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| <b>Date:</b> | 6 April 2020   |
| <b>To:</b>   | Northern Health Staff and Physicians                                 |
| <b>From:</b> | Kirsten Thomson, Regional Director, Risk & Compliance                |
| <b>Re:</b>   | Ethical frameworks and resources to support COVID-19 decision-making |

Northern Health is participating in the Ethical Resources Team, a sub-committee of the provincial HECC that is developing common ethical frameworks and resources to support challenging decisions faced by all BC health authorities in responding to COVID-19. As documents are developed, they are being placed in a [COVID-19 Ethics Library](#) which can be accessed in the Ethics folder in Resources. Staff and physicians are encouraged to use these ethical tools in their decision-making, and can access the NH Ethics Committee for additional support in interpreting and applying the frameworks and tools.

Currently available documents include:

- [COVID-19 Ethical Decision Making Framework](#)
  - This is the foundational ethical framework which outlines and prioritises the relevant ethical principles to consider when making decisions related to COVID-19
  - It includes a principles checklist that can be used to evaluate a particular decision's consistency with the identified principles.
- [Bulletin on PPE Ethical Guidance: Status for Health Authorities](#)
  - This provides additional information to support the application of the PPE Allocation Framework, to ensure that use and distribution of PPE is consistent across all BC Health Authorities.
- [Duty to Care Framework](#)
  - This framework provides guidance to individual health care providers on their duty to provide care to patients in a high-risk environment.

The Provincial Ethical Resources Team continues to work on the Ventilator Allocation Framework which will provide guidance on the allocation of ventilators and other scarce critical care resources.

1. NH Ethics Committee is available to accept ethics consultation requests, whether related to COVID-19 or not. Information about Ethics at Northern Health can be found [here](#).

## How to get help with an ethical decision

There are three different ways to access the Northern Health Ethics Committee.

- Print and fax this [confidential form](#)
- Call toll-free [1-888-233-7005](tel:1-888-233-7005) (Mon - Fri 8:30 am to 4:30 pm)
- Email: [ethics@northernhealth.ca](mailto:ethics@northernhealth.ca)