The West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources (DHHR), Bureau for Public Health (BPH) continues to respond to the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in West Virginia. BPH is working closely with communities, state agencies, local and federal partners to monitor the ongoing risk of COVID-19 and ensure the health and protection of all individuals in West Virginia.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has issued interim guidance including the disposal of used COVID-19 antigen test kits.

**DISPOSAL OF USED COVID-19 ANTIGEN TEST KITS**

- Laboratories and testing sites should treat all waste from suspected or confirmed COVID-19 patient specimens and kit components as infectious medical waste.

**DISPOSAL OF USED HOME COVID-19 ANTIGEN TEST KITS**

- COVID-19 test kits used by individuals in their residential households may dispose the used test kit(s) into the regular solid waste stream.

**FACILITY RISK ASSESSMENT**

- Facilities should also perform a site-specific and activity-specific risk assessment to identify and mitigate risks.
- Risk assessments and mitigation measures depend on several factors:
  - The procedures performed.
  - Identification of the hazards involved in the process and/or procedures.
  - The competency level of the personnel who perform the procedures.
  - The laboratory equipment and facility.
  - The resources available.

**STANDARD PRECAUTIONS**

- Facilities should follow Standard Precautions when handling clinical specimens, all of which may contain potentially infectious materials.
- Facilities should follow routine clinical and laboratory practices and procedures for decontamination of work surfaces and management of clinical and laboratory waste.

**CLEANING AND SANITIZING**

- Use Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) registered disinfectants to sanitize clinical and laboratory areas used for COVID-19 testing. Refer to List N on the EPA website for EPA-registered disinfectants that have qualified under EPA’s emerging viral pathogens program for use against SARS-CoV-2.

**DISPOSAL OF UNUSED COVID-19 ANTIGEN TESTING SUPPLIES**

- Unused COVID-19 test kits are not contaminated and not considered infectious medical waste; however, the test kits do contain reagents that may require disposal in the hazardous waste stream. Facilities should consult with the local Solid Waste Authority or WV Department of Environmental Protection – Water and Waste Division for information on proper disposal of unused COVID-19 antigen test kits.

**ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

- CDC Guidance for Antigen Testing for SARS-CoV-2
- CDC Interim Laboratory Biosafety Guidelines for Handling and Processing Specimens Associated with Coronavirus Disease 2019

Questions and concerns can also be directed to the 24/7, toll-free COVID-19 information hotline: 1-800-887-4304