

## Medical Waste

**Medical Waste Regulation Act (MWRA) Part 138:** Regulates the generation, storage, treatment and disposal of medical waste.

### **Medical Waste includes:**

- Cultures and stocks of infectious agents (lab waste, discarded live and attenuated vaccines, culture dishes and related devices, biological production wastes)
- Blood and body fluids (contaminated items such as band aids/gauze that can release blood or body fluids when compressed or when dried blood or body fluids can be flaked off)
- Sharps (needles, syringes, scalpels and IV tubing with needles attached)
- Pathological waste (organs, tissues, etc.)
- Contaminated animal waste infectious to humans

**Medical waste does NOT include:** Pharmaceuticals unless they contain live or attenuated vaccines in which case they are considered a mixed waste.

### **Medical Waste Storage:**

- Sharps and syringes must be stored and disposed of in rigid puncture-resistant, leak proof containers labeled with a biohazard symbol
- Other medical waste (soft waste such as band aids/gauze) can be stored and disposed of in an impervious, appropriately labeled closed bag.
- Medical waste may NOT be stored longer than 90 days before being shipped for proper disposal.

**Disposal:** Medical waste is transported and disposed of by a contracted and licensed medical waste disposal company that has been approved by FSU.

**Sharps and syringes may NOT be thrown in the regular trash at FSU.**

**Students living on campus using sharps/syringes for medical reasons:** Puncture resistant containers are supplied to students via the Birkam Health Center for proper storage and disposal.

**Faculty, staff, commuting students and visitors using sharps for medical reasons:** Are requested to properly store and dispose of their personal sharps and syringes as guided by their doctor and pharmacy.

**Producing Facilities:** Locations on campus that produce medical waste as part of a university operation must have a medical waste management plan and properly train their employees per the MIOSHA Bloodborne Pathogen Standard and the MWRA.