Procedure to Dispose of Drake Autoclaved Waste

Drake University generates waste that is autoclaved to assure that any biological pathogens present are destroyed through the heat/pressure process. This waste is generated throughout campus and specifically in the following area: Chemistry, Psychology, Physics, Biology and Pharmacy. This waste does not meet the definition of hazardous waste and is not required to be managed through a TSDF facility. To assure that all Drake staff, faculty and students are protected from potential injury/cuts by these materials, however, they will be collected and managed as Autoclaved Waste. This includes management of items including, but not limited to: glassware, petri dishes, tubes containing bacterial cultures, PPE/gloves, contaminated disposable lab ware, and pipette tips. To properly manage this material:

1. **Identify waste chemicals for disposal.** This includes such items as glassware, petri dishes, tubes containing bacterial cultures, PPE/gloves, contaminated disposable lab ware, and pipette tips. This does NOT include large quantities (>50ml) of autoclaved liquids or broth formulations. Large quantities of autoclaved, non-hazardous liquids should be managed as Non-hazardous Liquid waste. For information on ineligible waste management, contact Becky Andersen, Director EHS (515-210-1293).

2. **Autoclave items** following procedures for appropriate autoclaving exactly according to instructions and place autoclave indicator tape on the containers to assure temperatures/pressures reached are adequate to destroy all pathogens. As an alternative to autoclave tape, you may also use indicator autoclave bags. Do NOT use red biohazardous bags. The purpose of autoclaving is to destroy any threat of biohazardous material and if autoclaving will not meet this goal then the material must not be managed as “Autoclaved Waste” but must continue to be managed as Biohazardous Waste.

3. **Collect waste** in the EHS provided sturdy cardboard boxes with plastic liners. Do not over-fill container.

4. **Complete the Qualtrics form** documenting quantity, type of waste and where the waste is located.

5. **Submit the form to EHS** so that a pickup of the waste can be scheduled.

6. **Request a new container** so that EHS can bring a replacement at the time disposal occurs.

7. **Ask for guidance** from EHS if you have any questions or concerns. For emergent situations where large quantities of autoclaved waste require disposal, contact EHS for assistance at 515-271-3804.