

Recycling and Solid Waste Information for Municipal Officials on COVID-19

On March 10, 2020, Governor Baker declared a State of Emergency to support the Commonwealth's response to COVID 19. Since then, the Baker Administration has issued a number of additional Emergency Orders and guidance to support and inform this response. This document gathers together all of the guidance relative to solid waste and recycling issues for municipal officials. The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) will continue to update this document and these resources as new information becomes available. If you have questions that are not addressed through this guidance, please contact Brooke Nash at brooke.nash@mass.gov.

Solid Waste and Recycling Essential Services Designation

Governor Charlie Baker [issued an emergency order](#), which was extended, requiring all businesses and organizations that do not provide "COVID-19 Essential Services" to close their physical workplaces and facilities to workers, customers and the public as of Tuesday, March 24th at noon until Monday May 4th at noon. Essential Services included the support to ensure the effective removal, storage, and disposal of residential and commercial solid waste and hazardous waste. This includes all activities related to the handling of waste materials for recycling, composting or disposal. Questions pertaining to whether an certain activity is considered an "Essential Service" should be directed to the Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development utilizing the form provided here <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-essential-services-faqs>.

Solid Waste Management & COVID-19

MassDEP is providing the links below for companies and workers who collect, transport, and dispose of solid waste from households, businesses, and institutions. As information on COVID-19 evolves, MassDEP will continue to engage with the solid waste industry and provide additional guidance.

[National Waste & Recycling Association: COVID-19 FAQ](#)

[Solid Waste Association of North America: Guidance on COVID-19](#)

[U.S. Occupational Safety & Health Administration: COVID-19 Control & Prevention](#)

MassDEP Solid Waste Facility COVID-19 Contacts

MassDEP wants to remind recycling facilities, transfer stations, landfills and municipal waste combustion operations to report any issues or problems that may impact operations. MassDEP can work collaboratively and provide authorizations to facilities to ensure adequate capacity exists to manage these materials. This would include adjustments in operating hours, daily/annual capacities, storage limits, waste ban waivers and any other operations concerns or issues. Approvals from MassDEP must be received prior to any alterations of activities. Below are the appropriate contacts. All staff are checking voice-mail and email regularly.

Waste Ban Waivers

John Fischer – john.fischer@mass.gov 857-488-0012

Joshua Cook – Joshua.cook@mass.gov 617-292-5619

Sean Sylver – sean.sylver@mass.gov 617-292-5747

Regional Solid Waste Section Chiefs – contacts below

Solid Waste Facility Operational Issues – Contact Regional Solid Waste Section Chief

Northeast	Mark Fairbrother	mark.fairbrother@mass.gov	978-694-3298
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Southeast	Mark Dakers	mark.dakers@mass.gov	508-946-2847
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Central	James McQuade	james.mcquade@mass.gov	508-767-2759
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Western	Dan Hall	daniel.hall@mass.gov	413-755-2212
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Municipal Assistance Coordinators

Municipal Assistance Coordinators (MACs) provide technical assistance on waste reduction and recycling to geographically-based groups of towns and cities. To find the MAC who serves your community, check the map and district listings available [here](#).

COVID-19

A number of emergency orders related to solid waste management have been issued by the Baker Administration to ensure continued operation of the solid waste and recycling collection infrastructure and curtail certain activities that could increase transmission of the Covid-19 virus. Below are links to the emergency orders.

[All MassDEP Solid Waste and Recycling Guidance relative to COVID-19](#)

[COVID-19 Essential Services \(including solid waste and recycling collection and facilities\)](#)

[COVID-19 Order to Ensure Continuity of Waste & Recycling Collection](#)

[COVID-19 Information for the Solid Waste Management Industry](#)

[COVID-19 News: Massachusetts Temporarily Suspends Bottle Redemption Enforcement](#)

[COVID-19 Order for Grocery Stores & Pharmacies \(including temporary prohibition on reusable shopping bags\)](#)

[All Massachusetts COVID-19 Guidance & Directives](#)