



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, PARKS AND RECREATION
MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT
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Guidelines For Handling, Transport And Disposal Of Waste During COVID-19 Outbreak.

In light of the current outbreak of the COVID-19, there will be an expected increase in volume of infected and non-infected items such as face masks, gloves and protective equipment within the household waste. Therefore, the Department of Environment, Parks and Recreation would like to remind all **waste collectors/operators/contractors** in the country to take all necessary precautions, practices and procedures for personnel when handling and transporting waste during this period to avoid any risk of transmission.

The Department of Environment, Parks and Recreation has prepared a guideline for **waste collectors/operators/contractors** to be implemented immediately, as follows:

- 1. Use of Proper Protective Equipment (PPE)- During Collection, Handling and transporting waste.**
 - a. Always wear a mask to cover your mouth and nose.
 - b. Always wear gloves at all times especially when collecting and handling waste.
 - c. Always wear adequate PPEs which includes clothing (long sleeves and long pants) and proper footwear.
 - d. Always be mindful of personal hygiene when carrying out the above activities.
 - e. Always prepare or carry around disinfectant or sanitizers when carrying out the above activities.

- 2. Personal Hygiene- All waste collectors/operators/contractors should be reminded to:**
 - a. Monitor their temperatures regularly.
 - b. Remind staff to report to supervisors if they are unwell. Sharing of information is important.
 - c. If unwell, to seek medical assistance immediately and isolate themselves from other colleagues. If necessary, avoid going to the workplace until health condition permits.
 - d. Be mindful of others. Cover mouths and nose when coughing or sneezing and dispose used tissues immediately into bins and wash hands immediately.

- e. Practice good toilet habits.
- f. Always maintain personal hygiene i.e. wash hands with soap and apply sanitizers after using toilets, after clean-ups or after handling waste, and before and after meals.
- g. Remember to avoid sharing house-hold items, and wash used items thoroughly with soap and water.
- h. Refrain from touching exposed body parts such as eyes, nose, face and arms and other surfaces with soiled gloves or unwashed hands.

3. House Keeping- At workplace.

- a. Always maintain hygiene at workplace.
- b. Increase frequency of cleaning and housekeeping at workplace.
- c. Disinfect frequently common areas and items such as toilets, common rooms, handrails, table tops, chairs etc.
- d. Avoid creating an environment where viruses or bacteria may thrive such as over-pilled refuse bins, wet and dirty areas etc.
- e. Disinfect and clean all washing equipment after use immediately.
- f. Always check workplace and remove any potential breeding sites for pests.
- g. Always ventilate workplace in particular small and confined areas.
- h. Always maintain and practice social distancing during this period.

4. Improve Hygiene- After carrying out collection, handling and transporting of waste.

- a. All waste collectors/operators/contractors should immediately shower and change into clean clothes after finishing the above waste activities.
- b. Remove and dispose used gloves and face mask. Separate clean-up waste from other household waste.
- c. Disinfect vehicles and machinery immediately after use. (vehicular seats, hand rails and frequently exposed/touched areas)

The Department would like to emphasize again the importance for all **waste collectors/operators/contractors** to take the necessary precautions **at all times** especially among personnel on the field from being affected by the virus. We seek your cooperation in implementing the above practices.

Thank you.

**Department of Environment, Parks and Recreation
Ministry of Development**

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