Who first?

A Broad Approach to the Allocation of Vaccines

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26th Forum of National Ethics Councils (NEC) and the European Group on Ethics in Science and New Technologies (EGE)
Line of thoughts

I. Five approaches to allocate scarce vaccines
II. The understanding of the pandemic
III. National, European or international allocation?
I. Five approaches to allocate scarce vaccines
1. Lottery
2. First come first served
3. Social features
4. Maximising benefits
5. Needs-based approach
2. First come first served
3. Social features
4. Maximising benefits
5. Needs-based approach
3. Social features
4. Maximising benefits
5. Needs-based approach
3. Some social features
4. Maximising benefits
5. Needs-based approach
3. Some social features
4. Avoid medical and social harm
5. Needs-based approach
3. Some social features
5. Needs-based approach, aiming at avoiding medical and social harm
5. Needs-based approach, aiming at avoiding medical and social harm, taking into account relevant social features
II. The understanding of the pandemic
The COVID-19 pandemic and health inequalities

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Figure 1  The syndemic of COVID-19, non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and the social determinants of health (adapted from Singer and Dahlgren and Whitehead).
COVID-19 affects us all — unequally. Lessons from Austria

By Barbara Prainsack, Bernhard Kittel, Sylvia Kritzinger, and Hajo Boomgaarden, on behalf of the Austrian Corona Panel Project, University of Vienna, Austria [contact: coronapanel2020@univie.ac.at]

Three criteria for allocation

1. Risk for serious course of disease or death
2. Risk for being infected or to infect many others
3. Risk for social harm
III. National, European or international allocation?
„Ensure robust and equitable access to critical products and services for all EU citizens and demonstrate global solidarity. This involves pre-emptively providing criteria for the allocation, among and within Member States, of limited resources essential to manage a pandemic and mitigate harm, with due regard to the moral equality of all persons.“
“To ensure end-to-end development and large-scale manufacturing and deployment, as well as fair allocation, and to protect private-sector partners from significant financial losses, it has been proposed to establish a global financing system for future pandemic preparedness.”
Conclusion

(At least) three facets of a broad approach to the allocation of vaccines:

- Include social needs in the allocation criteria
- Think of vaccines as one element in a broad framework of several countermeasures
- Think globally
Thank you very much for your attention!