



COVID-19 Response

Miami-Dade County
Department of Solid Waste Management

SWANA Florida 2022 Winter Conference

Miami-Dade County COVID-19 State of Emergency

- Former Miami-Dade County Mayor Carlos Gimenez declared a local state of emergency on March 12, 2020
- Miami-Dade County non-essential businesses were instructed to close to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus
- Essential businesses and services, such as waste services, were permitted to continue to operate while undertaking certain safety protocols



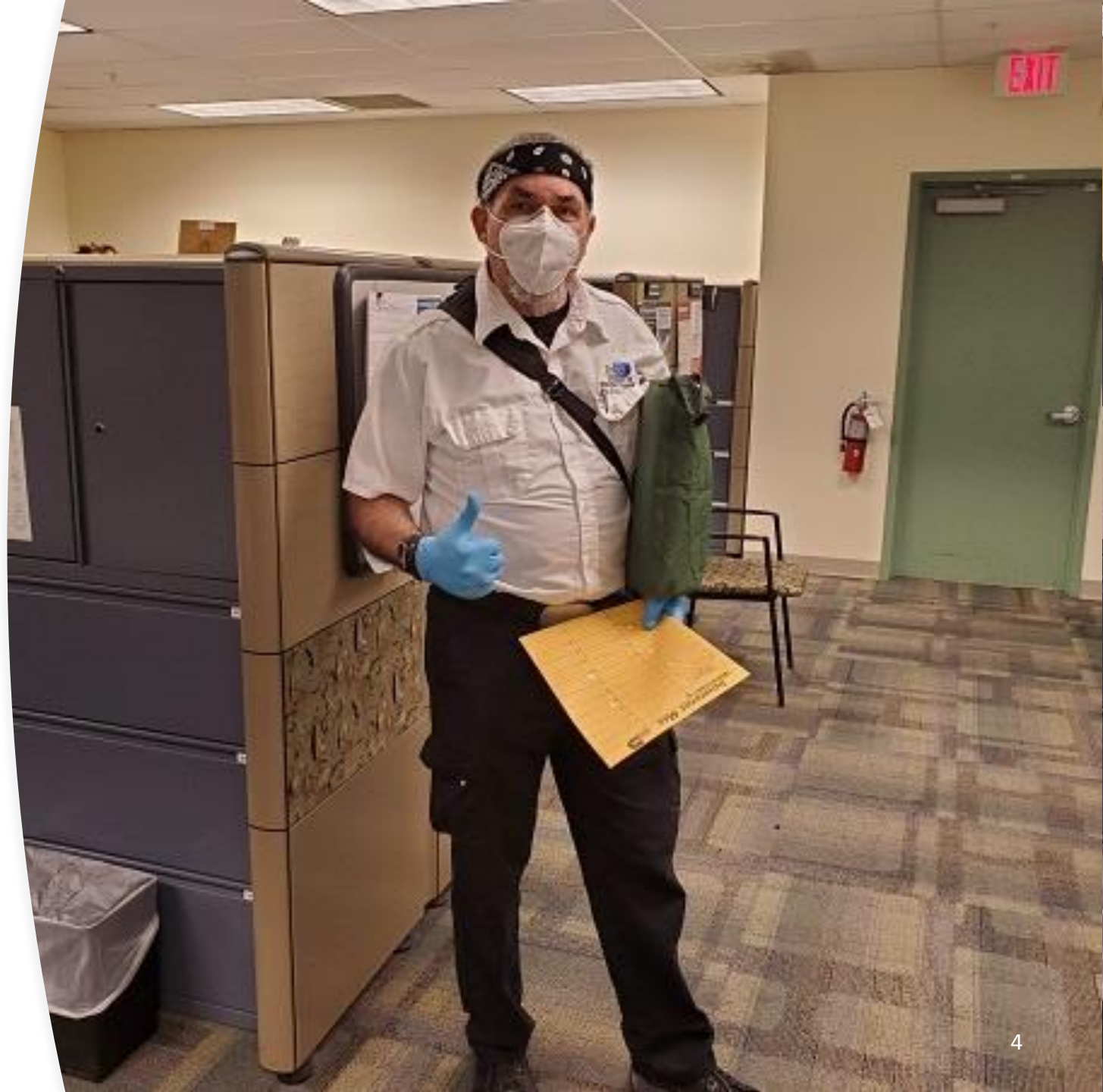
Miami-Dade County Department of Solid Waste Management's Operations During the Pandemic

- Waste and recycling operations continued for the department's 350,000+ residential waste service customers
- All of the department's disposal facilities remained open and observed normal operating hours
 - North Dade and South Dade Landfills
 - Resources Recovery Facility
 - Regional Transfer Stations
 - 13 Trash and Recycling Centers
 - Two Home Chemical Collection Centers
- Mosquito Control continued normal operations



Miami-Dade County Department of Solid Waste Management's Safety Protocols

- All essential staff provided with personal protective equipment (PPE)
 - Face masks
 - Gloves
 - Sanitizer
 - Disinfectant
- All equipment and workspaces disinfected regularly
- Social distancing in the workplace and in the field enforced
- Non-essential staff provided the opportunity to work from home



Miami-Dade County Department of Solid Waste Management's Safety Protocols – Disposal Sites

- All persons visiting the Department of Solid Waste Management's Disposal Facilities were required to wear a facial covering or mask:
 - Neighborhood Trash and Recycling Centers (TRCs)
 - Home Chemical Collections Centers
 - Transfer Stations
 - Landfills
 - Resources Recovery Facility
- Gloves are recommended but not required
- Current guidance for customers:
 - Masks strongly encouraged outdoors
 - Masks required indoors



Miami-Dade County Department of Solid Waste Management's Safety Protocols – Disposal Sites

- Patrons utilizing the TRCs or Home Chemical Collection Centers must keep their vehicle's windows closed when entering the facilities.
 - Attendants at the facilities scan visitors' Florida Driver's License or Identification Card through the vehicle's window glass.
- Home Chemical Collection Centers remain open for service
 - Patrons of the Home Chemical Collection Centers are asked to remain in their cars and open their trunks or door(s) as necessary for Center staff to remove home chemical items.
 - Chem-Again program was suspended; recently reinstated.



Miami-Dade County Department of Solid Waste Management's Safety Protocols – Collections Division

- Every morning, several employees are in by 5:30 a.m. to sanitize and disinfect each garbage and trash truck
- Every truck has been equipped with sanitizing wipes for continuous sanitizing
- Every building is sanitized daily, including
 - Door handles
 - Door jams
 - Desktop surfaces
 - Bathrooms
 - All entrances



Miami-Dade County Department of Solid Waste Management's Safety Protocols – Collections Division (cont.)

- All common areas are closed
 - Prevent congregating
- All waste attendants wear:
 - Gloves
 - Masks
 - Safety glasses
- All roll-off drivers are not allowed to exit their truck except to dump a load or secure a load
- All Collections Division locations (all TRC's, 3A, 3B, 58th, and South Dade) are stocked with:
 - Hand soap
 - Paper towels
 - Tissue paper



Miami-Dade County Department of Solid Waste Management's Safety Protocols – Disposal Divisions (Landfill & Transfer)

- All heavy equipment cabins have a disinfectant spray can
 - Operators are disinfecting the equipment at least three (3) or more times a day.
- All Waste Attendant 1's continuously wipe down:
 - Doorknobs
 - Refrigerator handles
 - Water faucets
- Waste Attendant 1's are wearing gloves at all times while performing janitorial duties:
 - Keeping soap dispensers filled
 - Replenishing paper towels



Miami-Dade County Department of Solid Waste Management's Safety Protocols – Enforcement Division

- Waste Enforcement Officers limit person-to-person interactions with residents.
 - Utilize door hangers
 - Provide callback numbers and/or email when necessary.
- Warning notices are mailed instead of being posted
- Permit applications have been revised
 - Encourages applicants to refrain from going into the office to submit documentation
 - Permit applications accepted online or by mail



Miami-Dade County Department of Solid Waste Management's Safety Protocols – Mosquito Control and Habitat Management Division

- All locations are sanitized on a daily basis and throughout the day.
 - Sanitizing supplies provided to all staff
- Office and Laboratory staff have been separated
 - Those that can work from home have been assigned to do so
- Inspectors are inspecting only the main home for Service Requests
 - Not surrounding properties



Miami-Dade County Department of Solid Waste Management COVID-19 Budget Considerations

COVID-19 Impact to Miami-Dade County DSWM	
Estimated Summary of Additional Expenditures	March 2020 – December 2021
Disposal Charges	\$14,000,000
Personnel Cost	\$7,500,000
PPE	\$300,000
Other	\$5,400,000
Total	\$27,200,000



Miami-Dade County Department of Solid Waste Management COVID-19 Outreach

- The Department of Solid Waste Management prides itself on being a member of the community it serves
- Community requests were fulfilled while following all safety and social distancing guidelines
 - Birthday parades
 - School end-of-year parade
 - Virtual webinars and presentations
- Site visits by:
 - Senior Leadership
 - Union Representatives
 - Elected Officials
- Community generosity towards staff
 - Volunteer Groups (care packages)
 - Customers (meals)





Miami-Dade County Department of Solid Waste Management Omicron Variant Challenges

- The Omicron COVID-19 variant is posing more challenges now than at any other time during the pandemic
- Staff absences have resulted in open routes and service delays
 - Incomplete or unserviced routes are serviced the next day
- Communication to customers and stakeholders has been key
 - Daily communication via social media, email, website and 311 Contact Center



Miami-Dade County Department of Solid Waste Management COVID-19 Lessons Learned

- Be prepared to make solid decisions on the fly;
- Be proactive by purchasing and reserving necessary PPE;
- Be prepared for opposition & resistance; and
- Plan early for contingencies.





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