

# **SCHAUM LAW OFFICES**

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*July, 2020*

## **TO: MEMBERS OF THE LONG ISLAND JEWISH ORGANIZED MEDICAL STAFF**

**We thought a report of the New York State Bar Association’s Health Law Section should be brought to your attention as it will, no doubt, be addressed in a more public forum and ultimately be utilized in forming new policies for emergency situations in the future.**

**The report urges that a mass vaccination plan is needed to be in place when a vaccine is found to combat the virus. (A 1905 Supreme Court case had validated a state’s authority to mandate vaccinations). The Health Law Committee stresses that essential health law workers at the highest infection risk must have priority in receiving the vaccines when available.**

**When resources are stretched those institutions and physicians providing care must have uniform ethics guidelines to follow. There were ventilator guidelines created in 2015 but they should be reviewed and modified as needed. It is urged that DOH formulate the emergency regulations that all providers and practitioners can, and must, follow.**

**The report recognized the COVID-19 “disproportionate” effect upon the Latino and African-American communities as well as nursing home residents, older citizens and those in health care. It calls for an adequate and non-discriminatory distribution of available resources for the vulnerable and – most importantly for the medical community – provision of personal protective equipment for the essential health care population as well as giving priority for access to testing.**

**It recognizes a “moral obligation” to address racial and ethnic disparities to lessen morbidity and mortality rates.**

**Joseph J. Fins, a Weil Cornell Medicine bioethicist, served as an expert advisor to the Health Law Section. There is little doubt that there will be more commentary coming after this report and more Public attention paid to its statements.**

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Schaum Law Offices*