

Principles and Guidelines on **Human Rights and Public Health Emergencies**

Overview

The *Principles and Guidelines on Human Rights and Public Health Emergencies* (the 'Principles') reflect international, expert consensus on the most pressing human rights and rule of law issues relevant to public health emergency prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery.

Launched by the **Global Health Law Consortium** and the **International Commission of Jurists** during the 76th World Health Assembly, the Principles were developed through a three-year deliberative process between more than 150 individuals from around the world, including international legal scholars and practitioners, human rights defenders, civil society advocates, public health researchers, health workers, and others bearing relevant insights and expertise.



Illustration by
Diana Sarasti Realpe

Spanning 28 interrelated provisions, the Principles provide a crucial framework for governments, civil society, and other stakeholders seeking to prioritize human rights in relation to public health emergencies. Specifically, this framework addresses:

- Essential human rights principles and obligations that encompass all efforts to prevent, prepare for, and respond to public health emergencies
- Human rights obligations of State and non-State actors in relation to public health emergency prevention and preparedness
- Human rights obligations of State and non-State actors in relation to the preparation of, and response to, an imminent or actual public health emergency and
- Extraterritorial human rights obligations in the context of public health emergencies

In the main, the Principles clarify and affirm existing international law and correlative standards applicable to human rights and global health. They build on existing expert consensus, including the *Siracusa Principles on the Limitation and Derogation Provisions in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights* (1984) the *Limburg Principles on the Implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights* (1986), and the *Maastricht Principles on Extraterritorial Obligations of States in the Area of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights* (2011).

The Principles have been endorsed by legal practitioners, scholars, human rights defenders, civil society representatives, former special procedures mandate-holders, and many others. Download them at tinyurl.com/ICJ-GHLC-Principles and please share widely. For any questions or comments, please email roojinhabibi@osgoode.yorku.ca.