



# General Waste Disposal Guidance for Operation of Rural Alaska Landfills and Other Waste Facilities



## Changing practices!

The less people touching shared surfaces the better, and the less people together the better. If you can:

**Don't allow people at, or in, the dump.**  
Change to either regular house to house collection or will-call.

If that isn't possible, **post clear signs**, staff the landfill, shed, or other facility when possible, and



- ◆ Reduce the shared surfaces that multiple residents might touch.
- ◆ Change operations so that residents are more than 6 feet from the operator and each other.
- ◆ Consider requiring cloth face coverings at the waste disposal facilities.

If you must have self-haul, **switch to all drop-off program** to make it easy for your waste workers to **stay safe**. Then they won't need to wipe off surface dozens of times each day. Ask folks to **drop off neatly closed-up and tied trash bags at a marked-off location** – one at a time – **waiting in line more than 6 feet away from each other**. A sign or an operator should clearly direct where to place the bags. **Landfill staff should collect those bags each day and** place the waste as normal.



**Enforce the one person per family and no kids rule** – Household/business self-hauling should be the same person each time and it should **not** be a child. **No children or babies, ever**. If there is no one to care for them, arrange to collect that household's garbage.

**Stop salvaging.** Until this virus concern is over, tell people to wait. If they need to salvage for a vehicle part, have them schedule a time. Make sure your community knows what special hours or changes you make. Make sure they are ready to keep the 6-foot rule and to not touch what they don't need to.



**Backhaul, Reuse, and Compost Programs. Good news!**-- unlike household trash -- most special wastes like household batteries, spent electronics, cans, etc. are not dangerous for folks to hang onto for a few months.



- ◆ **Pause drop-off programs or switch to will-call if you have the storage space.** If the drop-off is indoors, such as a shed or connex, there is still a risk of virus spread even if you enforce the 1-person at a time rule. And it is hard to avoid more than one household at a time dropping off materials.
- ◆ **Outsider contact brings some risk.** If you choose to continue backhaul, stay far away from any barge or plane crew. Exchange paperwork and materials by placing on the ground. Ask them to they use a face covering and take extra care at disinfecting anything they touch, such as clipboards, pens, and equipment.
- ◆ **Provide disposal options** that will work for dangerous waste. **Used oil** should not be stored at homes for example. Indoor fumes can be hazardous and oil can leak onto ground. Cracked batteries can leach lead on the ground and kids can be exposed if stored around homes or Arctic entries. Provide drop-off hours for these types of wastes if you can't collect them.



**Still Sanitize!** Even if you've asked residents to not use sheds and facilities by themselves, it is likely someone will try. Waste worker/operators should wipe all shared surfaces after touching them, or after a resident touches them. This includes **Handles and Lips of Totes, Gates, Locks, Connex Doors, Hoppers, Burnboxes, Trash Carts, Steering Wheels of Shared-Use Vehicles, and Door Handles for Enclosed Vehicles.**