Notice on Environmental Management of Medical Waste Caused by COVID-19

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Departments (Bureaus) of Ecology and Environment of provinces, autonomous regions, and municipalities directly under the Central Government, and Bureaus of Ecology and Environment of Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps:

In order to deal with the COVID-19, timely, orderly, efficient, and harmless disposal of medical waste, to prevent the spread of disease, protect the ecological environment, and protect human health, the relevant matters are notified as follows.

I. Local department of ecology and environment at all levels should attach great importance to the environmental management of medical waste caused by COVID-19, effectively supervise and manage environmental pollution prevention and treatment in the collection, transportation, storage and disposal of medical waste, strengthen coordination with health and other departments, cooperate to promote the joint prevention and control mechanism for medical waste and form a joint effort.

II. Where the COVID-19 has occurred, the relevant requirements of the Response Plan on the Management of Medical Waste for Influenza A (H1N1) (Huanban [2009] No. 65) should be referenced, which requires scientific response and proper disposal of medical waste. Where there is no pneumonia epidemic, local department of ecology and environment at all levels should also pay close attention to the development of the epidemic, investigate and grasp the occurrence of medical waste, the capacity of transfer facilities and disposal facilities, and their distribution in the administrative area, conduct situation analysis and research, and make preparations for the response.

III. Where the COVID-19 has occurred, the provincial department of ecology and environment shall immediately organize the establishment of a coordinated emergency management mechanism for medical waste within the administrative region,
scientifically allocate medical waste disposal facilities, and ensure the disposal capacity of medical waste caused by COVID-19. To guide and supervise the medical waste disposal units to priority collect and transport of the medical waste caused by COVID-19, to strictly implement the system of transfer receipts, and establish the medical waste disposal information record. For special reasons, the areas that do not have the conditions for centralized disposal of medical waste, especially in remote rural areas, medical and health institutions may carry out in-situ incineration of medical waste.

IV. Under the unified leadership of the local government, local department of ecology and environment shall, according to relevant regulations and local government requirements, release to the society information on the management and disposal of COVID-19 medical waste in their administrative areas.

Hereby notified.