

COVID-19 WASTE GUIDANCE SUMMARY

SEA's COVID-19 Waste Guidance is based on guidance from local and national public health organizations and Airports Council International. Consult SEA's complete guidance for additional detail: <https://www.portseattle.org/programs/airport-recycling-program/COVID19WasteGuidance>

Purpose: Guidance for managing municipal solid waste (MSW) and biohazard waste¹ with potential or known COVID-19 contamination to reduce employee risk and ensure safe disposal.

Applicability: All Port employees, contractors, tenants, and operators that generate, handle, or manage MSW and biohazard wastes at SEA.

Key Guidance

- ✓ For MSW and biohazard waste with potential or known COVID-19 contamination, workers and employers should manage these wastes like any other non-contaminated MSW or biohazard waste.
- ✓ Handle waste from ill/symptomatic passengers as biohazard, place in red biohazard bag, and dispose in designated biohazard waste receptacle.

Recommended Handling and Disposal for waste sources and types

Waste Source and Type	Handle/Dispose as
Deplaned (originating during domestic* flight operations)	
Cabin waste where no passenger or crew are ill/symptomatic	MSW
All waste and PPE from treatment of ill/symptomatic passengers or crew	Biohazard
Airport Buildings	
All waste and PPE from treatment, testing, or health-screening of ill/symptomatic individuals	Biohazard
MSW from unidentified but potentially ill/symptomatic individuals	MSW
MSW from asymptomatic/healthy individuals	MSW

**Handle and dispose deplaned waste from international flights according to USDA APHIS requirements for Regulated Garbage.*

General Waste Management Procedures

- Continue using typical engineering and administrative controls, safe work practices and PPE, such as gloves and face and eye protection for handling MSW or biohazard waste, as appropriate.
- Securely close but do not compress bags used to transport MSW or biohazard waste.
- Continue sorting and disposing of MSW, recycling, and compostables following established SEA procedures.

Monitor Changing Conditions and Guidance

- Remain alert to changing outbreak conditions and implement infection prevention measures accordingly.
- Assess worker hazards, evaluate exposure risk, and ensure workers use exposure prevention precautions.
- Follow employer's Health and Safety Plan regarding employee health screening and monitoring, exposure control practices, increased personal hygiene, and disinfection and sanitizing procedures.

Prevent Contamination of Waste Streams

- Label and locate biohazard waste containers near point of generation or accumulation.
- Update trash bin labels to show PPE (i.e. masks, gloves) or cloth face coverings go in trash.

¹ **Biohazard waste:** Liquid or semiliquid blood or other potentially infectious materials (OPIM - see complete guidance for OPIM definition); Contaminated items that would release blood or OPIM in a liquid or semiliquid state, if compressed; Items that are caked with dried blood or OPIM and are capable of releasing these materials during handling; Contaminated sharps; Pathological and microbiological wastes containing blood or OPIM.