



Memorandum to Presidents

Date: July 21, 1989

Vol. 89 No. 13

From: Office of University Counsel and
Vice Chancellor for Legal Affairs

Subject: Disposal of Infectious Waste II

To: Presidents, State-operated Campuses
Presidents, Community Colleges

The purpose of this Memorandum is to advise you of recent additional action at both the federal and state level relating to the handling of infectious waste. These actions affect all potential generators of infectious waste, including the State-operated campuses and the community colleges (see Memorandum to Presidents, Vol. 88, No. 8, dated November 1, 1988; Memorandum to SUNY Environmental Health and Safety Officers dated June 5, 1989).

- Effective June 22, 1989, the Federal Medical Waste Tracking Program became effective in New York State. Generators of infectious or "regulated medical waste," as it is now known, are required to comply with both New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) regulations and those promulgated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to implement the Federal Medical Waste Tracking Program.
- Also, on June 22, 1989, significant changes in the New York State Public Health Law and Environmental Conservation Law provisions dealing with infectious waste were approved (Laws of 1989, Chapter 180). Most importantly, the new legislation makes the state's categories of regulated waste consistent with those regulated federally. The basic thrust of the federal and state programs is to create a "tracking" system that follows regulated medical waste from generator to disposal facility.

A memorandum describing the details of the changes and copies of the new regulations and statute are being transmitted separately to campus Environmental Health and Safety Officers. These officers will need to reexamine campus procedures for the handling and disposal of infectious waste in light of these federal and state actions.

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cc: Directors, University Hospitals
Directors, Student Health Services
Environmental Health and Safety Officers

Copies for Information only sent to:
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