



National Waste & Recycling AssociationSM

Collect. Recycle. Innovate.

Managing COVID-19 Waste

March 19, 2020

Attendee Notes

- All phones will be muted throughout the presentation. If you have a question for the speaker, please type it in the chat box to the right of your screen at anytime.
- There will be time reserved at the end for Q&A.
- Copies of the presentation will be available after the presentation.



Webinar Speaker

Speaker:

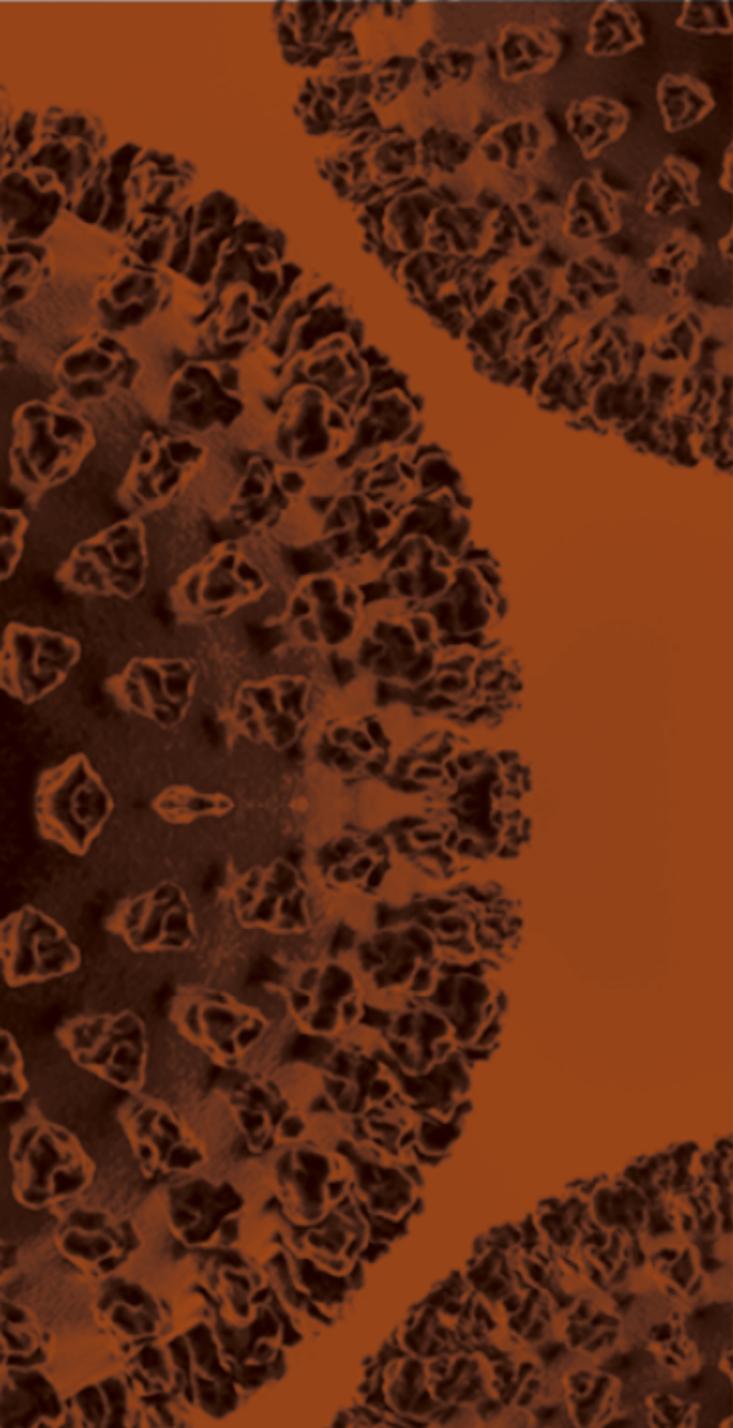
Selin Hoboy, *VP, Government Affairs and Compliance* – Stericycle, Inc.



Moderator:

Anne Germain, *COO & Senior Vice President, Technical & Regulatory Affairs* – National Waste & Recycling Association



A detailed electron micrograph of a coronavirus particle, showing its characteristic spherical shape and the dense, textured surface of its outer envelope. The particle is set against a dark background, highlighting its intricate structure.

Novel Coronavirus – COVID-19 Waste

March 2020

Stericycle Government Affairs - Selin Hoboy

NOTE TO ALL:

Information provided here is not intended to be legal guidance and is subject to change as new information becomes available or as regulatory circumstances change.

We protect what matters.



Agenda

- ✓ What is Novel Coronavirus - COVID-19
- ✓ What infection control measures are recommended?
- ✓ Overview of Waste Generators and Waste Generated
- ✓ What Measures is Stericycle and RMW Industry Taking and Why?
What NWRA is doing?
- ✓ How are wastes being managed?
- ✓ Communication and Resources
Internal Communications
- ✓ How can we work together?

What is Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)

- ✓ Novel Coronavirus is a new strain of the general family of Coronaviruses – identified in Wuhan City, China
- ✓ Typical symptoms of coronavirus include fever and a cough that may progress to a severe pneumonia causing shortness of breath and breathing difficulties. 1 in 5 infected require medical care or hospitalization. Typically more severe in older and high risk patients but new information is showing wider range now.
- ✓ Currently **believed** to spread human-to-human from close contact possibly droplets inhaled or contact surfaces that may have been infected
- ✓ Novel Coronavirus is not the same virus as the flu but they are both not difficult to kill; not typically hardy and is easily destroyed with normal disinfection procedures
- ✓ New study in New England Journal of Medicine on stability of virus outside of the body:
 - Remained viable in aerosols for three hours
 - Remained on plastic and stainless steel for 48-72 hours
 - Remained on Cardboard for less than 24 hours
 - Remained on copper less than 4 hours
 - Important for ensuring proper cleaning
 - <https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMc2004973>
- ✓ More data needed and will be forthcoming as more tests are conducted and become available throughout US and the world

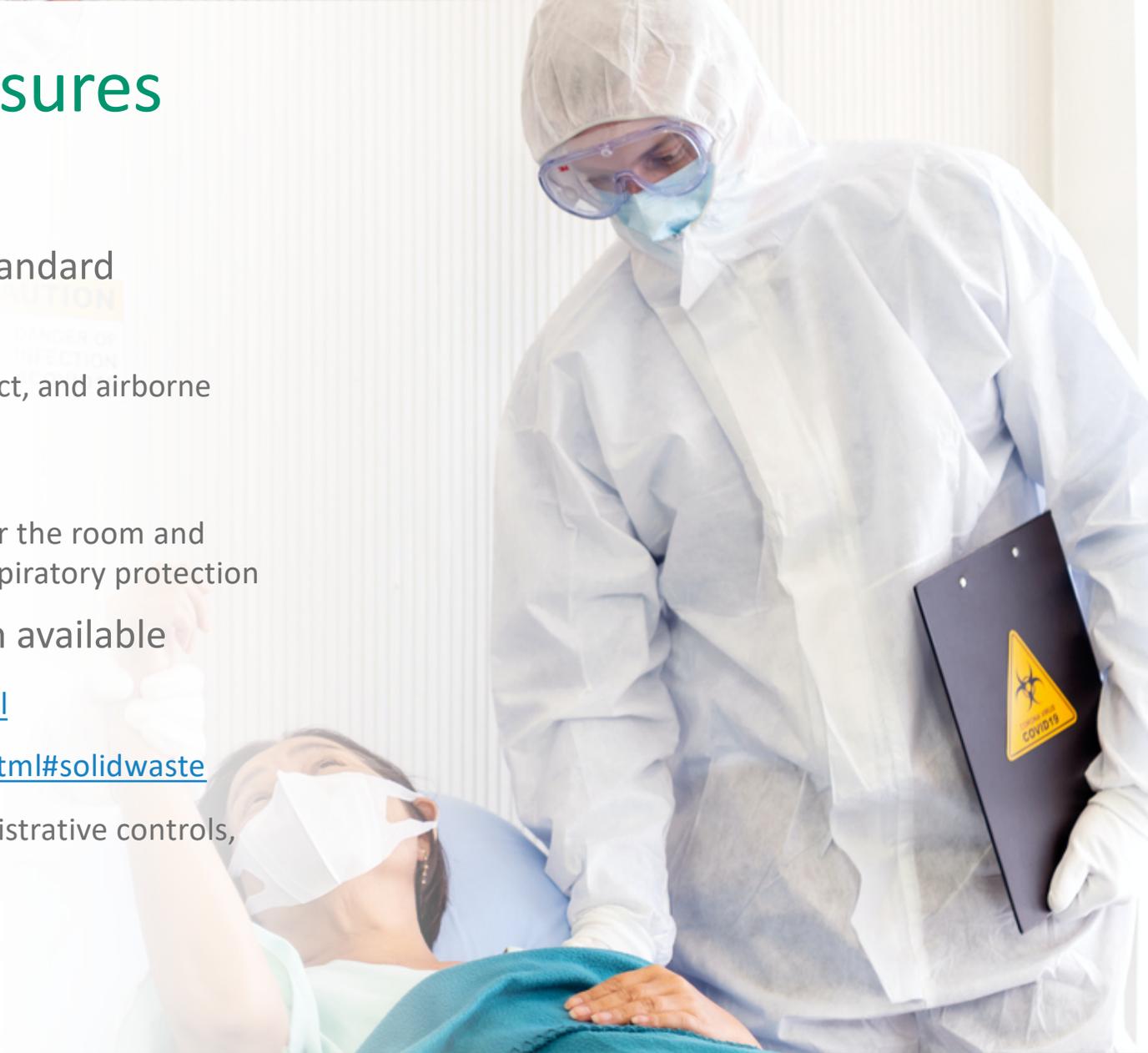
What Infection Control Measures are Recommended?

CDC and health departments are recommending standard precautions

- Adherence to standard transmission-based precautions, contact, and airborne precautions including use of eye protection and gloves
- Use social distancing and Isolation:
 - Recommend that only essential personnel should enter the room and personnel entering room should use PPE, including respiratory protection

CDC and OSHA now have waste related information available

- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/faq.html>
- <https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/covid-19/controlprevention.html#solidwaste>
- Generally both recommend typical engineering and administrative controls, safe work practices and PPE



Overview of Waste Generators and Waste Generated

COVID-19 waste generators may include

- Healthcare – actual regulated medical waste/sharps generated from care of COVID-19 patient is minimal; seeing a lot of PPE and other solid waste being included; decontamination wastes
- Labs – Waste generated from lab settings are also Category B and can be managed normal regulated medical waste
- Quarantine sites – many are overclassifying ALL solid waste as regulated medical waste
- Travel industry (planes, cruise ships) – solid waste as regulated medical waste in some cases; APHIS waste and decontamination wastes need to be properly managed
- Businesses, schools, etc. – cleaning and disinfection of workplaces and schools is starting to occur on a greater scale
 - EPA New information on disinfectants:
https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2020-03/documents/sars-cov-2-list_03-03-2020.pdf
- Households



What Measures is Stericycle and RMW Industry Taking and Why?

- There are no additional or more stringent regulatory requirements regarding waste management
- Waste materials are not a Category A infectious substance for purposes of packaging and transport
- Healthcare waste companies are capable of managing regulated medical waste and sharps per normal means
- CDC site states: *“Medical waste (trash) coming from healthcare facilities treating COVID-2019 patients is no different than waste coming from facilities without COVID-19 patients. CDC’s guidance states that management of laundry, food service utensils, and medical waste should be performed in accordance with routine procedures. There is no evidence to suggest that facility waste needs any additional disinfection.”*
- Following DOT packaging and **tying off of bags** is critical to minimize exposure



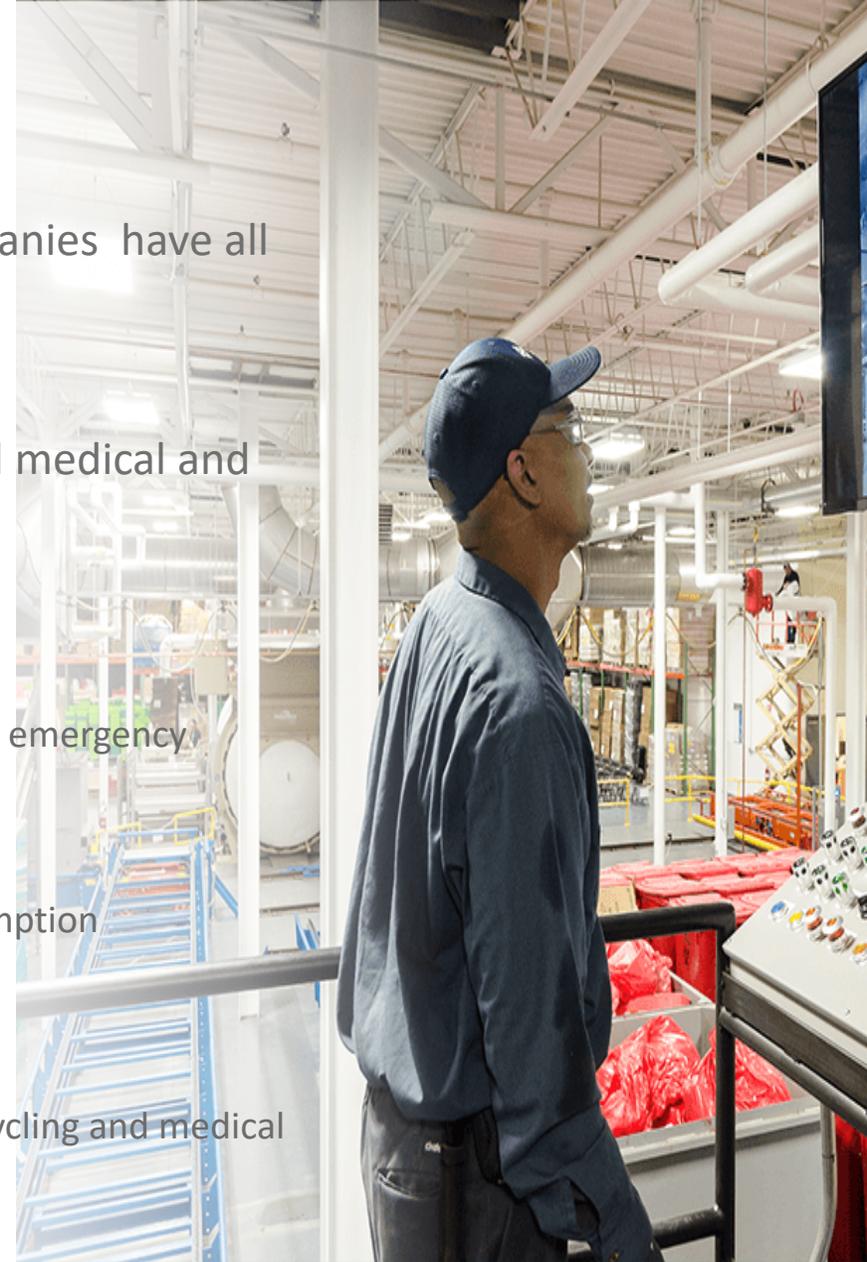
What Measures is Stericycle and RMW Industry Taking and Why?

- *Initially* Stericycle required special packaging due to unknown nature of virus and also limited information from authorities:
 - Only corrugated or disposable containers were to be used and were to be marked with “C”
 - COVID-19 Reusable sharps containers were to be placed in the red bag and disposed.
- *After* conversations with CDC, OSHA, DOT, other international agencies:
 - All medical waste will be packaged and managed per usual procedures; provides for safety we already know
 - Stericycle will not be servicing sharps containers or comingled containers (Rx and sharps) in patient isolation rooms
 - Isolation rooms with respiratory hazards (which we initially restricted instead of all isolation rooms) are not always well marked, nor is consistent marking/signage used
- Some RMW companies have additional requirement and safety measures – these should be clearly communicated to generators through multiple means



What NWRA Is Doing

- ✓ NWRA - Healthcare Waste Institute, Stericycle, and other healthcare waste companies have all issued guidance on management of waste:
 - <https://wasterecycling.org/page/covid-19-info>
- ✓ NWRA has taken aggressive measures to seek regulatory relief for both regulated medical and solid waste industries
 - ✓ Published FAQ for safe handling
 - ✓ Urged congress to pass SBA Lending program
 - ✓ Urged congress through multiple letters and calls to include waste collection in national emergency declaration (HOS relief)
 - ✓ Letter to FMCSA petitioning RMW exemption from certain parts of FMCSA regulations
 - ✓ Legislative language to Congress to include waste collection haulers in FMCSA HOS exemption
 - ✓ FHWA requesting agency provide guidance to state around weights
 - ✓ FMCSA relief from expiring CDL, D&A testing, and physicals
 - ✓ State agencies seeking temporary exemptions for handling requirements for waste, recycling and medical waste
 - ✓ Letter to Vice President Pence requesting regulatory flexibility



How are wastes being managed?

- All properly permitted RMW facilities should be able to manage this waste; autoclave and incineration facilities can manage this waste
 - Incineration should only be required for wastes that may already require incineration (pathological/trace chemo/non-haz Rx)
- CDC and local authorities are not limiting management through pre-shredded operations
- Post-treatment wastes can go to landfill (or other final disposal i.e. WTE) and do not require any special handling
- Waste generated in households can be managed as general solid waste and also go to landfill
- Hazardous wastes (including pharmaceuticals) should be managed per current standards
- OSHA: <https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/covid-19/controlprevention.html#solidwaste>



Communication and Resources



Important to have continued communication with healthcare facilities on importance of proper waste packaging

- Tying off bags properly
- Closing all sharps containers prior to disposal securely
- Properly closing all boxes and reusable containers
- Adhering to waste company protocols
- Separating other wastes properly



Communicate with local and state authorities, check on permit conditions, political situations, ordinances – Stay Connected!

STAY INFORMED:

- OSHA
- CDC
- State Health and Solid Waste Sites
- ECRI

The screenshot shows the CDC website with a search bar and a navigation menu. The main content area features a large image of a coronavirus particle and the text "Coronavirus Disease 2019" and "CDC is responding to the novel coronavirus outbreak." Below this is a red banner for the "UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR" with social media icons. The page is titled "Occupational Safety and Health Administration" and "COVID-19".

The screenshot shows the ECRI website with a search bar and a navigation menu. The main content area features a large image of a coronavirus particle and the text "COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Outbreak Preparedness Center" and "Infection control and outbreak preparedness resources for hospitals and healthcare providers".

Internal Communications and Processes

Communication With Your Employees

- Communicate regularly with your employees to make sure they hear changes FROM YOU and reminders of PPE
- Provide ways to have them communicate emergencies and issues
- Provide employees the information from CDC and OSHA
 - Review cleaning/decontamination protocols and frequency
 - Reminders of what to do if they are feeling sick, safety at home
- Communicate with them changes or requirements they might get from customers i.e. PPE requirements,

Communicate With Customers

- Find out their needs
- Many facilities closing
- What are their special protocols



How can we work together?

- Communication With Authorities:
 - Refer relevant questions or concerns from your agency, or generators to the Healthcare Waste Institute
 - Work with local officials to waste management as part of emergency response (access to child care, road access, access to healthcare facilities for pick up)
- Remind all generators to properly package all waste - key to protecting all staff, from healthcare facility to the waste disposal facilities and in between
- Remind generators of what is/is not regulated medical waste, or sharps, in your state
- Educate and remind your employees on standard precautions, the use of their standard PPE, and keeping safe – Follow CDC guidelines
- Work together as waste industry to raise awareness of critical services provided

KEEP CALM & WASTE ON SAFELY!!!



Communication and Resources

- CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>
- OSHA: https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/novel_coronavirus/
- World Health Organization (WHO):
<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>
- NWRA – HWI Press Release and Guidance Documents:
https://cdn.ymaws.com/wasterecycling.org/resource/resmgr/hwi_minutes/HWI_COVID-2019_FAQs.pdf
- ECRI:
<https://www.ecri.org/coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak-preparedness-center/>
- DOT PHMSA CAT A Planning Guide:
<https://www.phmsa.dot.gov/transporting-infectious-substances/planning-guidance-handling-category-solid-waste>
- Stericycle external landing page: <https://www.stericycle.com/coronavirus>





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Questions

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We protect what matters.



Thank you

Thank You for Your Participation!

Questions?

For questions regarding this webinar please contact Megan Passinger at mpassinger@wasterecycling.org.

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https://my.wasterecycling.org/nc_upcomingevents

