



# COVID-19 PANDEMIC, HANDLING WASTE -

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# Introduction

The Solid Waste Sector is considered an essential service.

Increase in the generation of COVID-19 wastes that will require safe handling, collection, transport and final disposal.

Studies have shown that the COVID-19 virus can survive from 2 – 8 hours on aluminum, 4 days on glass, 4 – 5 days on paper, 5 days on plastics, 2 days on wood and 8 hours on clothing.

Waste sector personnel and waste pickers are exposed to significant health risks; this may lead to shortage of personnel to provide services; exacerbated by the lack financial resources.

# IDB Support

## Operations and Maintenance:

- Financing for operational expenses (personnel, equipment..).
- Collection systems (trucks, containers..).
- Construction of final disposal or temporary sites.

## Attention to the health sector and vulnerable groups:

- Financing for portable plants, improvements to existing systems such as incinerators, autoclaves, controlled disposal in landfills, etc...

## Emergency Plans:

- Financing for personal protective equipment for collection crews, cleaning of containers, trucks and cleaning materials, micro-credits for recyclers.
- Communication plans on safe handling of waste.

# At the Household Level

## Communication plan on safe handling of waste:

- Regular households: good hygiene practices; washing and disinfecting bins.
- Households and organizations with confirmed COVID cases and persons on quarantine:
  - ⑩ Contaminated waste such as disposable wipes, napkins, paper towels, etc. should be placed in a separate bag.
  - ⑩ When  $\frac{3}{4}$  full, tie this bag and place it in a second bag, identification is critical.
  - ⑩ In general, all waste treated as COVID-19 waste.

Setting out waste, ensure stray dogs can't access it.

Ongoing customer service and communication to the general public etc.

# Before work starts

Screening:  
temperature,  
fever coughing,  
etc.; > 55 years?

Go through safety  
and hygiene  
measures with  
employee;

Issue PPEs:  
uniform, goggles,  
gloves, face mask  
and boots.

# Collection and transportation

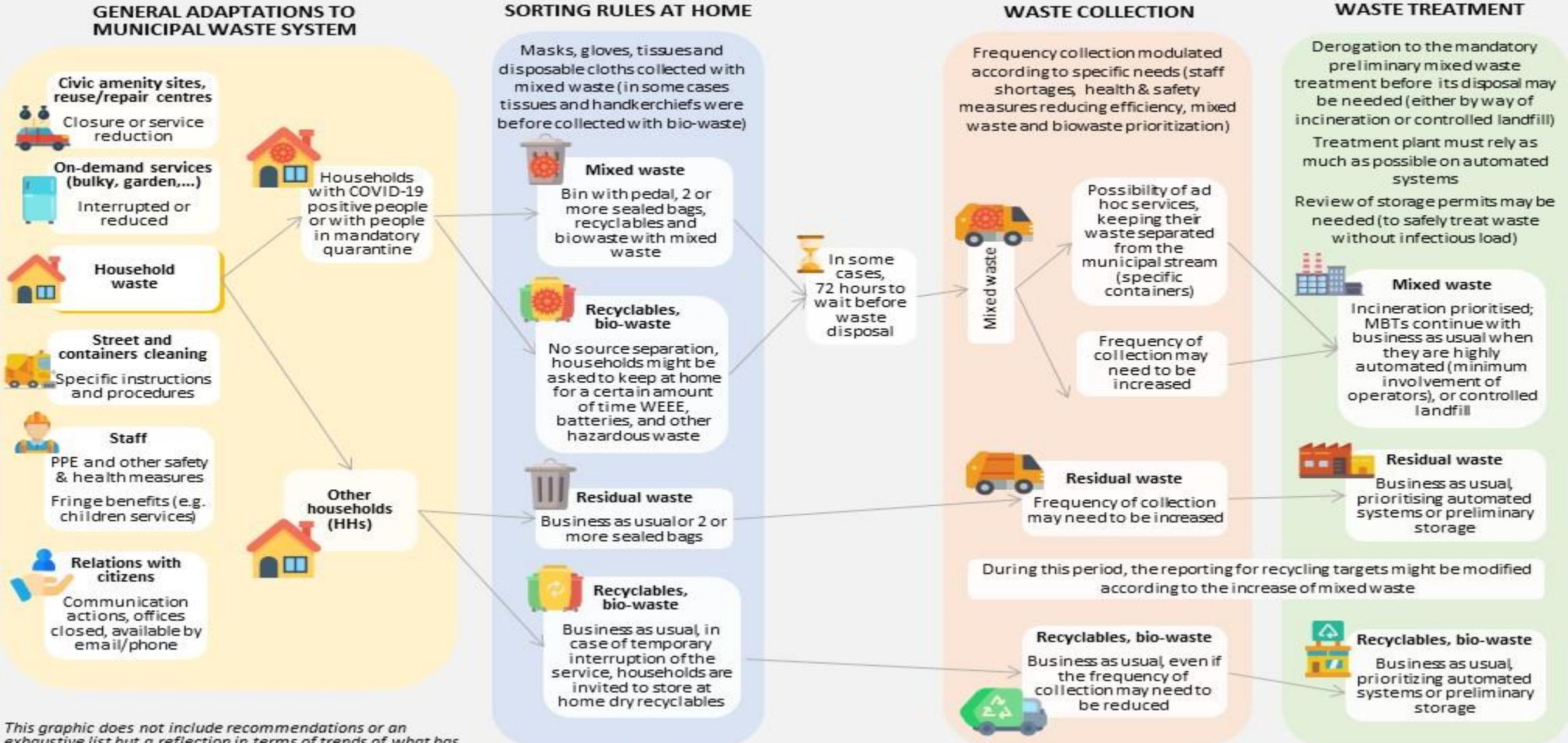
- Disinfect cabins of vehicles and heavy equipment at each change of shift or personnel.
- Collection crews should avoid contact with persons.
- Avoid direct contact with waste, especially at communal dirt boxes.
- Modify routes, collection frequency, shifts, crew size etc.
- MRFs operations should be suspended for the duration of the emergency.
- At end of each day vehicles and containers are to be washed and sanitized.
- At the end of the workday workers should shower and change before leaving for home.
- Transfer stations should be washed down at the end of the day.
- COVID-19 wastes are treated under the same protocols as infectious medical waste.
- COVID-19 waste need special collection in non-compacting vehicle; disinfect bins before loading.

# Final Disposal

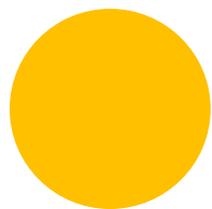
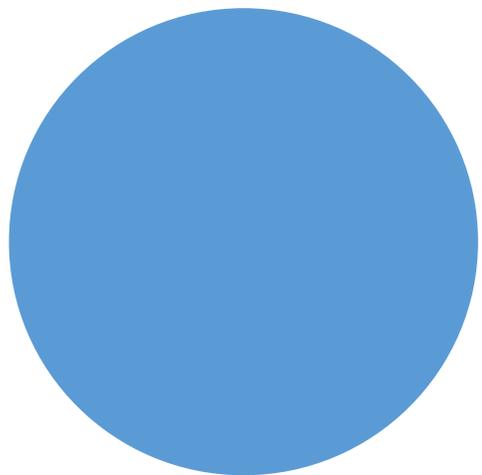
- Weighbridge attendants should use gloves for ticketing.
- Establish a special working face with a trench or pit to co-dispose regular waste coming from zones with hospitals or quarantine areas.
- No waste picking should be permitted.
- Explain to the waste pickers about risks posed by COVID-Pandemic.
- Where possible implement social programs to assist the waste pickers.
- COVID-19 waste should be incinerated, autoclaved etc or disposed in an emergency cell separate from other waste.
- Access should be restricted to the cell and cover material 12” applied at the end of the day.

# Municipal waste management and COVID-19

## Summary of observed trends (March 2020)



*This graphic does not include recommendations or an exhaustive list but a reflection in terms of trends of what has been observed in the practices shared with ACR+*



**THE END**

THANKS

# References

Water, sanitation, hygiene, and waste management for the COVID-19 virus, World Health Organization; March 2020

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