THE HASTINGS CENTER

Ethics Guidance and Resources on Covid-19

As communities across the world work to navigate the pandemic, The Hastings Center has assembled ethics resources for responding to novel coronavirus Covid-19. We are updating this hub throughout the crisis.

The Hastings Center developed a resource for health care institutions and ethics services to support leadership and practice during the emergency:

- **Ethical Framework for Health Care Institutions Responding to Novel Coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 (Covid-19); Guidelines for Institutional Ethics Services Responding to Covid-19**

A supplemental ethics resource supports hospitals and other health care providers for regional collaboration in the Covid-19 response:

- **Responding to Covid-19 as a Regional Public Health Challenge: Preliminary Guidelines for Regional Collaboration Involving Hospitals**

A second supplemental ethics resource supports hospitals and other health care providers for access to therapeutic and palliative drugs in the context of Covid-19:

- **Access to Therapeutic and Palliative Drugs in the Context of Covid-19: Justice and the Relief of Suffering**

The Ethical Framework is supported by a presentation that provides guidance, tools, and resources for hospital ethics committees and clinical ethics consultation in collaboration with other services.

- **Covid-19: Supporting Ethical Care and Responding to Moral Distress During a Public Health Emergency**

The Hastings Center has produced a video that explains many of the issues in the pandemic for use by health care organizations and government agencies:

The Hastings Center is hosting a series, **"Re-Opening the Nation,"** online discussions of the ethical issues related to easing Covid-19 pandemic restrictions in the United States.

We assembled a set of resources that address many of the ethical issues raised about conducting human trials during the Covid-19 pandemic.

- **Ethics Resources for Conducting Research in Public Health Emergencies.**

From the Undocumented Patients project are ethics resources on the ways in which the pandemic has highlighted the vulnerabilities of low-wage immigrants to severe Covid-19 illness.

- **Covid-19 Update: Essential Resources on Immigrant Health.**

The Center developed a pandemic ethics briefing, adapted from work by Alexandra Minna Stern and Howard Markel, that offers principles to guide implementation of quarantine, school closures, and social distancing.

- **Pandemic ethics briefing**

- See also, The Hastings Center's **public health briefings** and **disaster planning and public health briefing**

Nearly 1,400 bioethicists and health leaders signed a letter to Congress and the White House, calling for Trump Administration to use the Defense Production Act against Covid-19.

- **White House letter**

You'll find a many articles on Covid-19 from the *Hastings Center Report* and *Bioethics Forum.*

Below is a sampling of some of the earlier pieces:

On Federal action: A *Hastings Center Report* piece by Mildred Solomon, Lawrence Gostin, and Matthew Wynia on the need for immediate, powerful, and sustained federal action regarding the scarcity of needed medical supplies: https://www.thehastingscenter.org/scarcity-in-the-covid-19-pandemic/

How to navigate the COVID-19 public health emergency legally and ethically, a Hastings Center Report piece by Lawrence O. Gostin, Eric A. Friedman, and Sarah A. Wetter: https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1002/hast.1090

On disability: A series of Bioethics Forum posts between Joseph Fins, a member of the New York State Task Force on Life and the Law, and Ari Ne'eman, a disability activist. Follow their discussion: https://www.thehastingscenter.org/disabusing-the-disability-critique-of-the-new-york-state-task-force-report-on-ventilator-allocation/

More from Ari Ne'eman: Rationing and disability rights laws

On age and rationing of medical equipment: On Being an Elder in a Pandemic by Larry Churchill

A piece by Franklin Miller on why he supports age-related rationing of ventilators

On moving forward: How soon can those in areas affected by the virus consider a return to work, by Arthur Caplan: https://www.thehastingscenter.org/the-price-of-going-back-to-work-too-soon/

What steps to take after the COVID-19 infection curve flattens. The longer term response to the emergency, and the need for trust in public health, by Mark Rothstein: https://www.thehastingscenter.org/flattening-the-curve-then-what/

On public health: An argument that public health ethics is not primarily about the conflict between the interests of the few versus the greater good, but rather more about how we organize our society and how we relate to one another, by Sridhar Venkatapuram: https://www.thehastingscenter.org/covid-19-and-the-global-ethics-freefall/

An essay on the crisis of trust that argues that the primary culprits of Covid-19— institutional disinformation and concealment of information—have particularly eroded

trust in international and government words and actions among the general public, by Alexandra Friedman: https://www.thehastingscenter.org/coronavirus-and-the-crisis-of-trust/

From China: In the second of two essays on transparency in fighting Coronavirus, Hastings Fellows in China, Ruipeng Lei and Renzong Qiu, give us an insider's view on how authorities must make reforms. https://www.thehastingscenter.org/coronavirus-doctor-whistleblower/

In their first essay, they note that "transparency is a key principle" in addressing the coronavirus. https://www.thehastingscenter.org/report-from-china-ethical-questions-on-the-response-to-the-coronavirus/

Other coronavirus and pandemic ethics resources:

On school openings: Johns Hopkins University eSchool+ InitiativeAnalysis of School Reopening Plans: https://equityschoolplus.jhu.edu/reopening-policy-tracker/

Johns Hopkins University: An Ethics Framework for the Covid-19 Reopening Process https://bioethics.jhu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/FINAL-SNF-Agora-Covid-19.pdf

CITI Program: Coronavirus (COVID-19) Resources to help the research community https://about.citiprogram.org/en/coronavirus-covid-19-resources/

World Health Organization: A Global Collaboration to Accelerate the Development, Production and Equitable Access to New COVID-19 diagnostics, therapeutics and vaccines https://www.who.int/who-documents-detail/access-to-covid-19-tools-(act)-accelerator

World Health Organization: Managing Ethical Issues in Infectious Disease Outbreaks https://www.who.int/ethics/publications/infectious-disease-outbreaks/en/

Johns Hopkins University Covid-19 resource center: https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/

National Academy of Medicine: Duty to Plan: Health Care, Crisis Standards of Care, and Novel Coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 https://nam.edu/duty-to-plan-health-care-crisis-standards-of-care-and-novel-coronavirus-sars-cov-2/

AMA Journal of Ethics Covid-19 Ethics Resource Center https://journalofethics.ama-assn.org/covid-19-ethics-resource-center

University of Washington Medicine Covid-19 resources
https://covid-19.uwmedicine.org/Pages/default.aspx

The Nuffield Council: Guide to the ethics of surveillance and quarantine for novel coronavirus
https://www.nuffieldbioethics.org/news/guide-to-the-ethics-of-surveillance-and-quarantine-for-novel-coronavirus

News stories related to Covid-19:

How the Coronavirus May Force Doctors to Decide Who Can Live and Who Dies
https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/12/opinion/coronavirus-hospital-shortage.html

What if Two COVID-19 Victims Need Ventilators and Just One Is
Available? https://blogs.scientificamerican.com/observations/what-if-two-covid-19-victims-need-ventilators-and-just-one-is-available/

NEJM: History in a Crisis — Lessons for Covid-
19 https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMp2004361

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