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It is important to comply with the measures announced by the Coronavirus Scientific Board and the relevant institutions / organizations in the battle against the coronavirus (Covid-19) epidemic faced by our country. In line with the measures taken all over the country, proper management of wastes, in particular masks, gloves and other personal hygiene material wastes, of which amount is rapidly increasing in daily life, should be ensured.

In this context, it is important to pay attention to obey the following rules in the process of accumulation, temporary storage, collection and transportation of disposable personal masks and gloves and other hygiene materials wastes:

1. In public buildings, institutions, organizations and enterprises;
 - a. In order to collect masks, gloves and other personal hygiene material wastes separately, accumulation container should be placed in building entrances and exits as well as on the floors where communal areas are located.
 - b. The container used for these wastes should be gray or gray-labeled, such as the “other waste/rest” container, and a label indicating “only for masks, gloves and other personal hygiene material waste” should be placed.
 - c. It should be ensured that these wastes are collected separately and transported to the “temporary storage area“ and the necessary cleaning process is carried out in a controlled manner by the dedicated staff member.
 - d. Waste accumulation, collection, transportation and storage containers and equipments should be kept closed in order to prevent external interventions.
 - e. A bag should be inserted into the container in order to be taken easily and without touching the wastes.
 - f. Waste bags should not be opened, mixed. Small amounts of wastes should not be combined by opening the bags.
 - g. When three quarter of the waste bag is full, the bag should be closed tightly and taken into the “second bag” and carried to the temporary storage area by the dedicated staff member.
 - h. In temporary storage area, wastes should not be exposed to direct sunlight. Temporary storage areas should be far from communal areas such as building entry-exit, parking lots and pavements, food storage, preparation and sales areas and should always be kept closed to prevent entrance of animal / vermin.
 - i. After these wastes are kept in temporary storage areas for “at least 72 hours”, they should be delivered to the municipality to be managed as domestic waste.

2. Waste arising from the quarantine (isolation) units of healthcare institutions or other dedicated isolation areas (such as student dormitories, etc.) should be managed as “medical waste” and should not be mixed with other wastes.

3. Disposable masks, gloves, wipes, personal hygiene supplies arising from households, small shops and commercials should be accumulated in plastic tear-resistant garbage bags, tightly closed and placed in a “second bag” to avoid the risk of rupture. Waste bags should be kept in a room or balcony away from other people or animals for “at least 72 hours” to minimize the chance of survival of the virus on waste. The waste should be placed shortly before the waste collection hour and should be delivered to the municipality to be managed as domestic waste.

4. Individual rules and instructions announced by the municipalities regarding the collection and delivery of masks, gloves and other personal hygiene material waste should also be obeyed.

5. The containers/equipments used for collection, transportation and storage operations and the areas where those containers/equipments located should be disinfected after each waste discharge. The containers/equipments should not be used for other purposes.

6. Precautions should be taken for spills and/or leakage that may occur during collection, transportation and storage, and in case of contamination, the contaminated surface should be disinfected by using lime, bleach, disinfectants etc.

7. Collected waste bags should be disposed by incineration or landfill without being opened.

8. It should be ensured that the staff in charge of collection, transportation, treatment and disposal of the wastes, use the personal protective equipment such as gloves and masks, be careful not to contact directly with waste, and wear special protective clothes. It should also be ensured that the staff have sufficient disinfectant and equipped with hygienic equipments and personal materials.

In order to prevent possible risks that may arise from waste management during the pandemic Covid-19 outbreak in our country; above-mentioned issues should be considered with precision.

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Minister

CC:

-Provincial Directorates

-Ministries