

Information for schools conducting COVID-19 testing from DNREC-CAPS, Dec. 31, 2020

Schools generating waste as a result of on-site rapid antigen testing for the COVID-19 virus need to manage all waste from suspected or confirmed COVID-19 patient specimens and kit components as infectious waste. As schools conducting testing will become infectious waste generators, an overview of the applicable regulatory requirements of 7 Del. Admin Code 1301, *Delaware's Regulations Governing Solid Waste* (DRGSW) follows.

Infectious waste generated as a result of on-site COVID-19 testing includes:

- Used nasal swabs
- Test tubes or containers used to hold the nasal swabs and reactants during testing
- The used testing cards
- Gloves, masks, gowns and other personal protective equipment (PPE) that has come in contact with gross amounts of bodily fluids. Please be aware non-contaminated PPE can be managed as solid waste and placed into the regular trash.

Operating as an Infectious Waste Generator

- All infectious waste generators must obtain an Infectious Waste Generator Identification Number (IWG Number) from the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control, Compliance and Permitting Section (DNREC-CAPS)
- IWG Numbers are issued to each school location generating infectious waste. Many individual school locations already have obtained an IWG Number. If you are uncertain if your school holds a number, please contact Lindsey Douglas of DNREC-CAPS at Lindsey.Douglas@delaware.gov to find out if an IWG Number already exists if you are unsure. Ms. Douglas can be contacted by email or at 302-739-9403 for assistance or questions.
- In the event your school has not obtained an IWG Number, one is obtained by completing and submitting an *Infectious Waste Generator Number Request Form* to DNREC-CAPS. A copy of the form is attached to this email.
- Once completed, submit the form to Lindsey Douglas of DNREC-CAPS at Lindsey.Douglas@delaware.gov. Ms. Douglas can be contacted by email or at 302-739-9403 for assistance or questions.

Some things to be aware of when completing the *Infectious Waste Generator Number Request Form*.

- Most schools will likely fall into the category of a small quantity generator of infectious waste, for it is not anticipated an individual school will generate 50 pounds or more of infectious waste in a calendar month. Should your school anticipate exceeding the 50 pounds of generated infectious waste monthly, or store 50 pounds or more of infectious waste on-site at any given time, please contact Lindsey Douglas of DNREC-CAPS at Lindsey.Douglas@delaware.gov or by calling 302-739-9403.
- The state maintains a contract with the permitted Delaware Infectious Waste Transporter, Biomedical Waste Services, <https://bwaste.com/> or 410-437-6590.

To ensure school eligibility, a copy of the contract can be found here. (http://bidcondocs.delaware.gov/GSS/GSS_16760_An3.pdf)

- If your school can avail itself to the state of Delaware contract with Biomedical Waste Services, you can indicate the company as being your selected transporter on the *Infectious Waste Generator Number Request Form*. Biomedical Waste Services holds the transporter number of DE-SW-1472.
- In the event your school cannot utilize the contract with Biomedical Waste Services, it is necessary for you to contract for infectious waste management services through a permitted Delaware Infectious Waste Transporter to remove infectious waste from your school. A list of permitted transporters is attached to this email. You can also contact Lindsey Douglas of DNREC-CAPS at Lindsey.Douglas@delaware.gov or by calling 302-739-9403.

Packaging and Storing Infectious Waste

- DRGSW require infectious waste be packaged and stored properly before being removed from the school by a permitted Delaware Infectious Waste Transporter. Red bags and other supplies to properly manage infectious waste are available from the permitted Delaware Infectious Waste Transporter you contract with to remove your infectious waste.
- Immediately upon generation, all infectious waste must be contained within two red bags, this meaning one red bag placed within another.
- Please ensure the biohazard symbol is marked on the red bags. Most red bags are already marked with this symbol.
- When the inner bag becomes full, tie the inner bag closed. Then tie the outer bag closed.
- If the bags contain any amount of free-flowing liquid, the outer bag must also be taped at its tied closure.
- Store the red bagged infectious waste in an area where the bags are not accessible to others. Bags must also be protected from weather, rodents, insects, etc.
- Label or tag the outer red bag of infectious waste with the following:
 - The name, address, and telephone number of the school generating the waste; and
 - The phrase “Infectious Waste” or “Regulated Medical Waste”; and
 - The name, address, and telephone number of Biomedical Waste Services or the permitted Delaware infectious waste transporter you have contracted with to remove the waste.

Shipping Infectious Waste Off-Site

- Contact Biomedical Waste Services or your selected permitted Delaware Infectious Waste Transporter to remove stored infectious waste
- Complete the infectious waste manifest provided by Biomedical Waste Services or your selected permitted Delaware Infectious Waste Transporter
- Maintain a copy of each infectious waste manifest for a period of at least three years

Please be aware that should a school generate 50 pounds or more of generated infectious waste monthly, or store 50 pounds or more of infectious waste on-site, additional requirements not provided above for large quantity generators will apply.