



# Embedding ethics in public health emergencies

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MEDICAL AND HEALTH SCIENCES

### Decision-making challenges

- Uncertainties:
  - Novel pathogens and technologies
  - Rapidly evolving, complex and at times contested evidentiary landscapes
- Exceptional burdens on health systems
- Inequitable impacts on populations
- Procedural fairness
  - 'Having time for ethics'
  - Epistemic power
  - Inclusive approaches

## Three examples of focal areas include:

- Design, implementation and use of digital surveillance approaches, and analysis, uses and sharing of data
- Rationing and resource allocation
  - nationally
  - globally
- Pandemic research ethics and oversight



## **Conceptual debates**

## Is it ethical to give someone coronavirus to create a vaccine? Yes

The political spin promising a quick vaccine for COVID-19 is false. The average time to make a vaccine is 20 years.

By Arthur Caplan Updated May 14, 2020, 10:01 a.m.

#### Exposing volunteers to coronavirus to test vaccines: Can it be done ethically? Maybe, but not right now, experts say

Updated May 14, 2020; Posted May 14, 2020

#### Human COVID 19 Vaccine Trials Are Unnecessary, Uninformative, and Unethical

Jun 4, 2020 | WILLIAM A. HASELTINE

### Research ethics: adaption & exceptionalism



#### Pandemic ethics: the case for risky research

Richard Yetter Chappell<sup>10</sup>, Peter Singer

First Published June 2, 2020 | Res https://doi.org/10.1177/1747016120



Vaccine

Vaccine

Volume 38, Issue 24, 19 May 2020, Pages 3987-3988

Extraordinary diseases require extraordinary solutions

Stanley A. Plotkin <sup>A</sup> ⊠, Arthur Caplan





Website: https://epidemicethics.tghn.org/ Twitter: @epidemicsethics

LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/company/epidemic-ethics/



#### **Epidemic Ethics**



**2**OVID-19 VACCINE BOOSTERS

WHEN AND WHY?



Casebook of ethical issues in epidemic health research

#### EPIDEMIC ETHICS Research, Preparedness & Response

- Prioritisation
  - COVID, COVID+ & non-COVID research
  - Clinical care
  - Public health rollout, 'robust real-world data'
- Governance
  - Procedural and substantive adaptions
- Prioritisation
- Boundaries
- Adaption
  - Adaptive trials & beyond
- Research quality and publication





## Thank you

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