Supplemental ethics question for worksheet 2

**Supplemental ethics question**:

Normally, any new drug that is being developed in the United States needs to go through three phases of testing for safety (Phases I and II) and efficacy (Phases II and III) (see Worksheet 2 Figure 2). Each phase increases the number of individuals that are being tested.  Repurposed drugs have been tested for safety and efficacy against a different disease.

1. The use of repurposed drugs to treat a new outbreak is called off-label drug use (the drug was approved for a specific purpose by the FDA). Is using a repurposed drug ethical? Is it ethical during a pandemic?  What are the risks and benefits?
2. Is speeding up the trials into other approaches, such as the development of novel drugs, using recovered patients’ antibodies for passive immunity, or injecting an untested mRNA into patients, an ethical approach in times of a pandemic?  Explain your position.
   1. Would your position change if this were not during a pandemic?