx>

Regulation of PIMW in Illinois

PIMW regulations were passed in 1993 and may be found in 35 Illinois Administrative Code: Subtitle M. The Illinois EPA Bureau of Land administers the PIMW program in Illinois. For additional information on PIMW, please contact Beverly Albarracin at Beverly.Albarracin@illinois.gov.

Additional Resources

[Illinois Department of Public Health Coronavirus Disease 2019](#)

[CDC - Using Personal Protective Equipment](#)

