

Attachment E: MDH Ethical Considerations Summary

Ethical Issue	Description of Issue	Planning Strategy
Vaccine distribution –priority setting of: Initial dosing Second dosing Equity between groups Equity within groups	<p>Pre-pandemic vaccine in very limited amounts may be available the first six months of a pandemic. Pandemic vaccine may be available after six months in ongoing, variable amounts.</p> <p>It is crucial to pre-identify who will receive the vaccine and to develop clear and transparent implementation strategies.</p>	<p>Convene an interagency, multidisciplinary group, with a component of public input, to develop processes to address issues and provide an ethical framework for decision makers that could be used to promote public understanding, trust and buy-in. The results of these processes would allow for the development of implementation strategies.</p>
Antivirals distribution – priority setting	<p>Antivirals will be utilized for</p> <p>1) treatment of persons with symptoms of influenza, and, 2) prophylaxis of workers whose profession puts them at risk of contracting influenza, and the household contacts of the ill. Because of anticipated limited supply, prioritization and implementation strategies must be clear to the providers of antivirals.</p>	
Use of limited medical supplies – priority setting of: Ventilators PPE Other	<p>Use of supplies or a standard of care may vary across local or regional healthcare facilities. Standardization is desired and the process to understand the rationale behind the standard to promote efficient and accurate decision making along with public understanding, trust and buy-in of the decisions.</p>	<p>Convene an interagency, multidisciplinary group, with a component of public input, to develop processes to address issues and provide an ethical framework for decision makers that could be used to promote public understanding, trust and buy-in. The results of these processes would allow for the development of implementation strategies.</p> <p>Convene a Science Advisory Team consisting of Minnesota adult and pediatric critical care specialists, emergency medicine physicians, infectious disease specialists and selected stakeholders to develop a process for adjusting standards of care in a public health emergency such as pandemic influenza or a terrorist act.</p> <p>Develop a process to integrate the work of the above two groups.</p>
Hospital, care facility beds – priority setting	<p>Surge capacity in healthcare facilities will be rapidly reached in a pandemic.</p>	

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Health care worker duty to provide care	The skills of healthcare workers make them most qualified to take care of persons with influenza. Does that mean they should be mandated to work during a pandemic or other communicable disease outbreak. If so, can they be mandated to be vaccinated or prophylaxed in order to work with at-risk populations?	Develop ethical framework utilizing above stakeholder groups with focus on healthcare community.
Accompanying Issues		Description of Issue
Public Communication	Communication and transparency of the processes, developed in the planning strategies suggested above, are crucial to successful implementation of the difficult decisions that must be made.	
Flexibility	An evolving pandemic will require flexibility and responsiveness to new and revised information and guidance from many sources. This rationale for this flexibility also requires transparency.	

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