Ethical Framework for Pandemic Decision-Making

The purpose of this tool is to ensure relevant ethical values are considered when decisions are made to respond to the pandemic.

In **Steps 1, 2, and 3** answer each guiding question with "Yes", "Partially", or "No". If a question does not apply, mark it "N/A". Justifications should be given in the "comments" column for any question where the answer is "Partially" or "No", but comments related to each question are encouraged.

If many of your answers are "Partially" or "No", this should prompt reconsideration or an ethics consultation.

In the first part of **Step 2**, use the values listed to appraise the options under consideration for responding to the problem requiring a decision.

State the Decision You Are Trying to Make: **Team/Committee:** **Date:**		
Guiding Questions	**Answers** (Yes, Partially, No, N/A)	**Comments**
STEP 1: Pre-Deliberation Questions		
Do we agree about the nature of the problem we are addressing and the decision we are making?		
Have we collected all the necessary and relevant information, including the available scientific and clinical evidence, to inform our decision?		
Is our decision-making process defined and transparent? [*Transparency*]		
Are people/groups who will be affected by our decision included in our deliberations and/or are we taking their views and needs into consideration? [*Inclusiveness, Solidarity*]		
Are we being mindful of any biases or preconceptions that might unduly influence our decision-making?		

STEP 2: Deliberation Questions

Consider the options available for responding to the current problem. How will the following values be promoted or undermined by each option, or by how each option might be implemented?	Human Dignity Proportionality Protection of the Public from Harm	Compassion Reciprocity Solidarity Liberty	Excellence Equity Protection of the Vulnerable and Marginalized	Privacy Duty to Care Trust Stewardship

Notes:

Tentatively, our decision is to:_____

Guiding Questions	Answers	Comments
Have we adequately considered the other options available before endorsing the one we are selecting?		
Do we expect that this option will help to maximize the total benefit to our community? [*Protection of the Public*]		
Does this option support providing the best possible care under the circumstances while making wise use of resources that are needed to combat the pandemic? [*Compassion, Stewardship*]		

STEP 3: Reflection Questions

Is our decision based on reasons that could be understood by all members of our community, including the most vulnerable and the least well-off? [*Reasonableness, Inclusiveness*]		
Have we created a plan for respectfully and truthfully communicating our decision and its reasons to our stakeholders?		
Would we feel comfortable disclosing our decision and the rationale for it to members of the public, if required to do so? [*Openness & Transparency*]		
Have we established a plan for tracking the impact of this decision and revising it as necessary? [*Responsiveness*]		