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**INTERIM GUIDANCE ON THE SAFE DISPOSAL OF
EBOLA PATIENT WASTE IN SANITARY SEWERS**
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In response to questions about the safe disposal of Ebola patient waste in sanitary sewer systems, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) issues the following interim guidance to municipalities, wastewater treatment facilities and the public:

- Interim guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) states that “sanitary sewers may be used for the safe disposal of Ebola patient waste. Sewage handling processes (e.g., anaerobic digestion, composting, and disinfection) in the United States are designed to inactivate infectious agents.”
- Some municipalities have asked DHS about additional precautions that can be taken to protect workers who have contact with wastewater before it reaches a wastewater treatment plant. In order to provide an additional layer of protection, DHS recommends pre-treatment of Ebola patient waste in a toilet bowl with one cup of bleach for at least five minutes prior to flushing. Pre-treatment of Ebola patient waste should only be done by individuals wearing appropriate personal protective equipment:
<http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/hcp/infection-prevention-and-control-recommendations.html>.
- Wastewater utility workers by the nature of their work are likely aware of the risk that pathogens in sewage pose and already take appropriate care to practice sound hygiene when handling sewage at any point in the treatment process. Nonetheless, to ensure worker safety, proper hygiene practices should be regularly reviewed as part of worker health and safety training.