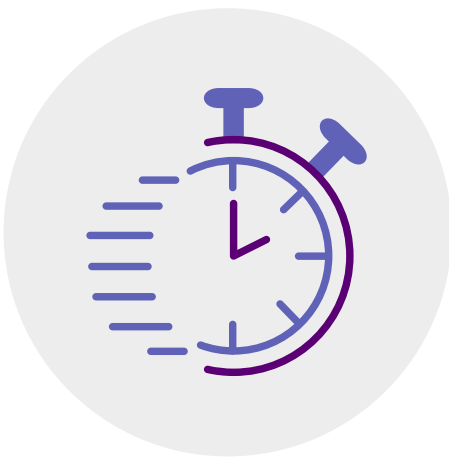


# PRINCIPLES FOR A HUMAN RIGHTS-BASED APPROACH TO MANAGING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC<sup>[1]</sup>



## Approach preventing and treating COVID-19 as a human rights obligation

1. Recognize pandemic engages the right to life and health
2. Recognize human rights laws require mitigating potential impact on rights that are interdependent with the rights to health and life
3. Recognize human rights law prohibit discriminatory action including against persons/communities because of an association with COVID-19 perceived or otherwise



## Set strict limits on measures that infringe rights

1. Ensure public health or emergency-measures that are deemed necessary to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and that restrict the exercise of rights, are time-bound and regularly reviewed
2. Any measures that restrict the exercise of rights must be demonstrably justified as necessary, legitimate and proportionate
3. Ensure that rights-based, legal safeguards govern the appropriate use and handling of personal health information



## Protect vulnerable groups

1. Anticipate, assess and address the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 and related restrictions on vulnerable groups
2. Ensure vulnerable groups have equitable access to health care and other measures to address COVID-19
3. Ensure that public health and emergency measures consider accessibility and other needs of PWDs
4. Ensure that responses to COVID-19 do not perpetuate gender inequity
5. Ensure that any law enforcement of public health or emergency measures does not disproportionately target or criminalize specific individuals because of their background or status.



## Respond to discrimination

1. Ensure that steps taken in response to COVID-19 are based on evidence, and deliberately challenge, reject and dispel stereotypes
2. Anticipate and take into account the potential for certain communities to experience increased discrimination as a result of the government's response to the COVID-19
3. Monitor and report on any trends in discrimination related to the COVID19 pandemic and pursue appropriate sanctions where appropriate



## Strengthen human rights accountability and oversight

1. Consult with human rights institutions and experts, vulnerable groups, as well as persons and communities affected by COVID-19, when making decisions, taking actions and allocating resources
2. Institute formal advisory roles for representatives of human rights institutions within governmental COVID-19 task forces, special committees and working groups
3. Take a deliberate and comprehensive approach to independent human rights accountability and oversight that ensures violations are anticipated, prevented and mitigated from the outset
4. Collect health and other human rights data regarding the response to the COVID-19 pandemic, disaggregated by the grounds of age, disability, gender, social condition, etc.
5. Regularly monitor and report publicly on the human rights impacts, outcomes and inequalities related to the COVID-19 pandemic and its management

[1] See <https://www.ohrc.on.ca/en/policy-statement-human-rights-based-approach-managing-covid-19-pandemic>. See also OHCHR, COVID-19 Guidance, <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/COVID19Guidance.aspx>.