Safe Handling of Infectious Waste

Procedure Overview
Purpose and Scope

• This procedure describes methods for safely collecting, handling and disposing of infectious waste.
• This procedure applies to all University of Notre Dame personnel whose work involves infectious substances.
Training Requirements

• All personnel handling infectious substances shall be trained on the hazards.
• Biohazard safety training is required.
• If working with human pathogens, University authorized Bloodborne Pathogen training is required.
• The training completion documentation shall be provided to the PI or designee for record retention.
University Personnel Responsibilities

• University personnel (i.e., individual, researcher, department) generating infectious waste shall adhere to the requirements in this procedure.

• Periodic inspections are conducted of the PI’s area(s) of responsibility, by the PI or the PI’s designated personnel, verifying the requirements of this standard are being met [no documentation required].

• If deficiencies are noted during the periodic inspections immediate corrective actions are implemented (correction of the deficiency and retraining, adherence to the University’s discipline process, etc.).
Safe Handling and Storage

- Safety goggles, gloves, and lab coat must be worn when handling infectious substances.
- Infectious substances must be collected, stored and covered in the appropriate container with the general area being maintained in a clean and sanitary condition.
- Infectious waste storage areas must be kept secured or otherwise protected from unauthorized entry.
Description and Hazard Labeling

• Contaminated animal bedding must be placed in the container labeled ANIMAL BEDDING or similar wording which indicates the type of waste.

• Infectious cultures and stocks, pathological waste, and human blood products should be placed in the container labeled CULTURES, PATHOLOGICALS, BLOOD, or similar wording, which indicates the type of waste.

• Storage containers require hazard communication labeling.
Autoclaving or Treatment Disposal

- Infectious wastes that cannot be autoclaved or treated with bleach are sharps, sharps containers, animal carcasses and contaminated bedding.
- Infectious waste shall be rendered innocuous, if possible, through autoclaving or treatment with bleach (5% sodium hypochlorite solution) prior to discarding as regular trash.
- Any autoclaved or treated waste suitable for disposal as regular trash must be dark bagged and labeled “Safe for Trash” PRIOR to disposal.
Non-Autoclave/Treatment Disposal

- Used and unused sharps should be placed in a sharps container with a biohazard symbol. All sharps containers ready for disposal need to be completely sealed so nothing is protruding from the container and the lid and all safety tabs are fully engaged.
- Contaminated animal carcasses need to be placed in red bags, frozen and secured by tying off the bag.
- Red bags need to be tied off and have no rips in bag.
- Sharps containers, animal carcasses and contaminated bedding need PI name, department, and room number information written on the waste container for RMS to pickup.
Hazard Communication Labeling

Biohazard Waste Label

Biohazardous Symbol

Infectious Substance Hazard Label