



ADVOCACY IN REAL TIME DURING COVID19

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Current Conditions in NJ



No Public Health Leadership at the State level

- Multiple critical vacancies at the NJ Department of Health during a global pandemic
- State and Local Public Health infrastructure and system needs not prioritized
- No Statewide Contact Tracing Plan even with reopening dates for non-essential businesses determined.
- No guidance and resources regarding quarantine and isolation procedures for vulnerable populations
- No Equity oriented solutions



To make matters worse:

- New Jersey is one of the lowest ranked states when it comes to State Public Health Funding per Capita.
- New Jersey has a broken or non-existent Public Health Emergency Preparedness system and only made worse by this pandemic
- “But We are a Home Rule State” argument -- Why not model Massachusetts? Or Kansas when it comes to funding

Advocacy efforts related to COVID-19 by other professions



Physicians

PPE

Liability Protection
Redesigned EHRs
Increased Capacity
Expanded Coverage
Student Loan Forgiveness
Financial Support
Relief from regulatory burdens
Full coverage & reimbursement of telehealth services



Healthcare

PPE

Staffing
Transportation vouchers
Mental health services
Guidance



Businesses

PPE

Health coverage options
Reopening Guidelines
Debt Relief
Business Loans
Streamlined Govt. Services
Business Strategy Help
Marketing Assistance



Police

PPE

Staffing
Expanded Technology
Mental health services



Colleges

PPE

Funding for lost \$\$
Reduced Tuition
Financial Support
Borrower Relief
Paid leave benefits
Mental health funding
Food insecurity
Housing
Staffing
Transportation vouchers
Mental health services



Food Security

PPE

↑ SNAP Benefits
WIC, SNAP
Loosened restrictions
Suspend new regulations
Staffing
Senior Services
Transportation vouchers
Mental health services



Housing

PPE

Mortgage Protections
Rent Relief
Financial Assistance
Eviction Protections
Homeless Shelters \$\$
Homelessness Support
Adequate testing

American Academy of Family Physicians
Physicians Advocacy Institute
American College of Physicians
American Hospital Association
U.S. Small Business Administration

Police Foundation
International Association of Chiefs of Police
National Conference of State Legislators
American Council on Education
The Education Trust

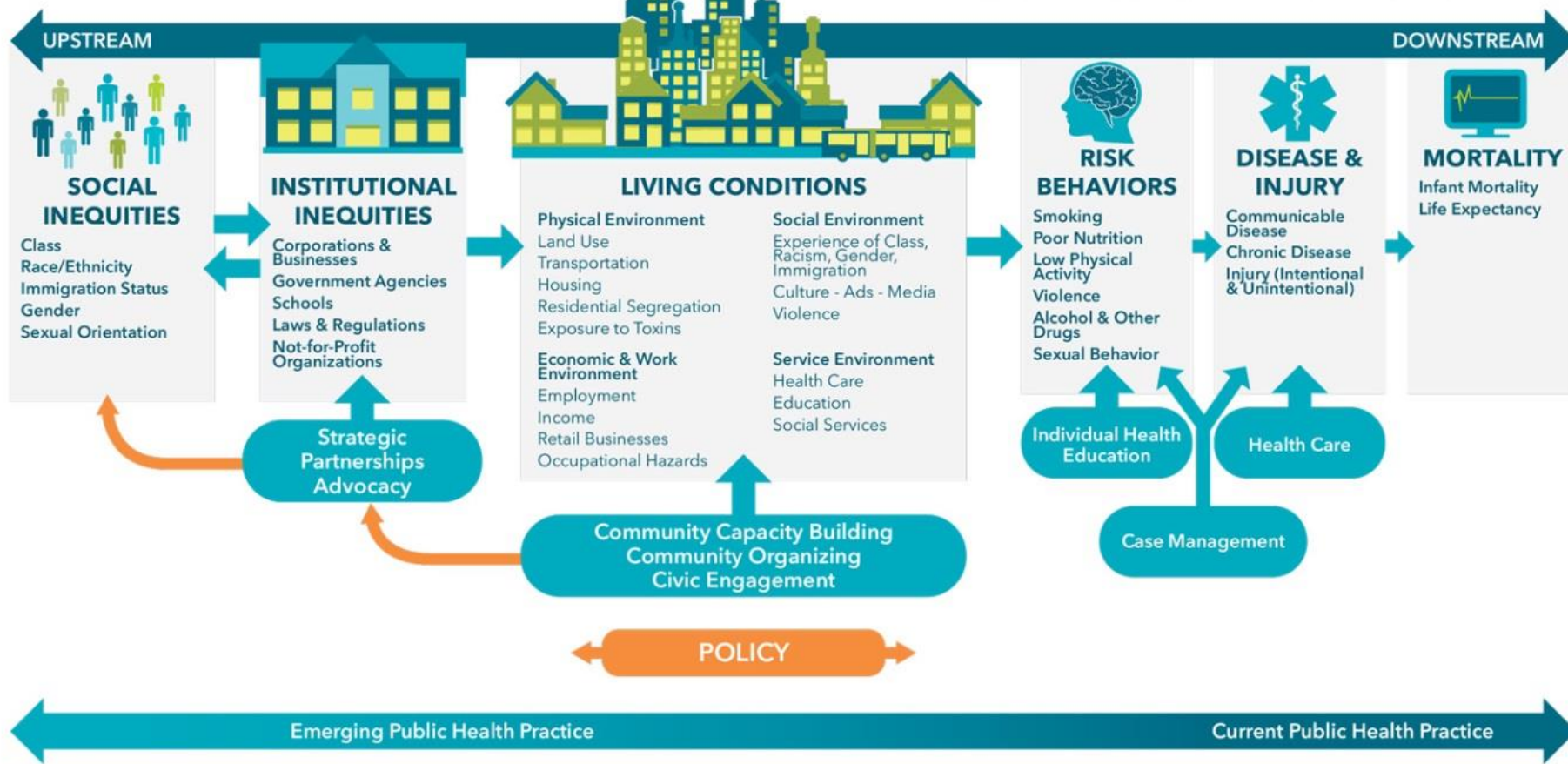
National Low-Income housing Coalition
National Alliance to End Homelessness
Opportunity Finance Network
Housing Partnership Network
National Neighbor Works Association

Alliance to End Hunger
Community Food Bank
Center for Food Action
Feeding America
Meals on Wheels America

A Public Health Approach



A PUBLIC HEALTH FRAMEWORK FOR REDUCING HEALTH INEQUITIES BAY AREA REGIONAL HEALTH INEQUITIES INITIATIVE



What Should We as Public Health Professionals in NJ be Advocating For?



Help Make Public Health a Priority in this State



Masking is Public Health

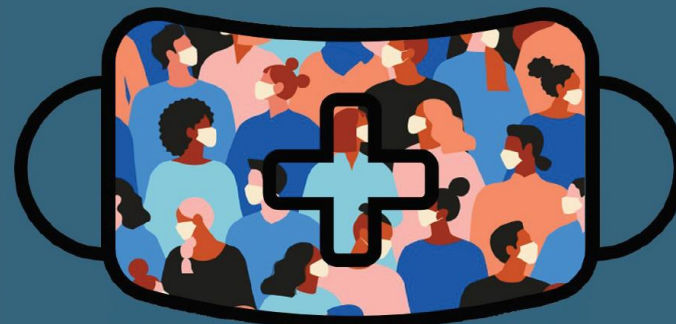


Aaron Thomas
@Aaron_TheThomas

I don't feel safe wearing a handkerchief or something else that isn't CLEARLY a protective mask covering my face to the store because I am a Black man living in this world. I want to stay alive but I also want to stay alive.

1:43 PM · Apr 4, 2020 · [Twitter for iPhone](#)

It's what's behind the mask that matters most.



COLORADO
Office of Health Equity

Department of Public Health & Environment



Xenophobia, racism, and classism should not interfere with preventing and treating COVID-19 in America, or worldwide...



We, as public health professionals, must:

- ✓ Empower people to support their communities by protecting each other and staying safe and well. Don't let social distancing prevent you from being physically and mentally active and engaged. Join online clubs, participate in the 2020 census and vote by mail. Prevent, track and stop hate incidents and crimes related to COVID-19 by working with local human relations commissions and local and state attorneys general.
- ✓ Ensure that the \$8.3 billion in U.S. emergency aid funding and the \$50 billion in the Families First Coronavirus Response Act are spent to equitably prevent, abate and treat COVID-19.
- ✓ Defend the development and distribution of an affordable and accessible vaccine.
- ✓ Prevent the spread of COVID-19 by proactively working with business and government to encourage telecommuting and social distancing, being mindful that millions of Americans — particularly those in the service sector and gig economy — don't have enough sick leave to stay home.
- ✓ Help contain the spread of the disease through an equity and social justice lens. Don't disproportionately place quarantine sites in disadvantaged communities. Provide fair and equitable treatment for people experiencing homelessness.
- ✓ Together, let's fight fear-mongering with principled and visionary leadership. Evidence-based knowledge and equity-oriented solutions will help us navigate and resolve this pandemic without causing more harm.



APHA member Elena Ong, PHN, MS, past president and founding CEO of the Asian & Pacific Islander Caucus for Public Health, a recent APHA Executive Board member, and a past vice president of the Southern California Public Health Association, discusses discrimination against Asians in the U.S. and beyond.

There is a need for Policies to Include Equity Considerations in NJ



Bring Context to the Disparities in data around COVID-19

- 1. Bring History into the Picture**
- 2. Use tangible, local examples of problems in your community**
- 3. Point to Policy (as a cause or solution)**

Equitable Policies & Practices

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- 1. Masking**
 - 2. Access to Testing**
 - 3. Temperature screenings**
 - 4. Food Insecurity**
 - 5. Access to Health Care and Mental Health Care**
 - 6. Quarantine & Isolation**

Resources



- **Bay Area Regional Health Inequities Initiative**
- **NAACP: 10 Equity Implications of the COVID-19 Outbreak in the U.S.**
- **National Network of Public Health Institutes COVID-19 Learning Collaborative**
- **Colorado Department of Health and Environment, Office of Health Equity**
- **Boulder City Council Declaration to focus on Equity during COVID-19 Response**
- **American Public Health Association COVID-19**
- **Race Forward: The Center for Racial Justice Innovation: Rapid Racial Equity Impact Assessment Tool**
- **Montgomery Township Health Department COVID-19 Webpage**