

Government of West Bengal  
Department of Health & Family Welfare  
Health Services Branch  
Swasthya Bhawan, Block-GN 29  
Sector-V, Salt Lake City, Kolkata-700 091

File No: 38 - HF/O/MS/W-05/2020

Dated, Kolkata 20<sup>th</sup> March, 2020

From: Shri Subhra Chakraborty, IAS  
Additional Secretary, HS Branch  
Department of Health & Family Welfare  
Government of West Bengal

To : 1. The Director of Health Services, West Bengal, Swasthya Bhawan, Kolkata-91  
2. The Director of Medical Education, West Bengal, Swasthya Bhawan, Kolkata-91

**Subject: Guidelines for handling, treatment and disposal of waste generated during treatment/diagnosis/quarantine of COVID-19 patients**

With reference to the Memo No. 59/1S-74/2001(Pt-VII), dated 19.03.20 from Dr. Rajesh Kumar, Member Secretary, West Bengal Pollution Control Board alongwith the enclosures contained therein (Copies enclosed) on the subject mentioned above, the undersigned is directed to request him to initiate necessary action to comply with the guidelines prepared by Central Pollution Control Board, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Parivesh Bhawan, East Arjun Nagar, New Delhi-110032 at Healthcare facilities, Quarantine Camps/Home-care, Sample Collection Centres, Laboratories and CBWTFs in toto.

The guideline contains the following measures to be taken:

- 1) COVID-19 Isolation Wards,
- 2) Sample Collection Centres and Laboratories for COVID-19 suspected patients,
- 3) Quarantine Camps/Home Care for COVID-19 suspected patients,
- 4) Duties of Common Biomedical Waste Treatment Facility(CBWTF)
- 5) Duties of SPCBs/PCCs

This is extremely urgent.

Enclosed as stated

  
ADDITIONAL SECRETARY, HS BRANCH

File No: 38/1(6) - HF/O/MS/W-05/2020

Dated, Kolkata 20<sup>th</sup> March, 2020

Copy forwarded for information and necessary action to:

1. The Chief Medical Officer of Health (All Districts)
2. MSVP/Superintendent(All)
3. The Deputy Director Hospital Administration Branch, Swasthya Bhawan
- ✓ 4. IT Cell for Web Posting
5. Office Copy
6. Guard File

  
ADDITIONAL SECRETARY, HS BRANCH

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Dr. Rajesh Kumar, IPS  
Member Secretary



**WEST BENGAL**  
**POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD**  
(Dept. of Environment, Govt. of West Bengal)  
Paribesh Bhawan  
10A, Block - LA, Sector III, Salt Lake City  
Kolkata - 700106, INDIA

Tel. : 2335 8213  
Fax : 2335 2813/6730  
e.mail: ms@wbpcb.gov.in  
website: www.wbpcb.gov.in  
city code 33  
country code 91

Memo No. 59/18-74/2001 (A-VII)

Date 19.03.2020

To  
The Commissioner in Health and Family Welfare Department  
Health & Family Welfare Department, Govt. of W. B.  
Swasthyabhavan, GN- 29, Sector V, Salt Lake,  
Kolkata- 700091

**Kind Attention: Shri Suvro Chakraborty, IAS**

**Sub: Guidelines for handling, treatment and disposal of waste generated during treatment/diagnosis/quarantine of COVID-19 patients**

Sir,

Enclosed please find herewith the guidelines prepared by CPCB for handling, treatment, and disposal of waste generated during treatment/diagnosis/quarantine of COVID-19 patients.

You are requested to initiate necessary action to comply with the aforesaid guidelines at Healthcare facilities, Quarantine Camps/Home-care, Sample Collection Centers, Laboratories and CBWTFs.

Yours faithfully

*[Signature]*  
19/3/2020

[Dr. Rajesh Kumar]  
Member Secretary

Encl.: As stated above.

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**Guidelines for Handling, Treatment, and Disposal of Waste Generated during  
Treatment/Diagnosis/ Quarantine of COVID-19 Patients**

March, 2020



**Central Pollution Control Board**  
(Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change)  
Parivesh Bhawan, East Arjun Nagar  
Delhi - 110032

*[Handwritten signature]*

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**Guidelines for Handling, Treatment, and Disposal of Waste Generated during  
Treatment/Diagnosis/ Quarantine of COVID-19 Patients**

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In order to deal with COVID-19 pandemic, State and Central Governments have initiated various steps, which include setting up of quarantine centers/camps, isolation wards, sample collection centers and laboratories.

Following specific guidelines for management of waste generated during diagnostics and treatment of COVID-19 suspected / confirmed patients, are required to be followed by all the stakeholders including isolation wards, quarantine centers, sample collection centers, laboratories, ULBs and common biomedical waste treatment and disposal facilities, in addition to existing practices under BMW Management Rules, 2016.

These guidelines are based on current knowledge on COVID-19 and existing practices in management of infectious waste generated in hospitals while treating viral and other contagious diseases like HIV, H1N1, etc. These guidelines will be updated if need arises.

Guidelines brought out by WHO, MoH&FW, ICMR and other concerned agencies from time to time may also be referred.

Guidelines for handling, treatment and disposal of COVID-19 waste at Healthcare Facilities, Quarantine Camps/Home-care, Sample Collection Centers, Laboratories, SPCBs/PCCs, ULBs and CBWTFs :

**(a) COVID-19 Isolation wards:**

Healthcare Facilities having isolation wards for COVID-19 patients need to follow these steps to ensure safe handling and disposal of biomedical waste generated during treatment;

- Keep separate color coded bins/bags/containers in wards and maintain proper segregation of waste as per BMW Rules, 2016 as amended and CPCB guidelines for implementation of BMW Management Rules.
- As precaution double layered bags (using 2 bags) should be used for collection of waste from COVID-19 isolation wards so as to ensure adequate strength and no-leaks;
- Collect and store biomedical waste separately prior to handing over the same CBWTF. Use a dedicated collection bin labelled as "COVID-19" to store COVID-19 waste and keep separately in temporary storage room prior to handing over to authorized staff of CBWTF. Biomedical waste collected in such isolation wards can also be lifted directly from ward into CBWTF collection van.
- In addition to mandatory labelling, bags/containers used for collecting biomedical waste from COVID-19 wards, should be labelled as "COVID-19 Waste". This marking would enable CBWTFs to identify the waste easily for priority treatment and disposal immediately upon the receipt.
- General waste not having contamination should be disposed as solid waste as per SWM Rules, 2016;
- Maintain separate record of waste generated from COVID-19 isolation wards

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- Use dedicated trolleys and collection bins in COVID-19 isolation wards. A label "COVID-19 Waste" to be pasted on these items also.
- The (inner and outer) surface of containers/bins/trolleys used for storage of COVID-19 waste should be disinfected with 1% sodium hypochlorite solution.
- Report opening or operation of COVID-19 ward to SPCBs
- Depute dedicated sanitation workers separately for BMW and general solid waste so that waste can be collected and transferred timely to temporary waste storage area.

**(b) Sample Collection Centers and Laboratories for COVID-19 suspected patients**

Report opening or operation of COVID-19 sample collection centers and laboratories to concerned SPCB. Guidelines given at section (a) for isolation wards should be applied suitably in in case of test centers and laboratories also.

**(c) Quarantine Camps/Home Care for COVID-19 suspected patients**

Less quantity of biomedical waste is expected from quarantine centers. However, quarantine camps/centers/home-care for suspected COVID-19 cases need to follow these steps to ensure safe handling and disposal of waste;


- Treat the routine waste generated from quarantine centers or camps as general solid waste and the same need to be disposed as per SWM Rules, 2016. However, biomedical waste if any generated from quarantine centers/camps should be collected separately in yellow coloured bags and bins.
- Quarantine camps/centers shall inform CBWTF operator as and when the waste is generated so that waste can be collected for treatment and disposal at CBWTFs.
- In case of home-care for suspected patients, biomedical waste should be collected separately in yellow bags and the same shall be handed over to authorized waste collectors engaged by local bodies. ULB should engage CBWTFs to pick-up such waste either directly from such quarantined houses or from identified collection points.

**(d) Duties of Common Biomedical Waste Treatment Facility (CBWTF):**

- Report to SPCBs/PCCs about receiving of waste from COVID-19 isolation wards / Quarantine Camps / Quarantined homes / COVID-19 Testing Centers;
- Operator of CBWTF shall ensure regular sanitization of workers involved in handling and collection of biomedical waste;
- Workers shall be provided with adequate PPEs including three layer masks, splash proof aprons/gowns, nitrile gloves, gum boots and safety goggles;
- Use dedicated vehicle to collect COVID-19 ward waste. It is not necessary to place separate label on such vehicles;
- Vehicle should be sanitized with sodium hypochlorite or any appropriate chemical disinfectant after every trip.

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- COVID-19 waste should be disposed-off immediately upon receipt at facility.
- In case it is required to treat and dispose more quantity of biomedical waste generated from COVID-19 treatment, CBWTF may operate their facilities for extra hours, by giving information to SPCBs/PCCs.
- Operator of CBWTF shall maintain separate record for collection, treatment and disposal of COVID-19 waste.
- Do not allow any worker showing symptoms of illness to work at the facility. May provide adequate leave to such workers and by protecting their salary.

**(e) Duties of SPCBs/PCCs**

- Shall maintain records of COVID-19 treatment wards / quarantine centers / quarantines homes in respective States.
- Ensure proper collection and disposal of biomedical waste as per BMW Rules, 2016 and SoPS given in this guidance document;
- Allow CBWTFs to operate for extra hours as per requirement;
- May not insist on authorisation of quarantine camps as such facilities does not qualify as health facilities. However, may allow CBWTFs to collect biomedical waste as and when required;

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