Morton’s Plastic Fork: Balancing Commitments to Environmental and Human Health During a Pandemic
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Abstract
Single-use supplies are vital to effective and efficient infectious disease control. Yet, they also play a role in environmental degradation, which increases our vulnerability to future health crises like pandemics. This tension between present and future seems to create a Morton’s Fork dilemma in which we cause harm regardless of choice. In our attempts to balance and fairly distribute risks and benefits, we must consider both intragenerational and intergenerational interests. As a result, we must integrate sustainability as a core principle of pandemic preparedness alongside health and economics, and foster its inclusion in our culture of health.