

## **Biopolitical and public health implications of the COVID19 pandemic**

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### **Abstract**

Management of the current COVID19 pandemic have posed novel and brought up old ethical challenges for public healthcare professional and disaster management professionals. The human being is always in the centre of all these considerations. Disaster management and healthcare practitioners face shortages of critical COVID19 related resources. Examples include lack of testing kits, PPE, hospitals and critical care facilities. From the viewpoint of the epidemiological triangle, an individual's choices in the COVID19 space are limited and this is mainly due to the fluctuating environment that governs the spread of the pandemic and the relevant risk to an individual. The current paper will discuss the power relationships between the individual, their health and wellbeing in terms of the COVID19 pandemic, the governance frameworks and the ethics of resource management. Biopolitical and bioethical frameworks will be used to discuss the main challenges in the international, national and local dimensions.

**Keywords:** bioethics, pandemic, governmentality, biopower

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