



## Safety Checklist for Solid Waste Facility Operators

From practicing social/physical distancing and wearing the proper personal protective equipment (PPE), to using the right sanitation products to clean surfaces, gear and equipment, these recommended COVID-19 work practices can help solid waste facility operators stay safe on the job.

While this safety checklist focuses on best management practices to protect people who work at, use or have business with solid waste facilities from contracting COVID-19, most of them are practical for everyday activities as well.

### Equipment

- Disposable gloves (nitrile/rubber/latex). Appropriate to wear under puncture-proof work gloves, as applicable to the task. Gloves need to be changed between tasks to not cross-contaminate.
- Mask, commercial or homemade (see “Resources” below). Reusable masks should be washed daily.
- Close fitting eye protection or goggles when working with items that splash or mist. Eye protection for items that have the potential to breakaway and hit you in the face.
- Protective gear such as aprons and waders when conducting activities that involve covering, moving, entering or cleaning large waste containers.
- Suggestion: A second set of clothing, including footwear, to wear home. Do not wear possibly contaminated clothes into your home. Wash the clothing right away.

### Practices

- Number 1 Recommendation:** Implement and adhere to social/physical distancing recommendations for employees and customers – at least six feet (10 feet is preferable).
- Do NOT touch your face or adjust your mask while wearing gloves.
- Do NOT touch your face without thoroughly washing your hands first.
- Wash or replace gloves, masks, and eye protection as often as possible.
- Spray work surfaces with a bleach solution or other EPA-approved disinfectant.
- If an employee is showing symptoms, send them home. The employee may return when they have been cleared by a doctor or after 14 days from when the symptoms last occurred.
- Wash your hands often with warm water and soap, or use hand sanitizer.**

### Interacting with the Public

- Maintain social/physical distancing with employees and customers – at least six feet (10 feet is preferable).
- Remind customers to close all trash bags tightly.
- Advise customers of what goes into recycling bins and what does not. For example, tissues are NOT recyclable.
- Notify** customers of changes in services, such as prohibited public access to offices or swap shops; acceptance procedures of monies for fee-based items; or if specific items are no longer accepted, even if temporarily. Make the notice obvious. Consider using the municipality’s website and signs at the facility.

### Resources

- See “Guidance for Management of Solid Waste During the COVID-19 Pandemic” posted at: <https://www.des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/waste/swmb/documents/messagetoswfoownersandoperators.pdf>
- How long is COVID-19 viable on surfaces? <https://hub.jhu.edu/2020/03/20/sars-cov-2-survive-on-surfaces/>
- CDC guidance for do-it-yourself face masks: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html>

For more information, contact the Solid Waste Management Bureau at [solidwasteinfo@des.nh.gov](mailto:solidwasteinfo@des.nh.gov) or (603) 271-2925.