

LTC Commission

04 February 2021

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Outline



Background



**Bioethics &
COVID
Pandemic**



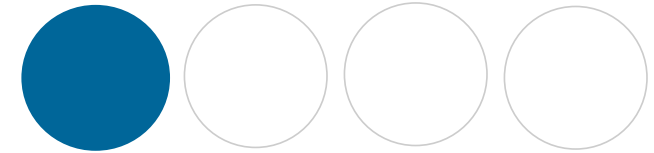
**General
Observations**



**Future
Directions**



Background



Education and debate

Ethics and SARS: lessons from Toronto

Peter A Singer, Solomon R Benatar, Mark Bernstein, Abdallah S Daar, Bernard M Dickens, Susan K MacRae, Ross E G Upshur, Linda Wright, Randi Zlotnik Shaul

The SARS epidemic showed how easy it is for infectious diseases to spread round the world. Ethical as well as clinical issues need to be resolved to improve the response to the next epidemic.

BMC Medical Ethics



Debate

Open Access

Pandemic influenza preparedness: an ethical framework to guide decision-making

Alison K Thompson^{*1}, Karen Faith², Jennifer L Gibson³ and Ross EG Upshur⁴



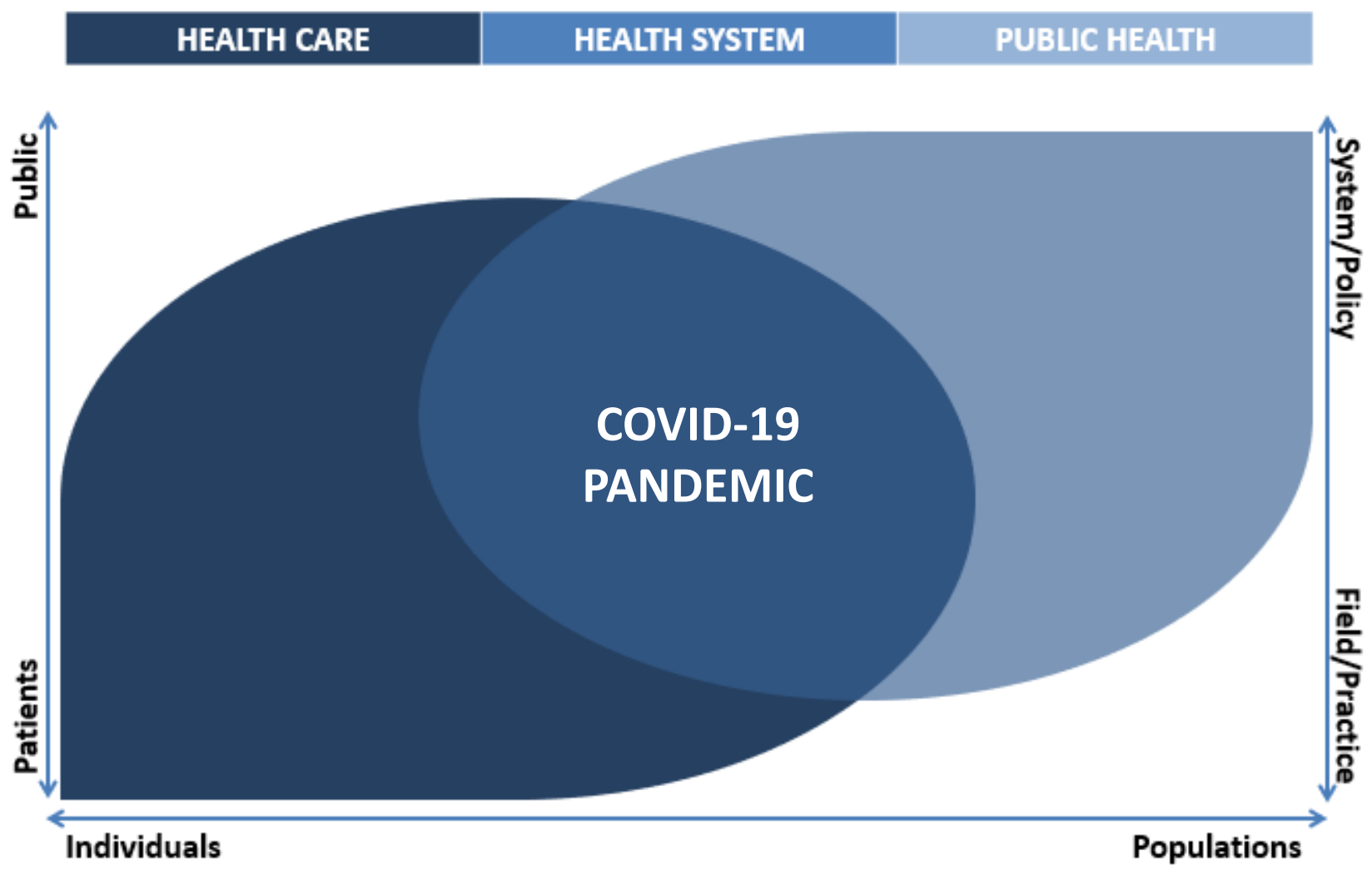
University of Toronto
Joint Centre for Bioethics
Innovative, Interdisciplinary, International
Improving health care through bioethics.

STAND ON GUARD FOR THEE

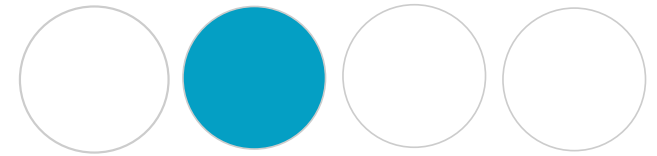
Ethical considerations in
preparedness planning for pandemic influenza

November 2005

A report of the
University of Toronto Joint Centre for Bioethics
Pandemic Influenza Working Group



Bioethics in the Ontario COVID-19 Pandemic



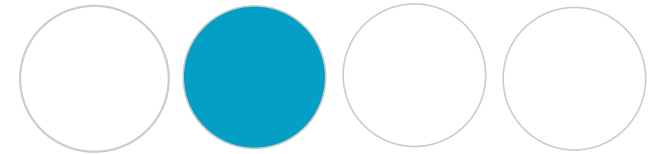
❖ Bioethics Advisor

- Member of Health Coordination Table and OH Oversight Table

❖ COVID-19 Bioethics Table

- Reports to Ministry of Health in collaboration with OH and PHO
- Partnered with the IPHCC Indigenous Bioethics Reference Group

❖ Task Forces/Working Groups/Other Tables



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- ❖ CMOH Directives
 - ❖ Priority Setting/Allocation – PPE, drugs, swabs
 - ❖ Stopping/Re-Starting Health Services
 - ❖ Critical Care Triage
 - ❖ LTC-Hospital Transfers
 - ❖ Visitor Policies
 - ❖ Vaccine Prioritization

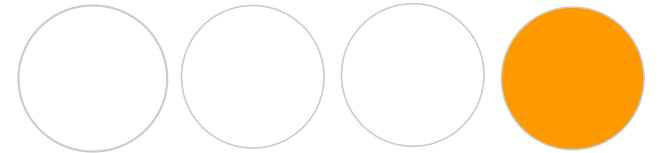
Guiding ethical principles
Decision-making frameworks
Feedback/review
Consultation
Issues Identification

General Observations



- ❖ Pandemic Plans vs Pandemic Practice
 - ‘building the plane while flying it’
 - ‘marathon not a sprint’ – resilience, sustainability
- ❖ Scenario Planning (Wave 1 → Wave 2)
- ❖ Tables
 - Proliferation – who’s doing what? how to contribute? who decides?
 - Composition – representativeness?
- ❖ Health System Approach
 - Solidarity – Equity – Proportionality – Accountability

Future Directions



- ❖ Variants of concern (VOC)
 - Plan for worst, hope for best
 - Prepare residents and family caregivers NOW, and support homes to do so (beyond IPAC)
- ❖ Staff resilience and well-being
- ❖ Planning forward to ‘recovery’

Discussion/Q&A

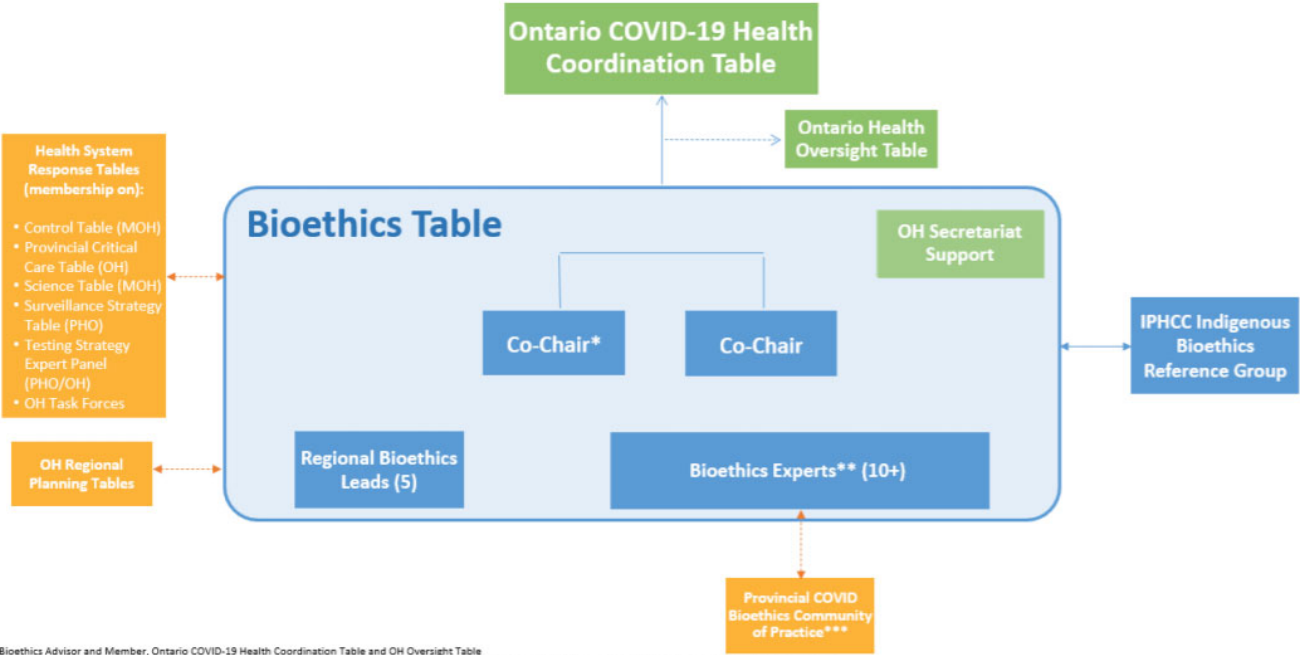


Appendices

Bioethics Table – Scope

- ❖ Provide bioethics input, feedback, and/or recommendations on public health measures and health system operational management and coordination provincially and regionally
- ❖ Identify ethical issues for consideration by other COVID-19 Health System Response Tables
- ❖ Consult with relevant experts and stakeholders, including an Indigenous Bioethics Reference Group established by the Indigenous Primary Health Care Council, to inform Bioethics Table deliberations and deliverables
- ❖ Strike working groups and consult relevant bioethics experts to advance Bioethics Table work streams

Bioethics Table - Reporting



*Bioethics Advisor and Member, Ontario COVID-19 Health Coordination Table and OH Oversight Table
 **Public health ethics, clinical and organizational ethics, health policy ethics, research ethics, humanitarian ethics, Indigenous bioethics, law and human rights, clinical medicine
 ***Based at the Joint Centre for Bioethics, University of Toronto

“Stand on Guard for Thee”

Substantive Values

- Duty to Provide Care
- Equity
- Individual Liberty
- Privacy
- Proportionality
- Protection of the Public
- Reciprocity
- Solidarity
- Stewardship
- Trust

Procedural Values

- Accountability
- Inclusiveness
- Openness/transparency
- Reasonableness
- Responsiveness

Ethical Allocation Framework & 3 Tiers for Allocating Provincial PPE in Ontario

