



# WHO GOES FIRST?

## MAKING **HARD** **DECISIONS** IN AN **UNEQUAL WORLD**

### **SUBMIT YOUR ESSAY!**

Open to all students enrolled in  
11th or 12th grade classes

### **PRIZES**

1st place: \$1,200 cash

2nd place: \$600 cash

3rd place: \$200 cash

### **DEADLINE**

January 15, 2021

While the coming months may see the development of a COVID-19 vaccine, mass production could take many more months. In these circumstances governments, businesses, and hospitals must make tough decisions: who goes first? Who should get vaccinated or receive needed supplies first?

What rationale can be used to make such decisions and what factors are ethically relevant? COVID-19 disproportionately affects people 60 and older as well as those with preexisting medical conditions. Should age or prior health be relevant factors? It likewise disproportionately affects minorities and the economically disadvantaged, exacerbating long-standing structural and societal factors, such as unequal access to healthcare, safe working conditions, and more. Are race, gender, citizenship, or economic status therefore relevant? Should those designated necessary workers—including healthcare workers and emergency responders, but also gas station attendants, fast food workers, and grocery store clerks—be given early access? Since few individuals cleanly fit into any one of these, what should be done when real individuals cannot be neatly classified into exclusive camps or categories?

In light of these layered complexities, how would you distribute a vaccine? What triage policies would you implement and how would you personally justify those policies ethically?

**For full contest rules, visit**  
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