



TOMÁS J. ARAGÓN, M.D., Dr.P.H.
Director and State Public Health Officer

State of California—Health and Human Services Agency
California Department of Public Health



GAVIN NEWSOM
Governor

Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) Waste Management Considerations for Non-HealthCare (Residential) Settings October 2022

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH), Medical Waste Management Program regulates the generation, handling, storage, and treatment of medical waste by providing oversight under the authority of the Medical Waste Management Act (MWMA). This document is to provide guidance for the cleaning or decontamination of items/surfaces in non-healthcare (residential) settings suspected of or known to be contaminated with Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) and the management of items to be disposed of as waste. Although EVD waste generated from a residence or household is not regulated as a medical waste under the MWMA, it is biohazardous and precautions need to be taken during the cleaning, handling, transportation, and treatment of this waste.

General Guidance

[Ebola medical waste management guidance provided by the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](https://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/clinicians/cleaning/waste-management.html)

(<https://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/clinicians/cleaning/waste-management.html>) should be reviewed closely and checked regularly, including [appropriate infection control practices](https://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/clinicians/evd/infection-control.html) (<https://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/clinicians/evd/infection-control.html>) for the handling and packaging of EVD contaminated [biohazardous] waste. Individuals or facilities may also consult with their Local Enforcement Agency (LEA), County Health Director, and CDPH on EVD waste management issues.

Residence Decontamination and Removal of EVD potential or confirmed Contaminated Waste

Who May be Involved:

- Public Health (local public health departments and/or CDPH), state and/or local authorities who may have to decontaminate or arrange for a contract company to decontaminate a residence and remove contaminated waste due to a resident being suspected of having or diagnosed with EVD.
- Contract companies hired to clean and decontaminate residences.
- Medical waste haulers authorized to transport Category A (Ebola) contaminated waste.



- Members of the residence where the person with suspected EVD only had a fever with the absence of gastrointestinal (diarrhea, vomiting) or hemorrhagic (bleeding) symptoms.

CDC has released [Interim Guidance for the decontamination and removal of Ebola contaminated waste](https://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/prevention/cleaning-us-homes.html) (<https://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/prevention/cleaning-us-homes.html>) and outlined two different approaches to cleaning residences. When a person has been diagnosed as having EVD, CDC's guidance for decontaminating the residence depends on the person's symptoms while living at the residence. Each state and/or local authorities may have specific requirements for managing the decontamination or cleaning of an EVD residence and should be contacted for assistance.

- Cleaning by residents – If the person was diagnosed with EVD, but only had a fever with no gastrointestinal (diarrhea, vomiting) or hemorrhagic (bleeding) symptoms while he or she was in the residence, the person should not be contaminating their environment. The remaining members of the residence can clean and launder as normal using detergent and/or disinfectant.
- Cleaning by a contract company – If the person diagnosed with EVD had a fever AND diarrhea, vomiting, and/or unexplained bleeding, public health and/or assigned authorities may need to contact a contract company that will assess the residence to determine the proper decontamination and disposal procedures. The remaining members of the residence (or property owners if the residence is rented) should not handle contaminated materials and should avoid contaminated rooms and areas until after the completion of the assessment and decontamination.

Members of the general public should contact the local public or environmental health department for Ebola emergency response in your area for names of approved/certified companies with experience in cleaning biohazard and trauma/crime scenes who are able to conduct the cleaning. Any contract company conducting such work must comply with the state's Ebola policies and with [OSHA standards](https://www.osha.gov/ebola) (<https://www.osha.gov/ebola>) for, among others that may apply, [Bloodborne Pathogens](https://www.osha.gov/laws-regs/regulations/standardnumber/1910/1910.1030) (29 CFR 1910.1030) (<https://www.osha.gov/laws-regs/regulations/standardnumber/1910/1910.1030>), [PPE](https://www.osha.gov/laws-regs/regulations/standardnumber/1910/1910.132) (29 CFR 1910.132) (<https://www.osha.gov/laws-regs/regulations/standardnumber/1910/1910.132>), [respiratory protection](https://www.osha.gov/laws-regs/regulations/standardnumber/1910/1910.134) (29 CFR 1910.134) (<https://www.osha.gov/laws-regs/regulations/standardnumber/1910/1910.134>), and [hazard communication](https://www.osha.gov/laws-regs/regulations/standardnumber/1910/1910.1200) (29 CFR 1910.1200) (<https://www.osha.gov/laws-regs/regulations/standardnumber/1910/1910.1200>) (e.g. chemical hazards). Companies shall also refer to the California Occupational Safety and Health (Cal OSHA) [EVD information](https://www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/EbolaVirusInformation.htm) (<https://www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/EbolaVirusInformation.htm>) for additional requirements that may exist.

Transport of EVD waste

Ebola-contaminated waste (materials that cannot be decontaminated at the residence and were in contact with the person with EVD having fever AND diarrhea, vomiting,

and/or unexplained bleeding) must be packaged and transported in accordance with regulations on the transportation of Ebola-contaminated items provided by the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT): [U.S. DOT Hazardous Materials Regulation for Category A Infectious Substance](https://www.phmsa.dot.gov/transporting-infectious-substances/transporting-infectious-substances-overview) (<https://www.phmsa.dot.gov/transporting-infectious-substances/transporting-infectious-substances-overview>).

Treatment of EVD waste

EVD waste packaged and ready for transport shall be transported by a [CDPH approved medical waste hauler](https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CEH/DRSEM/Pages/EMB/MedicalWaste/Transporters.aspx)

(<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CEH/DRSEM/Pages/EMB/MedicalWaste/Transporters.aspx>) to a [permitted medical waste treatment facility](https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CEH/DRSEM/Pages/EMB/MedicalWaste/Transfer-and-Treatment.aspx)

(<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CEH/DRSEM/Pages/EMB/MedicalWaste/Transfer-and-Treatment.aspx>) for proper treatment before final disposal. Treated EVD waste is acceptable for burial at a solid waste landfill. ***“Ebola-associated waste that has been appropriately incinerated, autoclaved, or otherwise inactivated is not infectious, does not pose a health risk, and is not considered to be regulated medical waste or a hazardous material under federal law.” CDC***

The attached flowchart provides additional guidance to help determine the appropriate actions to take and provides additional resources.

For additional California Department of Public Health EVD waste related guidance, please visit our website at [CDPH Medical Waste Management Program](https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CEH/DRSEM/Pages/EMB/MedicalWaste/MedicalWaste.aspx) (<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CEH/DRSEM/Pages/EMB/MedicalWaste/MedicalWaste.aspx>).

