

Ethics After Hours



Pandemic, Lennox Hill (special episode)

Netflix Documentary Series

Summary¹

This special episode of the Lennox Hill series was filmed during the Covid-19 outbreak in New York City in the spring 2020. New York shuts down while the hospitals, including the Lennox Hill Hospital in Manhattan, are overwhelmed with critically ill Covid-19 patients. The episode follow the four doctors in their efforts to keep up with the rapidly developing situation.

Duration: 32mins.

Executive Producers: Ruthie Shatz, Adi Barash, and Josh Braun

Released: June 24, 2020

Available on Netflix (Original Netflix Production)

Questions for discussion:

- What stood out the most to you in this episode and why?
- What ethical questions did this episode raise for you? Why?
- Dr. Langer talks about the difficulty in forming a doctor-patient relationship and the risk of detachment when patients are on ventilators and can't speak. Do you agree with his concerns? Why/why not?
- Discuss the importance of emotional support for front line health care workers. What are some of the measures that can be put in place at an institutional level and at a team level to address anxiety and stress and prevent burn-out among front line health care workers?
- Early on in the outbreak there was little knowledge about how the virus spreads. Moreover, hospital staff was raising concerns about shortage of PPE. Do you think health care providers should be obligated to work during an infectious disease outbreak when the risk to themselves is unknown? Why or why not?
- Physicians have an ethical duty to provide care and healthcare organizations have an ethical duty to safeguard the health of those who work there. Emergency specialist Dr. Mirtha Macri says "I feel the duty – I feel obligated to be here, but at the same time I don't want to be exposed because of the pregnancy."
 - What are some of the measures that can be taken at an individual level to ensure that both ethical duties are met?
 - Discuss the personal measures Dr. Macri takes to protect her family and herself.

*You may also want to watch this short video follow up with Dr. Macri: 'Lenox Hill' ER doctor says COVID episode was 'surreal' <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xwoaQfSYrGQ>

¹ This summary is adapted from the Netflix Official Site
<https://www.netflix.com/ca/title/80201728>