



To: Healthcare Providers
From: Ohio Department of Health
Date: May 10, 2021
Re: COVID-19 Specimen Collection Kits

Many unused specimen collection kits distributed throughout Ohio have either expired or will soon reach their expiration date. Therefore, the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) is making the following recommendations for the disposal of these unused materials:

- **It is permissible to discard unused Viral Transport Media (VTM) as regular trash.***
- **It is permissible to discard unused swabs as regular trash.***

**Not managed as infectious waste per Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA), see below.*

A memo dated May 6, 2021, from the OEPA indicates expired VTM (Viral Transport Media) disposable samplers do not need to be managed as infectious waste, as there is no reasonable expectation of the presence of an infectious agent. Therefore, the materials noted above are being disposed of because they are unused and past the expiration date provided by the manufacturer.

In addition, ODH will not be accepting returns of unused expired or expiring COVID-19 specimen collection kits or ancillary testing materials.

To replenish expired supplies or for ongoing COVID-19 testing needs, please submit a standard resource request through your local emergency management agency for additional supplies.