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Guidance on Packaging and Treatment of Monkeypox Medical Waste

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In June 2022, the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) released additional guidance on the handling of regulated medical waste (RMW) from suspected or confirmed cases of monkeypox. The USDOT June 2022 guidance can be found at:

<https://www.phmsa.dot.gov/transporting-infectious-substances/planning-guidance-handling-category-solid-waste>.

The previous position of the USDOT was that facilities should hold untreated RMW generated from suspected cases of monkeypox and wait until testing confirms the diagnosis and identifies the clade before disposing of the waste.

However, the USDOT, in conjunction with other Federal partners, has issued new guidance indicating that during the ongoing 2022 multi-national outbreak of West African clade monkeypox, if clinician teams determine that a patient does not have known epidemiological risk for the Congo Basin clade of monkeypox (e.g. history of travel to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Republic of Congo, the Central African Republic, Cameroon, Gabon, or South Sudan in the prior 21 days) it is appropriate to manage waste from suspected monkeypox patients as RMW. If the Congo Basin clade of monkeypox is excluded, medical waste does not have to be held pending clade confirmation and medical waste needs to be packaged, transported, and treated as RMW. The waste must be packaged in accordance with 49 CFR § 173.197, labelled as United Nations (UN) 3291, Regulated medical waste (Monkeypox waste), and treated by incineration or by autoclaving at 121°C/250°F for at least 30 minutes.

However, if epidemiological risk factors indicate a risk for Congo Basin clade, waste should be managed as a Category A infectious substance pending clade confirmation. If testing shows any clades except the West African clade, it needs to be packaged, transported, and treated as Category A waste. The waste must be packaged in accordance with 49 CFR § 173.196, labelled as United Nations (UN) 2814, Infectious substances, affecting humans (Monkeypox waste), and managed as Category A waste.

Additional Information:

New York State Department of Health's Monkeypox Webpage:

<https://health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/zoonoses/monkeypox/>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Monkeypox Webpage:

<https://www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/index.html>

CDC Lab Advisory: Interagency Partners Update Planning Guidance for Disposal and Shipment of Material Suspected to Contain Monkeypox Virus

https://www.cdc.gov/csels/dls/locs/2022/06-21-2022-lab-advisory-interagency_partners_update_planning_guidance_disposal_shipment_material_suspected_contamin_monkeypox_virus.html

U.S. Department of Transportation Planning Guidance for Handling Category A Solid Waste
<https://www.phmsa.dot.gov/transporting-infectious-substances/planning-guidance-handlingcategory-solid-waste>