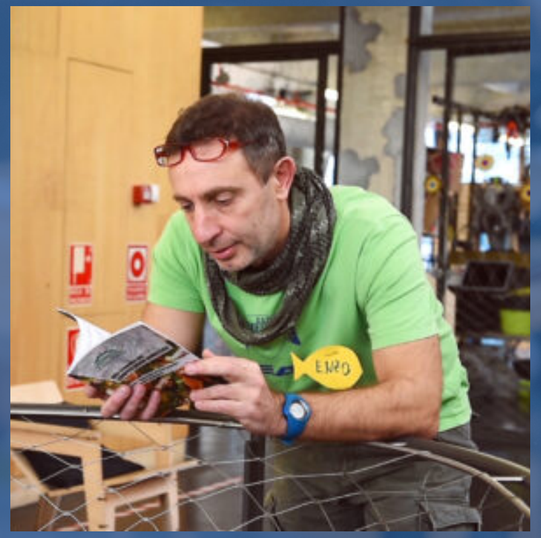
Zero Waste Live!

17 November 2020 - 06.00 p.m. CET

HAS COVID-19 CHANGED ZERO WASTE?



Enzo Favoino

Scientific Coordinator at Zero Waste Europe

ZERO WASTE EUROPE

www.zerowasteeurope.eu

WASTE MANAGEMENT DURING (AND AFTER) COVID-19

Will the pandemic impact on long-term strategies?

Enzo Favoino – Scuola Agraria del Parco di Monza
Scientific Coordinator, Zero Waste Europe

Outline of presentation

- waste and Covid19-safety: **scientific background**
- **adaptation and safety** at recycling sites and composting sites
- Why **single use isn't safer** – rather, the contrary – and the rationale to keep a mid/long-term commitment to reduce
- a mid-term vision: **critical assessment** of measures being considered/adopted globally and in Europe

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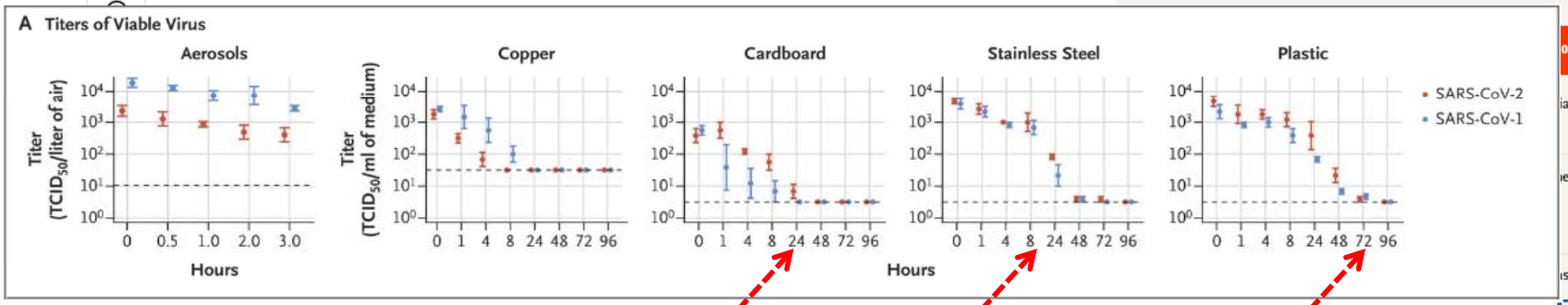
CORRESPONDENCE

Aerosol and Surface Stability of SARS-CoV-2 as Compared with SARS-CoV-1

March 17, 2020
DOI: 10.1056/NEJMc2004973
Metrics

TO THE EDITOR:

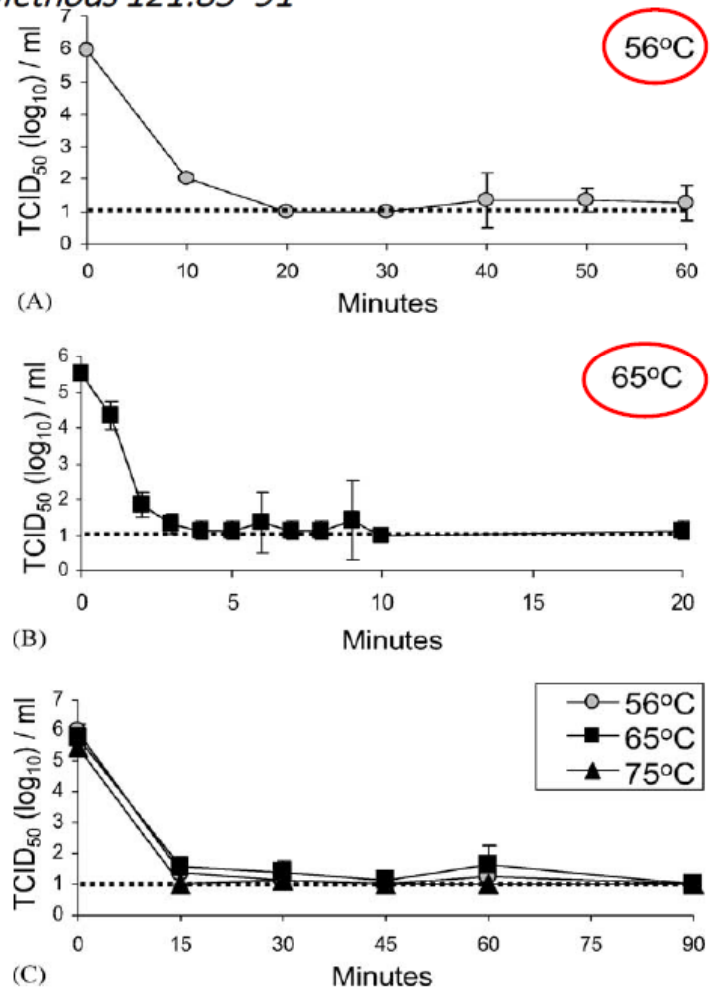
A novel human coronavirus that is now named severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) (formerly called HCoV-19) emerged in Wuhan, China, in late 2019 and is now causing a pandemic.[1] We analyzed the aerosol and surface stability of SARS-CoV-2 and compared it with SARS-CoV-1, the most closely related human coronavirus.[2]



Inactivation of the coronavirus that induces severe acute respiratory syndrome, SARS-CoV.

Darnell et al. 2004. Journal of Virological Methods 121:85–91

Temperature Effects



A first round of conclusions

- **Composting** a safe route
  - The process is ordinarily required to ensure **sanitisation** (pasteurisation + non thermal effects)
  - Compost sites traditionally accustomed to tackling **biohazards**
  - (Used to deal with virus-affected animal carcasses after viral outbreaks)
- **Packaging waste** safe to be handled after **temporary storage**
- **Biological stabilisation** a suitable solution for residual waste, too

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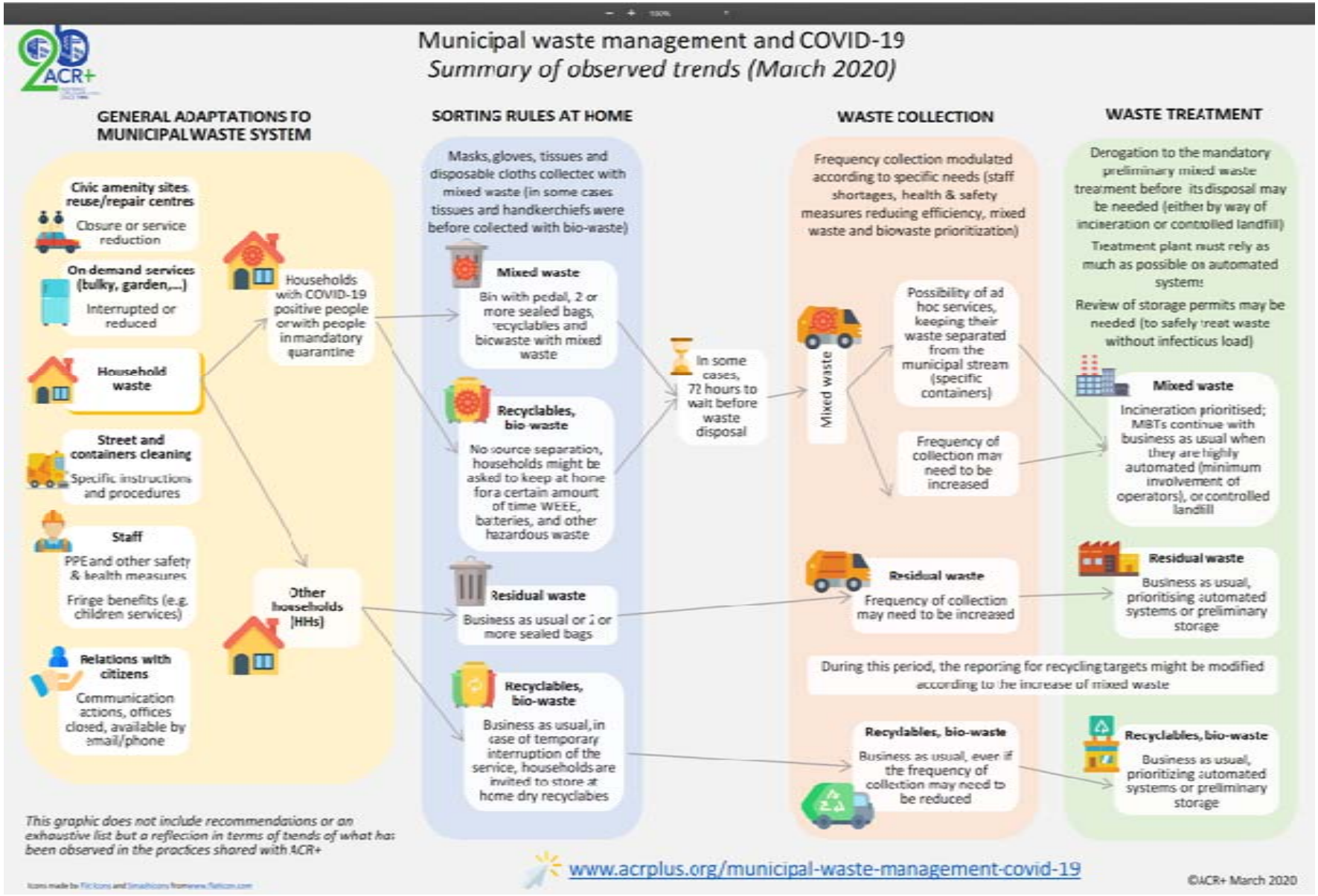
Municipal waste management and COVID-19
Summary of observed trends (March 2020)
GENERAL ADAPTATIONS TO MUNICIPAL WASTE SYSTEM
Civic amenity sites reuse/repair centres
Closure or service reduction
On demand services (bulky, garden,...)
Interrupted or reduced
Household waste
Street and containers cleaning
Specific instructions and procedures
Staff
PPE and other safety & health measures
Fringe benefits (e.g. children services)
Relations with citizens
Communication actions, offices closed, available by email/phone
Households with COVID-19 positive people or with people in mandatory quarantine
Other households (HHs)
SORTING RULES AT HOME
Masks, gloves, tissues and disposable cloths collected with mixed waste (in some cases tissues and handkerchiefs were before collected with bio-waste)
Mixed waste
Bin with pedal, 2 or more sealed bags, recyclables and biowaste with mixed waste
Recyclables, bio-waste
No source separation, households might be asked to keep at home for a certain amount of time WEEE, batteries, and other hazardous waste
Residual waste
Business as usual or 1 or more sealed bags
Recyclables, bio-waste
Business as usual, in case of temporary interruption of the service, households are invited to store at home dry recyclables
In some cases, 72 hours to wait before waste disposal
WASTE COLLECTION
Frequency collection modulated according to specific needs (staff shortages, health & safety measures reducing efficiency, mixed waste and biowaste prioritization)
Mixed waste
Possibility of ad hoc services, keeping their waste separated from the municipal stream (specific containers)
Frequency of collection may need to be increased
Residual waste
Frequency of collection may need to be increased
During this period, the reporting for recycling targets might be modified according to the increase of mixed waste
Recyclables, bio-waste
Business as usual, even if the frequency of collection may need to be reduced
WASTE TREATMENT
Derogation to the mandatory preliminary mixed waste treatment before its disposal may be needed (either by way of incineration or controlled landfill)
Treatment plant must rely as much as possible on automated systems
Review of storage permits may be needed (to safely treat waste without infectious load)
Mixed waste
Incineration prioritised; MBTs continue with business as usual when they are highly automated (minimum involvement of operators), or controlled landfill
Residual waste
Business as usual, prioritising automated systems or preliminary storage
Recyclables, bio-waste
Business as usual, prioritizing automated systems or preliminary storage
This graphic does not include recommendations or an exhaustive list but a reflection in terms of trends of what has been observed in the practices shared with ACR+
www.acrplus.org/municipal-waste-management-covid-19
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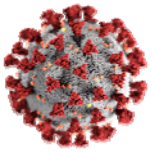
Timelines, transitions



Spring
2020

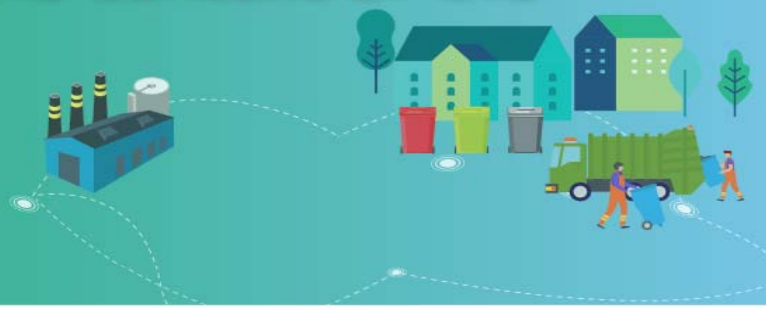
2024

2035

European Commission

Waste management in the context of the coronavirus crisis

14 April 2020



In this unprecedented crisis, we are working with the Member States and waste operators across the EU to address the challenge of ensuring a high level of protection of human health and the environment. Proper waste management is part of the essential services underpinning the well-being of our citizens delivered by numerous companies dealing with waste and keeping the circular economy going.

Commissioner Virginijus Sinkevičius

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The EC guidelines

- Aimed at providing guidance to Member States for adaptation in the **transitional situation**
- Keeps **separate collection** as a fundamental service for both ordinary households and – in general - Covid19-positive people
  - Derogations may be adopted by Member States
- No particular requirement for **composting**
- Requires **temporary storage** for sorting/recycling sites (3 days should suffice)

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Industry should not exploit COVID-19 to push more plastic pollution

by Perry Wheeler

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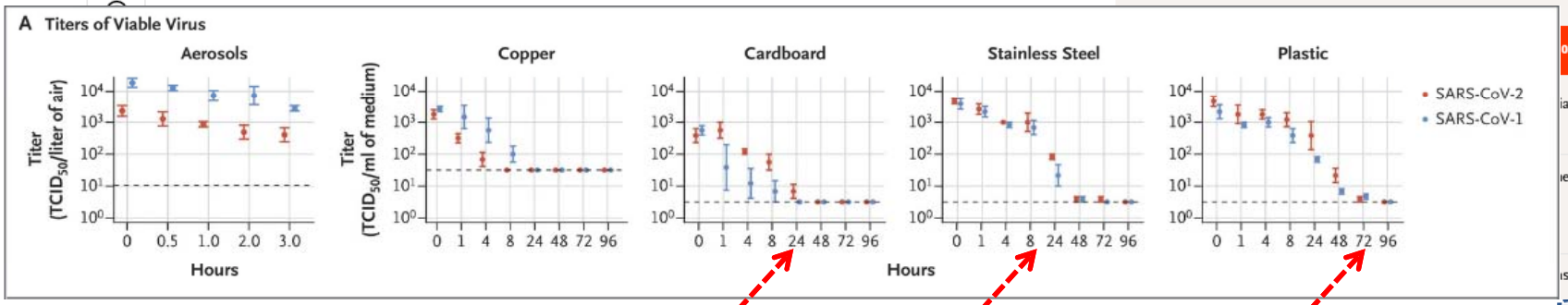

Vs

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Timelines, transitions


I really did not appreciate people writing to me and using the need for personal protective equipment as a reason not to have a ban on single-use plastics.
There's really no relationship!

Last round of conclusions

- **EC guidelines** sufficiently solid and backed by science
  - No deviation from key role of recycling/composting
- **Alignment** of guidelines with long-term roadmap on Circular Economy and UN SDGs
- **Plastic reduction strategies** fully confirmed
- The **long term vision** is beyond any discussion

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