

Responding to Covid-19

The Ethical Framework for Health & Social Care

Department of Health & Social Care

Framework Principles One-Pager



Department
of Health &
Social Care

This framework intends to provide support to ongoing response planning and decision-making to ensure that **ample consideration is given to a series of ethical values and principles.**

1. Respect

Recognise that every person and their human rights, personal choices, safety and dignity matters.

2. Reasonableness

Ensure that decisions are rational, fair, practical, and grounded in appropriate processes, available evidence and a clear justification.

3. Minimising Harm

Strive to reduce the amount of physical, psychological, social and economic harm that the outbreak might cause to individuals and communities. In turn, ensure that individual organisations and society as a whole cope with and recover from it to their best ability.

4. Inclusiveness

Ensure that people are given a fair opportunity to understand situations, be included in decisions that affect them, and offer their views and challenge. In turn, decisions and actions should aim to minimise inequalities as much as possible.

5. Accountability

Hold people, and ourselves, to account for how and which decisions are made. In turn, this requires being transparent about why decisions are made and who is responsible for making and communicating them.

6. Flexibility

Be responsive, able, and willing to adapt when faced with changed or new circumstances. It is vital that this principle is applied to the health and care workforce and wider sector, to facilitate agile and collaborative working.

7. Proportionality

Provide support that is proportional to needs and abilities of people, communities and staff, and the benefits and risks that are identified through decision-making processes.

8. Community

Commit to get through the outbreak together by supporting one another and strengthening our communities to the best of our ability.



For full advice and guidance under these principles, visit:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-ethical-framework-for-adult-social-care/responding-to-covid-19-the-ethical-framework-for-adult-social-care>