

# AMA 'Code of Ethics' offers guidance for physicians

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(HealthDay)—The American Medical Association (AMA) *Code of Ethics* and other articles provide guidance for physicians in relation to public health emergencies, according to a report from the AMA.

The AMA *Code of Ethics*, along with a series of articles written by physicians, provides guidance on ethical considerations that the [medical community](#) should address relating to public health and [disaster preparedness](#). The *Code* offers advice on physicians' obligations in epidemics and during public health emergencies, and suggests that physicians should take advance measures to ensure their preparedness.

In addition to the *Code*, the physician-authored articles address issues such as encouraging responsibility in public health emergencies;

physicians' responsibilities in epidemics; guidance for physicians about their obligations in an epidemic and with respect to conflicting duties; duty to treat versus personal safety; and rationing vaccines during of [public health emergencies](#).

The *Code* states that physicians "should take appropriate advance measures to ensure their ability to provide medical service at the time of disasters, including keeping current on relevant knowledge and skills."

**More information:** [More Information](#)

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