COVID-19 Lockdowns: A Public Mental Health Ethics Perspective

Abstract

States all over the world have reacted to COVID-19 in extraordinary ways: with draconian quarantines of entire towns, cities, even nations. Previous studies and preliminary evidence from the COVID-19 lockdowns suggest that these emergency measures could very well be causing a devastating public health crisis of mental illness. In this forum, Ms Cheung and Dr Ip will take a public mental health ethics perspective in examining these lockdowns, considering in particular the internationally enshrined legal right to mental health.