

- Judging the Ethics (the right and wrong)
- Ethics is a branch of philosophy

I have a wonderful cleaning lady (from Mexico) who comes twice a month to my condo. Maria is about 40 and is raising two young children, plus she has a large extended family. She may be in contact with many people in her family and work settings.

My question: Is it safe to keep employing her? I am home when she cleans, so I stay in the guest bedroom/office with the door closed. After she leaves, I use sanitizing wipes on counters, door knobs, toilet handles, etc. to remove any remaining bacteria from items she has touched. I leave her check out and I don't stand close to her when we speak.

Maria and her sister live across town in a high Covid-19 suburb. Her ZIP code has the highest number of cases in this region (71), as of May 5, according to the state. My ZIP code has 32 cases.

Many other people have canceled her services, so I know Maria needs the work.

— *Anonymous, Oregon*

Should we keep employing Maria?

> Keep her b/c she needs the work

> It's not 100% safe. So, Socrates

Socrates: What are Maria's safety procedures?

She's doing all she can with gloves and cleaners and a mask.

***But her presence remains a risk b/c of her neighborhood and extended family.

Socrates: Should we then continue to employ her when she is endangering our own family?

*** Keep her away. Clean for yourself, you lazy bum.

Socrates: But should we not continue to pay her, even if she isn't doing the work?

*** No, that's giving away money.

Socrates: Is it sometimes good to give away \$?

Yes. Charitable giving, helping people less fortunate, is a good thing.

SOc: like when?

Give to the homeless or poor.

Socrates: Is Maria not as deserving as a homeless person?

***yes, because she has kids. You are making the world a better place because you're in it (and helping people).

So we should continue to pay Maria until after Covid?

***Qualifier/Limitation/Condition:

IF she finds other work, then she'll take that job, and we won't pay any more.

Soc: But if she takes another job while we're paying her, is that fair to us?

Should she wait (and not take a job) until we can bring her back?

Should she save a place for us when the pandemic ends? (if we helped her, shouldn't she repay us by saving us a place in her work?)

***we are helping her to make the world better. One doesn't always have to repay the help received. It would be nice if she did.

So, we will pay her during pandemic, but not have her come.

Socrates ("the gadfly of Athens"--gadfly is a kind of horsefly, a big nasty bug that aggravates animals):

Suppose your husband lost his job due to the pandemic. Should you continue to pay Maria, or try to save the money in case you need it?

***Still help. She needs the money more than you do.

Socrates:

