



Fact Sheet

Disposal of waste from administering Abbott BinaxNOW Antigen Tests

November 2020

Handling

Per manufacturer's specifications and CDC guidance, waste from BinaxNOW test kits should be handled as regulated medical waste. <https://www.cdc.gov/clia/docs/waived-tests/ready-set-test-booklet.pdf> In South Carolina, waste should be managed in accordance with SC Regulation R.61-105, Infectious Waste Management.

- Any school location administering the Abbott BinaxNOW Rapid Antigen Test must have an infectious waste generator number, regardless of the quantity of waste generated. If a school generates less than 50 pounds of infectious waste per month, there is no fee for the generator number.
- All components of the Abbott BinaxNOW test kit, as well as gloves used by persons administering the test and any grossly contaminated PPE, should be discarded as infectious waste.
- Other waste (i.e. trash, such as test packaging and PPE that is not grossly contaminated) generated during administration of the test can be combined with regular trash for disposal.

Storage and Labeling

Used testing kits and gloves used by persons administering the test should be kept separate from regular trash. Any waste combined with testing kits will also be considered infectious waste. There are specific labeling and packaging requirements for this type of waste.

SCDHEC requires infectious waste be placed in a rigid container that is leak resistant, impervious to moisture, and strong enough to prevent tearing or bursting from handling. Infectious waste may be placed in a red biohazard bag and then placed in a rigid container to meet the packaging requirements.

The container must be marked with the following:

- Biohazard symbol
- Infectious Waste Program Registration Number
- Date the container was placed in storage or sent off-site
- Words INFECTIOUS WASTE (or BIO-HAZARDOUS WASTE or MEDICAL WASTE).

Infectious Waste can be stored as long as it is secured and does not create a nuisance but not to exceed 30 days.

Disposal of Testing Materials

Hiring a South Carolina Licensed Infectious Waste Transporter is strongly recommended to assist with this process and ensure the infectious waste is packaged, transported, disposed of, and tracked appropriately. You should ensure the licensed infectious waste transporter provides containers/packaging to you so that the waste handling will comply with regulatory requirements. Infectious wastes should be kept secure in appropriate containers until pick-up occurs, which should be scheduled at an interval to minimize accumulation of multiple full containers.

Recommended waste disposal plan steps:

1. Make sure the school administering the test has an infectious waste generator number.
2. Contact and contract with a licensed infectious waste transporter for pick-up and disposal of infectious wastes.
3. Get appropriate packaging materials from the contractor for each location that the tests will be administered.
4. Work with the contractor on an appropriate pick-up schedule based on the number of tests the site anticipates using, the size of containers provided, number of testing locations, and any other facility-specific factors.

A school generating less than 50 pounds per month may transport their own infectious waste to a centralized accumulation area within the School District for pick up. If the quantity is greater than 50 pounds per month, a registered transporter is required.

For questions about infectious waste generator number or disposal, please email Lynne Garner at garnerld@dhec.sc.gov.