



Mpox Virus Medical Waste Management Guidelines

October 7, 2024

Mpox Medical Waste Management

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH), Medical Waste Management Program (MWMP) 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 provides general guidance for the management of Mpox (formerly known as monkeypox) contaminated medical waste.

As of March 2024, Clade I and II Mpox contaminated wastes are both classified as Category B infectious substances and there are no additional regulatory handling, marking, storage, transportation, or treatment requirements for medical waste contaminated with mpox (except for Clade I Mpox viral cultures, which remain Category A).

Follow the requirements of the [Medical Waste Management Act 2017](https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CEH/DRSEM/CDPH%20Document%20Library/EMB/MedicalWaste/MedicalWasteManagementAct.pdf) statutes for managing medical waste in California (<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CEH/DRSEM/CDPH%20Document%20Library/EMB/MedicalWaste/MedicalWasteManagementAct.pdf>). Follow the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) regulations for packaging, labeling and offsite transportation of regulated medical waste (RMW). The details of RMW and Category B infectious substances transportation is in the USDOT Hazardous Materials Regulations (HMR) [49 Code of Federal Regulations 173.197](https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-49/subtitle-B/chapter-I/subchapter-C/part-173/subpart-E/section-173.197#173.197) (<https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-49/subtitle-B/chapter-I/subchapter-C/part-173/subpart-E/section-173.197#173.197>)

Exception – Viral Cultures

Medical wastes remain a Category A infectious substance when they contain or are contaminated with cultures of Clade I Mpox (MPXV). See [Safety Advisory Notice: Classification of MPXV Diagnostic Samples and Waste](https://www.phmsa.dot.gov/transporting-infectious-substances/safety-advisory-notice-classification-mpxv-diagnostic-samples) (<https://www.phmsa.dot.gov/transporting-infectious-substances/safety-advisory-notice-classification-mpxv-diagnostic-samples>)

Mpox Virus Medical Waste Management - Interim Guidelines

Specimens identified as Clade I Mpox are also regulated as a select agent—see [Select Agent Regulations | CDC Biosafety Laboratory Guidance for Handling and Processing Mpox Specimens](https://www.cdc.gov/mpox/hcp/laboratories/biosafety.html) (<https://www.cdc.gov/mpox/hcp/laboratories/biosafety.html>) for more information, including waste management.

Facilities treating cultures or waste contaminated with cultures of Clade I Mpox with the purpose of disposal as a solid waste onsite after treatment should contact their Local Enforcement Agency and/or [CDPH, Medical Waste Management Program \(MedicalWaste@cdph.ca.gov\)](mailto:MedicalWaste@cdph.ca.gov) to ensure proper treatment and treatment permitting.