



PICTOU COUNTY SOLID WASTE

Pictou County Solid Waste Management COVID-19 Service Update

Regular curbside residential waste and recyclables collection will not be affected.

Pictou County, April 30, 2020 – Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and to ensure the safety of both the public and our staff, Pictou County has been required to make **temporary** changes to the way in which materials placed into blue bags for recycling are handled. During this unprecedented time, and for the health and safety of staff and residents, it may be necessary to temporarily dispose of some recyclable material in the Guysborough landfill.

This comes as a result of the Colchester Materials Recovery Facility in Kemptown temporarily ceasing to process blue bag recyclables as a result of the public health guidelines issued by the Province of Nova Scotia for worksites which requires workers to be spaced six feet in distance. Workers in recycling facilities are also required to wear N95 masks to protect their lungs. During this time, we want to ensure that these masks are available for front line health care workers and do not want to impact supply.

Regular curbside residential waste and recyclables collection schedules will be unaffected. We ask that you continue to sort as per usual and that household waste continue to be placed curbside according to your existing collection schedule. If changes are required to your residential curbside waste collection, we will advise residents at that time.

Additionally, until further notice, the waste management site at 220 Landfill Road, Mount William, will only be operating during the following hours: **Monday to Friday from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. The site will be CLOSED on Saturdays.**

Residents are reminded that, following the advice from Nova Scotia's and Canada's Chief Medical Officers, they should **refrain from visiting the waste management site.** Pictou County Solid Waste Management is making significant operational changes to limit contact between staff and the public in order to keep our community safe. If your situation is urgent and you must come to our site, we ask that you pay with debit or credit until further notice, where possible.

Once again, **regular curbside residential waste and recyclables collection will not be affected by these changes.** We thank you for your patience and understanding in these difficult times and will endeavor to keep residents of the Pictou County informed of any operational changes as necessary.

Q&A

- *Will I still have to sort my waste for collection?*
 - Pictou County Solid Waste requires all residents continue to sort their waste as usual and set it out according to your regular schedule. This will ensure that once we are able to return to processing blue bag recyclables as usual, your material will be ready for recycling and you won't be off your routine.
- *What will happen to the Blue Bag Recyclables?*
 - As a last resort, some of the blue bag recyclables collected curbside will have to be temporarily landfilled. This is a necessary step to maintain the safety of both the public and the operations staff and to ensure that our critical waste services can remain in operation throughout this challenging time.
- *Will this affect the way that I sort my waste?*
 - No. As there is always a risk of exposure with the collection crews and the staff that we will have on site, and to make it simpler for residents, we ask that any material used while sick, like tissues, masks, and sanitizing wipes should go in the clear bag. Please ensure bags are tightly tied when placed at the curb.
- *How long will this be in effect?*
 - At this time, Pictou County Solid Waste is unsure of how long these precautions will be in effect. We will monitor the situation and the regular processing of blue bag recyclables will resume as soon as the pandemic has passed and the processing of recyclables resumes in Colchester.
- *Will my waste collection be affected?*
 - **NO.** Regular waste collection will not be affected by these operational changes. All residents are advised to continue sorting and putting their waste out for collection as usual.

Don't worry! As long as you continue to sort and you put your waste out following your collection schedule, **materials will be picked up**. The limits for collection remain the same. You can place up to four garbage bags (1 black bag and 3 clear bags), one green cart, as well as unlimited blue bag recyclables out each collection day.

Pictou County and Nova Scotia residents are known as being world leaders in waste diversion. We look forward to returning to normal operations as soon as possible following this unprecedented time.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact Pictou County Solid Waste at 902-396-1495, info@pcssa.ca or www.pcwastemgmt.com. You can also download the FREE Pictou County Solid Waste App and follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram for regular updates.

We thank you for your patience and understanding during this difficult time.