



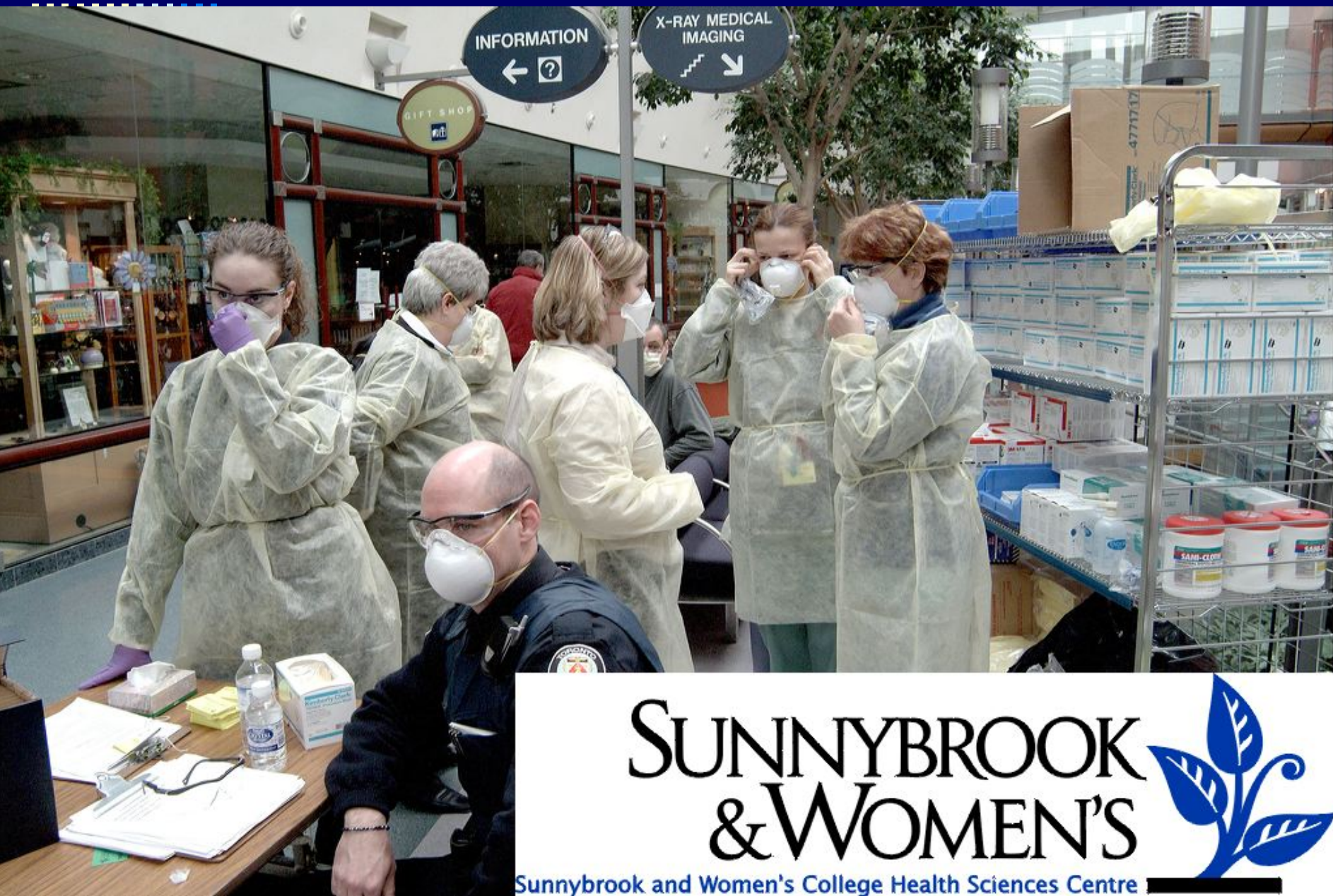
Ethical Issues for Pandemic Planning Learned from SARS - a Canadian Perspective

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SARS in Toronto 2003

- 438 suspect and probable cases (~ 50% healthcare workers)
 - 44 died (3 healthcare workers)
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Scenario 1

- At midnight, nursing supervisor gets “sick” calls from three staff
 - In the news, reports of a pandemic flu in the area
 - Does the nurse have a duty to report?
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Fear for Personal Safety

- Fear of becoming infected or infecting family
 - Uncertainties regarding prevention, treatment or cure
 - Uncomfortable, unpleasant working conditions
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.... Versus Duty to Care

- Professional duty to care for sick, including emergencies
 - Loyalty to existing patients
 - Replacement of specialized staff
 - Solidarity among health care professionals
-



Reciprocity and Transparency

- Institution's duty to support workers
 - Appropriate working conditions
 - Information about risk
 - Care for sick healthcare workers

 - Society's duty to support workers
 - Appropriate benefits and support
 - Acknowledgement of risks taken
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Scenario 2

- Hospital secretary is asked by the public health department to stay at home in quarantine for 10 days
 - She wants to comply but is worried about losing her job and apartment
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Fear of personal sacrifice

- Loss of personal mobility
- Social restraints
- Loss of financial security
- Stigmatization, loss of privacy

Versus duty to protect public
from harm



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Proportionality

- ❑ Methods chosen must be least restrictive
- ❑ Applied without discrimination

Reciprocity

- ❑ Not abandon those in quarantine
 - ❑ Mitigation of hardships imposed
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Scenario 3

- Cardiac patient has surgery postponed due to SARS restrictions
 - Family of dying patient denied access due to visitor restrictions
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Equity and stewardship

- Equity between SARS and non-SARS patients regarding access to resources
 - Responsibility to balance the burdens of the known risks with the unknown risks
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Transparency and accountability

- Communication of accurate information including risks and benefits of strategies and decisions
 - Accountability for reasonable decisions and fairness
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Other ethical dilemmas

- Privacy versus public need to know
 - Allocation of scarce resources
 - Local health and economic concerns versus global health impact
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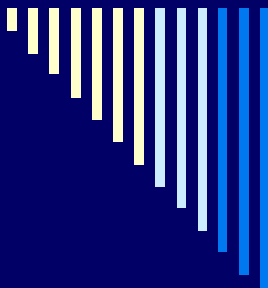


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Ten Substantive Values Identified in Canada

- Individual liberty
 - Protection of the public from harm
 - Proportionality
 - Privacy
 - Duty to provide care
 - Reciprocity
 - Equity
 - Trust
 - Solidarity
 - Stewardship
-



Five Procedural Values to Guide Decision-Making

- Reasonable
 - Open and transparent
 - Inclusive
 - Responsive
 - Accountable
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Thank you

