



Ethical guidelines to ameliorate the repercussions of COVID-19 responses

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KENYA

KIRUI

LONGINES

KENYA

KIBIWOTT

LONGINES

Gold Coast 2018

Woolworths

2018

Premise of the ethical guidelines

COVID-19 Responses have created diverse emergencies

- for individuals, families and communities
- interests and values
- jeopardize rights and sometimes increase risks

UNESCO Call

COVID-19 from the ethical and social perspectives addressing the complexity of the crisis

**Holistic
multidisciplinary
approach**

Abstract

An ethical & social perspective of prevention & containment policies: the unforeseen consequences

Development of the idea

- Abstract submitted and guidelines developed based on UNESCO comments
- NBC continued with development of guidelines; **Anahuac guidelines received**; resonated with ideas that we had been building up especially the structure

Ethical Guidelines for Public health emergencies in response to COVID-19 pandemic

In response to COVID-19 pandemic



Introduction

- **Scope**
 - Guidelines provide an ethical framework for managing COVID – 19; disease outbreaks, emergencies & disasters
 - Examine related responses through the lens of bioethics and global ethics
- **Target audience**
 - State & non-state agencies in public health emergency response
 - Health care workers, researchers, RECs
 - Lawyers, policy makers etc.

Outcome of engagement

- Identified ethical issues emanating from management of COVID-19 outbreak
- Proposed measures to avoid infringing individual and human rights while protecting other persons for common good

Ethical Principles

- Based on **Principlism** & **Principles in the UDBHR**
- **Respect; Beneficence; Non-maleficence; Justice**
- **Social responsibility; Social justice; Solidarity; Protection of future generations**

Process of Development

- Draft committee appointed and guidelines developed by National Bioethics Committee members
- Draft guidelines developed & reviewed by internal reviewers
- Comments discussed & incorporated
- Stakeholders workshop for validation; External review by experts
- External reviewers suggestions discussed & incorporated
- Awaiting ratification by stakeholders & Ministry of Health
- Disseminated and promoted

Areas of Ethical Concern

1. Screening, diagnosis & management
2. Allocation & use of healthcare resources
3. Enforcement of containment measures
4. Research in emergencies
5. Social, psychological & environmental domains
6. Enforcement & upholding the rule of law
7. Information handling & communication

Conclusion

- Guided by consequentialism and utilitarianism
- Holistic multidisciplinary perspective useful in dealing with unforeseen consequences of COVID-19 responses
- East African countries are keen on these guidelines; we intend to disseminate widely



Acknowledgement

- **UNESCO**
- **Members of Kenya National Bioethics Committee and the Secretariat**
- **Stakeholders**

References

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Thanks!

Any questions?

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