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NEW YORK, May 4 -- The Hastings Center today released[new ethical guidance](https://www.thehastingscenter.org/covid19-regional-ethics-guidelines/) for hospitals and other health care organizations responding to Covid-19. The recommendations, produced by an advisory group of leading health care ethicists, ensure clinicians take regional public health concerns into account when making patient-specific treatment decisions. They are the product of insights from real-time, ongoing collaborations across the United States.

The guidance includes:

* coordinated efforts to promote equity in PPE allocation across Covid-19 care settings where health care workers and hospitalized patients are at risk of Covid-19 exposure;
* creation of a resource allocation system for hospital and intensive care beds that can be activated when one health care system within the region is nearing capacity;
* agreement concerning modification of CPR practices;
* agreement concerning whether and how health care workers should be prioritized in the allocation of scarce resources under crisis standards of care, including consequences for the larger community and for equity across hospitals and other health care settings.

“Responding effectively to Covid-19 requires clinicians to address the collective needs of communities as they consider individual patient concerns,” said Hastings Center research scholar and project lead Nancy Berlinger. “Our guidance can support medical institutions’ efforts to mitigate health inequities, serve populations who face barriers to health care, and communicate compassionately with patients and families during a time of prolonged uncertainty.”

The Hastings Center guidance, *Responding to Covid-19 as a Regional Public Health Challenge*, provides examples of issues where regional agreement around policies, processes, or practices may be feasible and effective. It is meant to serve organizations serving the same geographic region, including state and regional hospital associations, state medical societies, and public health authorities.

Previously, The Hastings Center issued [broad-based ethical guidance for institutions](https://www.thehastingscenter.org/ethicalframeworkcovid19/) responding to Covid-19.

The project was made possible by the Donaghue Impact Fund at The Hastings Center.

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