

International Working Group “Public Health-Ethics/Covid-19”

within the Akademie für Ethik in der Medizin (AEM)

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Aims

The Covid-19 pandemic challenges policy makers and authorities to make ethically sensitive decisions on public health interventions under conditions of incomplete knowledge and sometimes under great time pressure. A virological, political, or legal assessment alone cannot meet the ethical challenges. Accordingly, the perspective of public health ethics is urgently needed. This perspective is population-based, whereby the relevant populations are not only understood regionally or nationally, but also globally. The aim of the working group is to discuss the public health ethical issues of the Covid-19 pandemic and contribute the results to the upcoming debates and political decision-making processes. A further goal is international networking in the field of public health ethics in general and more specifically in pandemic ethics.

Activities

Preparation of policy briefs and background papers on ethical issues related to the COVID-19 pandemic (e.g. ethical requirements for policy decision-making during a pandemic; ethical recommendations for the distribution of vaccines; ethical evaluation of "covid-19 apps").

Results to date: <https://www.public-health-covid19.de/ergebnisse.html>

The working group participates in the [Competence Network Public Health-COVID-19](#) and cooperates with the [AG Public Health Ethics of the German Society for Public Health](#).

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