



RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

OFFICE OF WASTE MANAGEMENT

235 Promenade Street, Room 380
Providence, Rhode Island 02908

March 9, 2020

Dear Medical Waste Generator:

We are writing to you regarding recent concerns about handling medical waste associated with the Covid-19 virus. Our Medical Waste Regulations require universal precautions to ensure that ALL medical waste be packaged in a manner that protects those who handle medical waste as well as the general public. We want to emphasize certain aspects of those requirements for generators that are particularly important at this time.

Generators are required to ensure the red bag waste is tied off or otherwise sealed prior to placing in the containers. Sharps containers must be sealed to prevent spillage of contents during transport. The complete regulation for packaging regulated medical waste can be found at <https://rules.sos.ri.gov/regulations/part/250-140-15-1>.

Please feel free to call me at (401) 222- 2797, extension 7529 or yan.li@dem.ri.gov if you have any questions regarding this letter.

Sincerely,

Yan Li, P.E.,
Principal Engineer
Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management
Office of Waste Management