

# Ethical Principles Considered in Developing Guidance

- A principle of fairness suggests that all persons who are in a similar situation will have similar access to the medication that is available from public sector stockpiles. Availability of treatment will not be based on gender, race, ethnicity, citizenship, or ability to pay.
- A principle of autonomy allows organizations, businesses, and individuals to take steps toward pandemic influenza preparedness, including purchasing and stockpiling of antiviral drugs. Promoting autonomy contributes to overall national preparedness, resiliency, and can increase the amount of antiviral drugs available potentially leading to community benefits. While autonomy may result in unequal access to antiviral prophylaxis, public sector stockpiles are targeted to provide a safety net for all Americans to receive treatment in a fair and equal manner.
- Minimizing the harms of an influenza pandemic may require targeting resources to specific groups that protect health and safety and provide essential community services. The Ethics Subcommittee of the CDC Advisory Committee to the Director advises that targeting limited resources to protect societal interests is ethically appropriate.
- A principle of reciprocity posits that workers who assume increased risks due to their occupation and who provide benefits broadly to society — such as health care workers, firefighters, emergency medical service personnel, etc. — should be protected, if possible.
- Flexibility, defined as the ability to modify recommendations before the pandemic as more information becomes available and at the time of a pandemic when the characteristics of disease are known, also is important.

*Source:* Department of Health and Human Services. "Guidance on Antiviral Drug Use During an Influenza Pandemic." Washington, DC; 2008.