



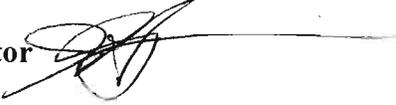
CITY OF PORTLAND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES



1120 SW Fifth Avenue, Room 1000, Portland, Oregon 97204 ■ Nick Fish, Commissioner ■ Dean Marriott, Director

DATE: October 20, 2014

TO: All Hospitals discharging to the City of Portland Sanitary System

FROM: Jim Hagerman, Interim Director 

RE: Acceptance of Ebola Contaminated Waste into the City Sanitary System

With the recent cases of transmittal of the Ebola virus in the United States, hospitals are establishing protocols to deal with patients that are or suspected to be infected with the virus. Portland hospitals have requested BES policy on discharging Ebola contaminated or potentially contaminated waste to the City sanitary sewer system.

Both the US Center for Disease Control and the World Health Organization are providing guidance to health care facilities that it is safe to discharge contaminated waste (vomit, urine, feces) because the virus is not expected to survive outside of its host for long and wastewater treatment facilities are designed to inactivate infectious agents. However, the wastewater industry leaders, such as Water Environment Research Foundation, have indicated that there is very limited data specifically about survival of the Ebola virus in wastewater and municipalities collection systems.

Due to the uncertain survival of the Ebola virus in the sanitary collection system, the City has developed the following policy to accept Ebola contaminated wastewater with the primary goal of protecting the health and safety of City employees, contractors, and the general public.

The following policy has been developed under existing guidance currently available. The policy will be updated as more information becomes available.

POLICY:

Portland's Bureau of Environment Services (BES) is establishing this policy to ensure that its employees and the Public Health are protected in the event a hospital must dispose of waste contaminated or potentially contaminated with the Ebola virus. Discharge of this wastewater is authorized to the sanitary sewer system under the following conditions.

1. As soon as the hospital notifies Oregon Public Health that it has a suspected or known Ebola case, the hospital **must also immediately notify BES by calling the 24/7 Duty Officer at 503-823-7180.**

- a. The BES Duty Officer will send an immediate alert to all City Maintenance personnel notifying them of the potential discharge and the potential exposure to the virus in the sanitary sewer system or wastewater treatment plant.
2. This discharge authorization only applies to bodily fluids that sanitary sewer system are designed to collect and treat; urine, feces, and vomit. Soiled items including cloths, clothes, dressings, etc. are **strictly prohibited** from being discharged to the sanitary sewer system.
3. Prior to discharge to the sanitary sewer system the wastewater must be chlorinated with the proper dose of bleach, or other suitable disinfectant, and an exposure time that ensures de-activation of the virus. The health care facility must consider the amount of organic matter in the patient's waste when determining the proper dose of the disinfectant.

Any questions concerning this Policy or other waste stream's compatibility with sanitary sewer systems should be directed to Dan Parnell, Industrial Permitting Program Manager at 503-823-7568.