

MODULE 9

Ethical, Legal, and Psychosocial

Frameworks for Difficult Decisions in Crisis

Bioterrorism Preparedness for Nevada Nurses

4.0 Contact Hours | Nevada Board of Nursing Approved

Provider: NV-14175 | NAC 632.340 & NAC 632.355

Learning Objectives

1	Apply ethical frameworks to resource allocation decisions
2	Describe Nevada legal requirements (NAC 632.340, 632.355)
3	Differentiate between isolation and quarantine
4	Identify strategies for psychological resilience

Ethical Frameworks

Framework	Principle	Crisis Application
Utilitarianism	Greatest good for greatest number	Maximize lives saved with scarce resources
Duty-Based	Professional obligation to care	Balanced against duty to self/family
Justice-Based	Fair allocation without discrimination	Transparent, consistent criteria

Isolation vs. Quarantine

Measure	Who	Purpose
ISOLATION	SICK individuals	Prevent transmission from ill person
QUARANTINE	EXPOSED individuals (not sick yet)	Monitor for symptoms during incubation

Psychological Resilience

Common Reactions During Crisis:

- Fear, anxiety, uncertainty
- Moral distress from difficult decisions
- Burnout and compassion fatigue

Self-Care Strategies:

- Recognize stress as normal response
- Maintain work-life boundaries
- Seek peer support and debriefing
- Use Employee Assistance Programs

- ✓ Crisis standards apply utilitarian principles - greatest good for greatest number
- ✓ Isolation = sick people; Quarantine = exposed but not yet sick
- ✓ Duty to care is balanced against duty to self and family
- ✓ Psychological self-care is essential for sustained response