

TML\MSH Microbiology Department Policy & Procedure Manual	Policy # MI\LS\10\02	Page 1 of 2
Section: Laboratory Safety Manual	Subject Title: Disposal of Biological Waste	
Issued by: LABORATORY MANAGER	Original Date: April 20, 2001	
Approved by: Laboratory Director	Revision Date: October 22, 2003	

Policy:

All biological waste shall be collected, separated, packaged, labeled, recorded and disposed of in strict accordance to federal and provincial legislation and the local municipality by-laws. The disposal methods will not pollute air, water, or land.

Purpose:

This policy will prevent risk of infection or injury.

Responsibility:

Management and employees

Key Elements:

- Ensure there is a procedure for both the MSH and St Patrick sites

Procedure: MSH

Place all biological waste (discarded biological specimens, culture media etc.) into double yellow plastic biohazard bags.

Place glass tubes, blood culture bottles etc. into double yellow biohazard bags in designated cardboard boxes that are sealed once filled. Do not overfill. Blood culture boxes should only be half full.

Place all contaminated sharp objects (sharp pipettes, disposable plastic pipette tips, needles, broken glass, etc.) into a designated puncture resistant biohazard sharps container. Do not shear, bend, break or recap needles. Place full biohazard sharps containers into the large plastic collection bin located in the wash-up/sterilization room (Rm 1472).

On weekday mornings the biological waste is collected from all around the microbiology laboratory by designated microbiology personnel. The bags and boxes are put into a large plastic collection bin retrieved from the area just outside of MSH Elevator #3. On weekday evenings housekeeping comes and picks up the large plastic collection bin located in the wash-up/sterilization room. The bins of waste are transported to MSH elevator #3. This elevator has been designated for waste removal. Designated housekeeping personnel then transport the waste down the elevator to the shipping area. The biological waste is picked up by Medical Management Incorporated for autoclaving prior to being sent to a landfill site. Pickup occurs twice a day on weekdays, and once a day on weekends.

Fluid effluent etc. may be disposed of directly into a sanitary sewer line or into a lab sink (NOT a hand-wash sink).

MSDS sheets for bacteria are available for reference.

TML\MSH Microbiology Department Policy & Procedure Manual	Policy # MI\LS\10\v02	Page 2 of 2
Laboratory Safety Manual		

Procedure: St Patrick site

Place all biological waste (discarded biological specimens, vacutainer tubes etc.) into a single yellow plastic biohazard bag in designated discard cardboard boxes. Do not over fill bags. Close bags securely before sealing boxes. Place the sealed boxes in designated areas to await pick up.

Place all contaminated sharp objects (sharp pipettes, disposable plastic pipette tips, needles, broken glass, etc.) into a puncture resistant biohazard sharps container. Do not shear, bend, break or recap needles. Full sharps containers are placed into a single yellow plastic biohazard bag in designated cardboard discard box.

Housecleaning personnel retrieve boxes at the end of each weekday and transport them down to the shipping area. The biological waste is picked up by Stericycle Canada for autoclaving prior to being sent to a landfill site. Pickup occurs Monday, Wednesday and Friday. (416-644-3545)

Fluid effluent from instruments, samples and sample dilutions, and fluids with blood contamination may be disposed of into a laboratory sink (NOT a hand-wash sink) after decontamination with 1% sodium hypochlorite solution.

MSDS sheets for bacteria are available for reference.