

# Regulated Medical Waste “Biohazard” Management Program

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## WHO DOES THIS PROGRAM APPLY TO?

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- University labs, departments, employees, and students who generate or handle regulated medical waste.
  - Regulated medical waste includes (not limited to): needles, syringes, labware contaminated with infectious agents (petri dishes, culture tubes, pipettes, and tissue culture flasks), contaminated gloves, items saturated with human blood, etc.
  - University activities which commonly generate medical waste include the Health Center, Vet lab, microbiology laboratories, blood spill cleanups, etc.

## WHAT ARE THE KEY REQUIREMENTS OF THIS PROGRAM?

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- Regulated Medical Waste is defined as any biohazardous, pathology, pharmaceutical, or trace chemotherapy waste not otherwise regulated as a hazardous waste.
- Biohazard/infectious wastes must be placed into the appropriate containers (e.g. red biohazard plastic bag, sharps container) and labeled with the words “BIOHAZARDOUS WASTE” or with the international symbol and the word “BIOHAZARD”.
- Discarded pharmaceuticals are placed in blue pharmaceutical waste containers labeled “For Incineration Only”.
- Sharps containers must be rigid, leakproof, puncture resistant and tightly lidded.
- Full containers of Regulated Medical Waste are placed in the dedicated, locked Biohazard Waste Lockers for pickup and disposal through the campus regulated medical waste disposal vendor. Pickups are Tuesdays and Fridays.
- All waste placed in these containers must be in the appropriate container or bag. NEVER put loose medical/biohazard waste in the waste lockers.
- Regulated Medical Waste intended for disposal must NEVER be left outside of the locked Biohazardous Waste Locker. If your container does not fit or the locker is full, contact [hazwaste@calpoly.edu](mailto:hazwaste@calpoly.edu).
- Waste lockers are accessible by key and limited to authorized, trained personnel only. Email the EHS contact above to be assigned an access key. Advisors, faculty, researchers, staff, who delegate waste duties to students or other staff must ensure such personnel have received biohazardous waste and bloodborne pathogen training before they can handle any waste.
- Contact EHS for assistance at [hazwaste@calpoly.edu](mailto:hazwaste@calpoly.edu).
- Microbiological specimens generated by the Biological Sciences Department will be taken by Biological Sciences staff to the autoclave facility in Fisher Hall, room 466, for treatment using procedures described in the Campus Medical Waste Management Plan. Once treated, the waste is no longer regulated.
- Supervisors, Lab Managers, faculty responsible for affected labs, and Principal Investigators must:
  - Identify the individuals who handle regulated medical waste in their areas.
  - Ensure affected personnel have received bloodborne pathogens training and biohazardous waste training. Contact EHS for support.
  - Provide Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) and ensure that it is worn by personnel.
  - Ensure that regulated medical waste is disposed of properly and within the time limits listed below.
- Storage Requirements:
  - No more than 7 days: when stored at room temperature or in a refrigerator.
  - No more than 90 days: when stored at or below 0° Centigrade (32° Fahrenheit).
  - Sharps containers may be used until they are three-quarters full and disposed of within 7 days of becoming three-quarters full.

- Recordkeeping Requirements:
  - Regulated medical waste manifest records must be maintained by EHS for three years from the date of shipment.
  - Records of medical waste treatment in the Fisher Hall Autoclave are kept with the unit and must be maintained for a minimum of three years from the date of treatment.

## APPLICABLE TRAINING

- Visit the EHS Department’s Training Webpage at <https://afd.calpoly.edu/ehs/training>
- To initiate a request for training create a ticket by going to the Cal Poly Learning Hub Webpage and clicking on “create a ticket”. Include the curriculum name and the code in your request.
  - Curriculum Name: EHS BLOODBORNE PATHOGEN Code: CALPOLY-ILTCRSE-BLOODBORNE-PATHOGEN

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

- Cal Poly Campus Medical Waste Management Plan <https://afd.calpoly.edu/ehs/docs/MedicalWasteManagementPlan.pdf>
- CA Medical Waste Management Act <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CEH/DRSEM/CDPH%20Document%20Library/EMB/MedicalWaste/MedicalWasteManagementAct.pdf>
- Map of Biohazard Waste Lockers (key required to open lockers). Contact EHS to be assigned a key.

