

## Guidance for Solid Waste Operators and Haulers

March 3, 2020

We have received inquiries from solid waste operators in King County on how they should adjust their operations because of the recent cases of COVID-19 (coronavirus) in King County.

Current guidance from Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) regarding potential worker exposure to COVID-19 during solid waste management is indicating that the risk is low due to how the waste is consolidated, the current understanding so far as to how COVID-19 is transmitted, and the existing personal protective equipment (PPE) required by solid waste workers that includes safety glasses and heavy duty gloves.

Public Health's Solid Waste program recommends taking the following steps when handling bagged solid waste from all healthcare facilities:

- Ensure PPE is worn at all times when handling solid waste.
- Notify the transfer stations when loads from healthcare facilities are picked up prior to arriving to the station (additional instructions may be required by the receiving station at their discretion).
- Do not touch your face.
- Wash your hands frequently when possible or use alcohol-based sanitizer as an alternative if handwashing is not available.
- Do not come to work if you feel sick.
- Please see the links below for the websites for additional information on transmission and control and prevention for solid waste workers.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/transmission.html>

<https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/covid-19/controlprevention.html#solidwaste>

Thank you again for your inquiry and please let me know if you have additional questions.