

SARS-CoV-2 mRNA Vaccine Waste Management

As a member of the Healthcare Waste Institute, Bio-MED Medical Waste Transporters partnered with the industry's top officials to provide general guidance for disposing of waste from COVID vaccine administration. The following represent general recommendations for managing waste from administering the SAR-CoV-2 mRNA vaccine. In general, disposal of SARS-CoV-2 mRNA vaccine related wastes should follow the same processes for other vaccine related wastes.

However, not all states are the same – if a state has more stringent requirements than described below, follow the state laws! In addition, if the CDC or vaccine manufacturer require management different than the guidance below, follow those recommendations.

The following containers should be used for each of the waste products:

Sharps Container		Non-haz Pharmaceutical Container		Red bag/Biohazard Box/Container	
	Used syringes/needles and empty vaccine vials		Remaining doses of vaccine – the SARS-CoV-2mRNA vaccine is not hazardous waste Vials containing residual liquids		Vial trays, unless otherwise specified by vaccine manufacturer Contaminated PPE
Trash		Recycling		Return to Manufacturer	
	Non-contaminated PPE, such as masks, gowns and gloves Non-contaminated items such as cotton balls, alcohol wipes, and bandages		Cardboard packaging unless otherwise specified by vaccine manufacturer		Follow vaccine manufacturer's instructions for return of any shipping materials or tracking devices
Other					
Dry ice should be allowed to sublimate (change from solid to gas) in an open, well-ventilated area. It should be kept in the original container. (Dry ice in an enclosed space can lead to build-up of carbon dioxide which can result in a potential for suffocation).					

Still have questions? We are here to help.

Contact us at Bio-MED Medical Waste Transporters for more information about disposing of vaccine medical waste.



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References:

Pfizer-BioNTech, *Shipping and handling guidelines*, retrieved December 18, 2020. https://www.cvdvaccineus.com/images/pdf/Shipping_and_Handling_Guidelines.pdf

Pfizer-BioNTech, *The S.T.E.P.S. to Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccination*, retrieved December 18, 2020. <https://www.cvdvaccine-us.com/images/pdf/How-ToPrepare-and-Administer-the-Vaccine-Poster.pdf>