

Snapshots!

**Regulated Waste Management Program**

[**http://ehs.psu.edu/infectious-waste-management/overview**](http://ehs.psu.edu/infectious-waste-management/overview)

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**Who does this program apply to?**

* University employees, students, and visitors who generate or handle regulated medical waste in the performance of their duties.
* Examples of regulated medical waste include: needles, syringes, contaminated labware (petri dishes, culture tubes, pipettes, and tissue culture flasks), contaminated gloves, etc.
* Examples would include waste generated from nurses’ offices, microbiology laboratories, blood spill cleanups, items saturated with human blood, etc.

**What are the key requirements of this program?**

* Biohazard/infectious wastes should be placed into the appropriate containers (e.g. red/orange biohazard plastic bag, sharps container) and disposed through the campus specific regulated medical waste disposal vendor.
* Sharps containers must be rigid, leakproof, puncture resistant, and tightly lidded.
* While not truly regulated medical waste, preserved biological specimens (e.g. cats for dissection) should be disposed through the campus specific regulated medical waste disposal vendor.
* Regulated medical waste should be disposed of in accordance with the Penn State infectious waste disposal policy SY29.
* Supervisors must:
* Identify the individuals by job title(s) who handle regulated medical waste.
* Provide Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) and ensure that it is worn by employees.
* Ensure that regulated medical waste is disposed of properly and in a timely manner.
* Storage Requirements:
  + For less than 30 days: store at room temperature or in a refrigerator.
  + For less than 90 days: store in a freezer.
  + Sharps containers may be used until they are three-quarters full.
  + Waste that becomes putrescent (foul smelling) must be disposed of within 24 hours.
  + Autoclaving (steam sterilizing) will generally prevent waste from becoming putrescent.
* Recordkeeping Requirements:
  + Regulated medical waste manifest records must be received within 20 days of shipment.
  + Regulated medical waste manifest records must be maintained in a central location for 5 years from the date of shipment.

**For additional information:**

* Penn State Infectious Waste Disposal Policy SY29

<https://policy.psu.edu/policies/sy29>

* PA Department of Environmental Protection Infectious Waste Regulations

<http://www.pacode.com/secure/data/025/chapter284/chap284toc.html>