



Ethics in Public Health

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The following discussion questions are provided as an additional educational tool to accompany this fireside chat video. Please feel free to select the questions that are most relevant to your committee or group and revise and adapt them as needed. As always, we welcome feedback on this or any other NSHEN resource.

Questions:

- What was the main insight you took away from watching this interview?
- Was there anything that surprised you? If yes, what surprised you and why?
- Can you think of some examples where public health directions may conflict with values that are often prioritized in clinical settings?
- Public health is concerned with promoting health and removing health risks to the population as a whole. However, reasonable efforts should be made to minimize the burdens that public health directives impose on any individual or particular group. Balancing potential benefits to many with the risk of harm to a few is often difficult.
 - a. What ethical considerations would you take into account when making decisions about when to impose restrictive measures aimed at protecting population health?
 - b. What are some of the trade-offs you've seen reflected in public health restrictions during the COVID-19 pandemic?
- Do you think there should be a no-fault insurance system in place for people who are being negatively affected by public health interventions? Why or why not?
- Actions aimed at protecting the health of a population as a whole have the potential to infringe on individual liberties and rights. In your opinion, to what extent can public health approaches legitimately restrict the liberties and rights of individuals in order to serve the common good?

- Which of the challenges that Gaynor mentions around public health approaches and government interests have you seen reflected most often in public discussions around COVID-19 response?

Resources

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