From TDEC Solid Waste Management (3/19/2020)
https://www.tn.gov/environment/program-areas/sw-solid-waste.html

How to Handle Household COVID-19 Waste

- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has determined that medical waste generated within households from COVID-19 patients can be managed in accordance with routine procedures for household generated medical waste and associated waste. Generally, this waste, if generated by a household, should be placed in a segregated lined container and disposed of with normal municipal solid waste. All other regulated medical waste generated from health care agencies are subject to normal State medical waste regulations.

From the Solid Waste Association of North America (March 6th, 2020)
https://swana.org/initiatives/guidance-on-coronavirus-(covid-19)

Control and Prevention for Solid Waste Management Workers and Employers

- At this time, no special precautions to protect waste workers from COVID-19 are recommended when handling municipal solid waste. Continue to use those precautions already in place to protect workers from the hazards they encounter during their routine job tasks. Medical waste suspected or known to be contaminated with COVID-19 should be handled like other regulated medical waste. (COVID-19 is not a Category A infectious substance.)

- Use approved engineering and administrative controls, safe work practices, and PPE to prevent worker exposure to medical waste, including sharps and other items that can cause injuries or exposures to infectious materials.

From the US Department of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health Administration (March 19th, 2020)
https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/covid-19/controlprevention.html

Control and Prevention

- Measures for protecting workers from exposure to, and infection with, the novel coronavirus, COVID-19 depend on the type of work being performed and exposure risk, including potential for interaction with infectious people and contamination of the work environment. Employers should adapt infection control strategies based on a thorough hazard assessment, using appropriate combinations of engineering and administrative controls, safe work practices, and personal protective equipment (PPE) to prevent worker exposure.

General guidance for all U.S. workers and employers

For all workers, regardless of specific exposure risks, it is always a good practice to:

- Frequently wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. When soap and running water are unavailable, use an alcohol-based hand rub with at least 60% alcohol. Always wash hands that are visibly soiled.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
Solid Waste and Wastewater Management

This section provides guidance for solid waste and wastewater management workers and employers. This guidance supplements the general, interim guidance for U.S. workers and employers of workers with potential occupational exposures to COVID-19, above. Generally, management of waste that is suspected or known to contain or be contaminated with COVID-19 does not require special precautions beyond those already used to protect workers from the hazards they encounter during their routine job tasks in solid waste and wastewater management. Some state, local, tribal and/or territorial health or environmental department(s) may have different or additional requirements for managing solid waste and wastewater.

Municipal Waste

Workers and employers should manage municipal (e.g., household, business) solid waste with potential or known COVID-19 contamination like any other non-contaminated municipal waste. Use typical engineering and administrative controls, safe work practices, and PPE, such as puncture-resistant gloves and face and eye protection, to prevent worker exposure to the waste streams (or types of wastes), including any contaminants in the materials, they manage. Such measures can help protect workers from sharps and other items that can cause injuries or exposures to infectious materials.

COVID-19 is a recordable illness, per OSHA. And it is being called a recognized workplace hazard, which is important to know for your employee communications.

Additional Information

http://tn211.mycommunitypt.com/

Information on COVID-19 is still developing, therefore, these FAQs are subject to change.