



ST. MARY'S *Catholic High School, Dubai*

MEDICAL WASTE STORAGE DISPOSAL POLICY

2026-2027



ST. MARY'S *Catholic High School, Dubai*

Medical waste poses a significant public health threat if they are handled incorrectly. Medical waste in the school clinic can be solids or liquids and generally include, blood and items visibly soiled with blood, items contaminated with body fluids, anatomical waste, sharps (any instrument that is likely to cause a puncture wound or cut to the skin), discarded hazardous chemicals, reagents and toxic or flammable medicines etc.

Medical waste has the capability of transmitting diseases, particularly to the workers who handle this waste and to anyone that is exposed to or may come into contact with it. The complexity of infectious Medical waste and potential risk of blood diseases is a greater risk of contamination through mishandling and unsafe disposal practices.



Guidelines:

1. General:

- Medical waste should not be mixed with non hazardous general waste streams such as waste from meals, offices and medical records. Waste segregation shall take place at the point of generation to effectively reduce the amount of infectious medical and risk of contamination.
- Medical waste should be placed only into either approved medical waste storage bags or sharp containers for collection into the wheeled container trolleys provided by the approved medical waste transporter. Bags having been securely tied, sealed and labelled with the generator's (School's) name should not be re-bagged, except under supervision, in the event of a bag failure.
- The following colour coding for the bags should be used;
- Yellow - All other medical waste.



2. Segregation:

Treatment room must be provided with both a yellow bag and sharps box. Sharps box to be used for the collection of hypodermic needles, syringes, blades and broken glass items contaminated with medical waste.

General waste bags should not be placed in this area.

3. Storage and handling:

- I. Bagged medical waste when labelled should not be stored in the clinic. It must be taken to a dedicated collection point. The collection point should have an impervious hard standing and be of adequate size related to the volume of production and the frequency of collection.
- II. The storage area for the waste awaiting collection, if outside the clinic must be secure and lockable. Access to this storage facility should be limited to those responsible for handling, transporting or disposing of the waste.
- III. Outside the storage facility there must be a biohazard warning sign on the external surface entrance door indicating the presence of healthcare risk waste/ biohazard.
- IV. The school clinic, where waste accumulates in small quantities must ensure that the intervals of collection does not exceed one week.
- V. Bags used to store medical waste must not be filled up more than 80% of its nominal capacity in order to allow effective closure by tying up its neck.
- VI. The sealing of plastic bags can be carried out by tying the neck with a purpose made plastic coated metal wire. Staples must not be used as they may cause tearing-off of the bags or cause injury to the handlers.
- VII. When handling the sharps container heavy duty gloves should be worn and the container picked up only by the handle provided. The other hand should not be used to support the bottom of the container since sharps have been known in some instances to pierce the sides of its containers.
- VIII. Bodily contact with the bags of medical waste should be avoided.
- IX. Personal protective outfits such as overall, mask, disposable gloves or eye protector, need to be worn when engaged in clearing up body fluid especially when there is risk of the worker's skin becoming contaminated.



- X. Basic cleaning tools should be readily available, including disinfectant, granular chlorine compound for blood spillage or suitable equipment and sand available in sealable plastic bags which can be used in the event of any liquid leakage.
- XI. Full course of anti-tetanus, Hep-B disease immunization must be considered for all staff carrying out medical waste handling and disposal operations.

The school has signed a contract with an approved hazardous waste transport company, having vehicles with valid permits from EPSS (Environmental Planning and Studies Section) for medical waste collection and transportation to the DM treatment facility for disposal.

- Contract period - one year.
- Frequency of collection - Once a week.
- Person to be informed in case of any service out of scheduled dates - Mr. Isahak (050-7146961).

Review Date:	August 2026
Next Review Date:	June 2027