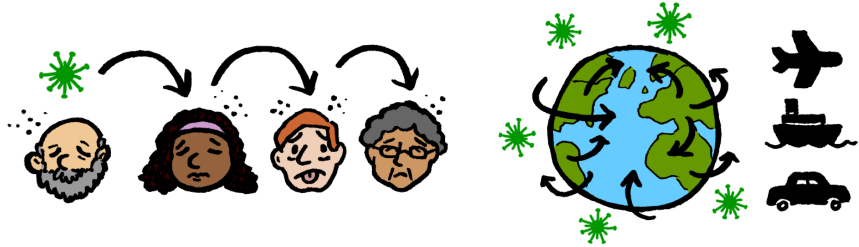


# How Hospital Care Might Change During a Pandemic

## What is a pandemic? (pan-dem-ick)

A pandemic is a disease that spreads quickly over large areas. People catch it from each other (it's infectious).



If the disease spreads too quickly, lots of very sick people might need the hospital all at once.



The hospital might not have enough of what it needs to take care of all those sick people, like supplies and staff.

## In a pandemic, the focus of healthcare changes.

The focus goes from giving each patient exactly what they need ...



... to using what the hospital has to help the whole community as much as possible.



If supplies are running out, the hospital will try to keep as many people alive as possible.

This means that patients who will benefit most from treatment will get treated first.



# How do hospitals decide which patients will benefit the most?

The hospital has a team with doctors and other healthcare workers on it. The team considers each patient's health.

The team tries to predict how well the treatment will work for a specific patient.



Every patient's needs will be carefully considered. Each patient will get the best care that the hospital can offer.

**Every** patient's needs are important.



**Every** patient deserves care.



These changes will happen only if the hospital has more patients than supplies to care for them.



You can help by staying home as much as possible during the pandemic. This will help keep the patient numbers down by slowing the spread of the disease.



*Text:* L. Eisenberg, J. Henriksen, F. Cohn, A. Tarzian, T. Drought, & H. Fitzgerald;  
*Art:* C. Leamy. This work is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivatives 4.0 International License. To view a copy of this license, visit <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/>