The Formentera Department of Environment reports that in light of the health crisis, hours of operation will change at the rubbish drop-off point (Deixalleria) and Es Cap waste treatment site, and the decommissioned vehicle disposal yard will temporarily close. Home pickup of oversize waste has also been suspended.

The Deixalleria will open Monday to Saturday from 8.00am to 1.30pm (Sundays and holidays, closed); Es Cap rubbish treatment plant, Monday to Friday from 8.00am to 3.00pm (Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, closed).

According to environment conseller Antonio J Sanz, “the change just made sense”. He described it has part of the wider confinement effort and encouraged islanders to “respect health recommendations, stay home and practice social distancing — for now it’s essential”. “For things to go back to normal we need everyone to be responsible by avoiding all non-essential trips out of the house”, Sanz continued, saying acceptable motives to travel included “buying basic essentials, for example, or going to work if it can’t be postponed or done remotely”.

Handling rubbish at home

The Consell de Formentera reminds islanders of the Spanish Ministry of Health’s recommendation for handling rubbish at home.

Households where no one is infected or under quarantine are encouraged to separate waste as usual. In an effort to reduce the amount of waste that winds up at treatment plants, please remember, proper separation of paper/cardboard, glass, plastics and organic waste if applicable is key. Please only place items in bins that correspond to the accepted items as listed.

And one last short reminder is in order: latex and nitrile gloves such as those used on outings out of the house are not plastic and hence, must not be placed in the yellow containers, which are for plastics only.

Likewise, according to the health ministry, households in which at least one of the members is infected with Covid-19 or under quarantine should dispose of the patient's waste, including single-use objects like gloves, tissue paper and masks used by the patient, in a plastic bag-lined dustbin (BAG 1) which should be located in the patient's room (if possible, the bin should have a lid and a foot-push lever). Waste separation in these cases is unnecessary.

BAG 1 must be properly closed and placed inside another rubbish sack (BAG 2), which will in turn accommodate gloves and masks used by the caregiver. BAG 2 must be properly closed before being taken out of the room.

BAG 2 and its contents should be placed into the bag (BAG 3) containing the household's non-organic and non-recyclable waste — i.e., "*resta*". After closing BAG 3, wash hands thoroughly with soap and water for 40-60 seconds.

BAG 3 must be put into the general rubbish bin. Under no circumstance must these bags be placed in organic, plastics, paper, glass or fabric bins or left standing nearby.

19 March 2020
Department of Communications
Consell de Formentera