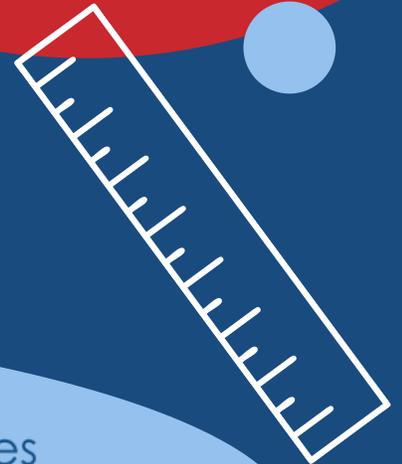


COVID-19 Toolkit

Strategies to Defeat Asian American
Racial Profiling and Xenophobia



OCA - Asian Pacific American Advocates

ADVOCATE EMBRACING THE HOPES AND ASPIRATIONS OF ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICANS

Questions? Contact Matt at
matthew.nguyen.ngo@ocanational.org

BACKGROUND

COVID-19: Asian American Racial Profiling

Since its discovery in December 2019, COVID-19 has become a serious pandemic with devastating effects on people and economies around the world. Communities and governments have been forced to take drastic action to prevent the spread of this disease, including the closure of public spaces and cancellation of events. Unfortunately, the geographic origin of the virus has fueled increasing racial profiling of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPIs).

AAPIs have suffered from physical assault, verbal harassment, loss of business, and racial discrimination in schools and public spaces.

Even though the Centers for Disease Control and other health organizations have stated multiple times that viruses “do not target specific racial or ethnic groups,” there is still a lot of misinformation that has escalated stereotypes into harmful myths. Bad-faith actors have spread this false information using social media, counterfeit documents claiming to be from health organizations, and malicious rumors in order to drum up unwarranted paranoia. These include the myths that the Chinese created the COVID-19 as a bioweapon, and that Asian lungs are inherently more susceptible to infection. This xenophobia can be traced to a longstanding stereotype that Asian Americans are inherently foreign, and bring foreign diseases.

Questions? Contact Matt at
matthew.nguyen.ngo@ocanational.org

Want more information?
Reference [this](#) working list of
COVID-19-related hate
incidents.

Hate crimes and/or incidents resulting from xenophobia are on the rise.

OCA is aware of at least 13 incidents in New York City alone as of March 24th, many of which involved physical assault. Subways appear to be a common location for hate incidents to occur; national news outlets have reported several attacks on subways, including one against an Asian American man who was sprayed with Febreze air freshener on a New York subway, and a Thai American woman who was subjected to a racist tirade on a Los Angeles subway. Asian American students have also come forward with stories of racial attacks, including a 16-year-old boy in the San Fernando Valley who was sent to the emergency room by bullies.

Racial profiling has also directly led to a decrease in patronage of Asian American-owned businesses, due to unfounded fears of increased risk of infection.

These losses go beyond what businesses in general are losing due to the practice of social distancing, and predate the current social distancing mandates. Restaurants and grocery stores in particular, in which cleanliness is a heightened factor, have experienced the worst hits. Losses have been reported as high as 80%, according to some OCA members. Community leaders and elected officials have made an effort to support Asian American businesses, including a House bill meant to provide government loans to struggling businesses. Elements of this bill are expected to be included in Congress's third COVID-19 stimulus package.

TIMELINE

COVID-19 Xenophobia and Racial Profiling

DECEMBER 2019

- 12/1:** The first identified case of the new disease is located in Wuhan, China.
- 12/31:** Health authorities in Wuhan, China send the first reports of the then-called Novel Coronavirus of 2019 to the World Health Organization (WHO).

JANUARY 2020

- In early January, Asian Americans begin reporting racial harassment due to the COVID-19.
- 1/30:** The new disease rapidly spreads to other Chinese provinces. The WHO declares the Novel COVID-19 to be a "Public Health Emergency of International Concern."
- 1/31:** The Trump administration bans entry of "foreign nationals who have traveled to China in the last 14 days."

FEBRUARY 2020

- 2/3: A fake public health letter (LA County Dept of Public Health) circulates on Facebook targeting AAPI businesses in Carson, California, and University of California students.
- 2/9: Sen. Tom Cotton (R-Ark.) falsely claims the COVID-19 is a Chinese bioweapon.
- 2/11: The WHO renames the Novel Coronavirus COVID-19.
- 2/11: A man on a Los Angeles subway verbally assaults a Thai American woman with an anti-Chinese rant.

FEBRUARY 2020 (CONT.)

- 2/14: Two Asian American students in California are reported to be victims of racial profiling due to the COVID-19. One of the students is physically assaulted and sent to the hospital.
- 2/24: Four men in London assault Jonathan Mok, saying “we don’t want your coronavirus in our country.”
- 2/28: Reps. Grace Meng, Judy Chu and Nydia Velasquez introduce House Resolution 6040, the “Small Business Relief From Communicable Disease Induced Economic Hardship Act,” to provide federal government loans of up to \$2 million to businesses struggling from COVID-19.

FEBRUARY 2020 (CONT.)

- 2/28:** CAPAC holds a press conference, with remarks from Rep. Judy Chu, OCA Executive Director Rita Pin Ahrens and others to denounce COVID-19-related xenophobia and misinformation.
- 2/29:** The first American dies from COVID-19.

MARCH 2020

- 3/4:** The US Department of Education releases a letter (included in this toolkit) asking school administrations to address anti-Asian bullying arising from the COVID-19.
- 3/6:** A man in Brooklyn accosts an Asian American man on a subway, telling him to stay away and spraying Febreze air freshener in his face.
- 3/8:** New York Mayor Bill DeBlasio announces that the City will provide zero-interest loans of up to \$75,000 to struggling small businesses with fewer than 100 employees, and that have experienced losses of 25% or greater.

MARCH 2020 (CONT.)

- 3/8:** An Asian American man wearing a mask in Brooklyn is stabbed 13 times by another man in a mask, including once in the heart.
- 3/9:** An Asian American woman is attacked at a crosswalk in San Francisco.

MARCH 2020 (CONT.)

- 3/10: A 23-year-old female student and a 59-year-old man are physically attacked in New York.
- 3/10: Two Chinese international students are attacked at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, by assailants throwing raw eggs from a moving vehicle.
- 3/11: The WHO declares COVID-19 to be a pandemic.
- 3/11: A classroom bully in Southern California convinces an 8-year-old Asian American boy he has COVID-19, causing him to fear for his life.

MARCH 2020 (CONT.)

- 3/11: Residents of Cuyahoga County, California ask public health officials if it is safe to eat at Chinese and Italian restaurants.
- 3/13: US President Donald Trump declares the COVID-19 pandemic to be a national emergency, retroactively starting on March 1st.
- 3/14: Classroom bullies in Florida harass Chinese American girls with racist stereotypes that Chinese people are “disgusting” and eat “any type of animal.”
- 3/16: President Trump refers to COVID-19 as the “Chinese Virus” in multiple tweets, sparking outrage in the AAPI community and prompting a response from OCA National.

MARCH 2020 (CONT.)

- 3/17:** An Asian American woman gets jumped at a New York City subway station.
- 3/19:** An Asian American man is surrounded by multiple strangers in a grocery store after coughing.
- 3/23:** New York Attorney General Letitia James creates a hate crime hotline in response to rising anti-AAPI violence.

**REPORT A HATE
CRIME TO OCA HERE**

**NEW YORK HATE
CRIMES HOTLINE:
(800) 771-7755**

FOR REFERENCE:

**COVID-19 OUTBREAK
TIMELINE FAST FACTS**

TALKING POINTS

For Meetings with the Media and Elected Officials

Geographic or Ethnically-Targeted References to COVID-19

Public figures routinely refer to COVID-19 as the “Chinese Virus,” “Wuhan Virus,” “Kung Flu,” or other derivatives. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), these names that reference a specific location or ethnic group should be avoided, as they invite unwarranted scrutiny to people who fall under those terms. The use of these terms exacerbates the existing problem of racial discrimination against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPIs) in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic by associating the disease with AAPI ethnicities.

This language has been the number one concern expressed to the policy department by OCA members since President Donald Trump and other government officials began increasing usage of these terms. As of March 24th, The President spoke out against hate crimes, but has not clearly disavowed usage of these terms.

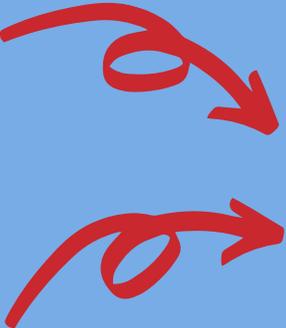
These WHO guidelines were published in 2015. We should not repeat conspiracy theories, including the theory that China “bought” or “bribed” the WHO to give COVID-19 an ethnically-neutral name.

Public officials should refer to the disease by its proper names: the coronavirus, SARS CoV-2, or COVID-19.

All OCA publications should refer to the disease as COVID-19.

The continued improper usage of ethnicity-specific terms will directly contribute to worse, and more frequent hate crimes against AAPIs.

News outlets continue to use stock photos of Asian individuals wearing masks, or of local Chinatowns in coverage of stories. Especially when the issue at hand has nothing to do with AAPI communities, news outlets should refrain from using these photos because they gratuitously connect Asian ethnicities with COVID-19.



Pressure local and national news media to take down and replace stock photos that unnecessarily target AAPI communities in their coverage of COVID-19. An example is provided below.



Image retrieved from a Forbes article on unemployment benefits.

LOSS OF REVENUE FOR AAPI BUSINESSES AND WORKERS

Anti-Asian stigma resulted in dramatically reduced patronage for AAPI-owned businesses long before COVID-19 was declared a pandemic, or social distancing mandates were established. OCA chapters report business losses of up to 80%, especially for groceries and restaurants.

Because of this stigma, AAPI-owned businesses suffer losses even greater than those suffered by other businesses due to social distancing and quarantines.

While grocery stores around the country struggle to keep essential items in stock, Asian grocery stores tend to have fuller shelves due to reduced patronage.

Communities around the country should make a concentrated effort to support small, family-owned AAPI businesses.

These are breadwinners with families to support. We must make sure they have the income to weather this crisis.

HATE CRIMES

Through our experiences and from monitoring the news, AAPI communities know that racial discrimination and hate crimes have accelerated since the outbreak of COVID-19.



We lack adequate data on anti-AAPI hate crimes. The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and Department of Justice (DOJ) have an obligation to prioritize and improve the investigation of anti-AAPI hate crimes. OCA's request for an AAPI hate crimes investigation task force is outlined in this [letter to the White House, FBI and DOJ](#).

Witnesses to hate crimes should practice the bystander intervention strategies provided in this toolkit.

CLASSROOM BULLYING

AAPI students report the highest level of bullying in school classrooms, hallways, or stairwells. COVID-19-related bullying only adds to the suffering of AAPI students. This bullying has led to serious injury and mortal fear.

School districts, administrators and teachers should take proactive measures to prevent further bullying and support their AAPI students.



OCA - New York celebrates Danny Chen, a Chinese American man who was hatefully bullied in the U.S. Army leading up to his death.

● STRATEGIES ●

FOR COMMUNITY AND GOVERNMENT LEADERS

Apply pressure through letters, phone calls, and in person (if possible) to discourage the naming of country/ethnicity when referring to COVID-19. Demand that they clearly condemn racial violence, and prioritize the protection of AAPI communities.

Remind elected officials that AAPIs are the fastest-growing voting block, which will be reflected in the 2020 Census.

FOR NEWS MEDIA

Pressure local and national news media to take down and replace stock photos that unnecessarily target AAPI communities in their coverage of COVID-19. An example is provided above.

● STRATEGIES ●

FOR FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL LEGISLATORS

Contact policymakers in support of legislation that provides relief to struggling AAPI businesses, preserves access to voting during times of crisis, and prioritizes investigation of anti-AAPI hate crimes.

Some examples of bills to support include H.R. 6040, introduced by Rep. Grace Meng in New York, which provides Small Business Administration loans of up to \$2 million to small businesses impacted by disease epidemics, and H.R. 6202, introduced by Rep. Earl Blumenauer, which makes all states allow universal absentee voting during crises.

Elements of OCA-endorsed bills H.R. 6040 and 6202 are expected to make it into Congress's third COVID-19 relief package. However, more can be done at the state and local levels to advance the interests of AAPI communities.

● STRATEGIES ●

FOR SUPPORTING LOCAL AAPI BUSINESSES

Most grocery stores have limited stock due to panic buying. However, Asian groceries are generally better-stocked due to racial discrimination. Shop at Asian grocery stores to support AAPI businesses and for a higher chance of finding essential goods.

RESTAURANTS

We recommend that restaurants offer online gift certificates that can be purchased remotely, redeemable in person after the pandemic subsides or immediately through no-contact delivery and takeout.

For restaurants offering no-contact delivery, individuals can order food for delivery. Otherwise, order takeout.

We ask individuals to tip their delivery drivers well.

● STRATEGIES ●

FOR FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT

Keep pushing for the priorities outlined in [this letter](#) to the White House, FBI and Dept. of Justice:

- Improved training for law enforcement officers
- Improved quality assurance for data collection
- Pressure local law enforcement to report to the FBI

REPORT HATE CRIMES

A doctor needs to know the symptoms before they can prescribe the proper treatment. OCA encourages reporting hate crimes to law enforcement, and also to OCA for its own records. Use OCA's [hate crimes reporting tool](#).

Use the Center for Urban Pedagogy's five bystander intervention strategies provided in this toolkit to intervene on behalf of victims, when safe:

- DISTRACT
- DELEGATE
- DELAY
- DIRECT
- DOCUMENT

OTHER RESOURCES

OCA National has enclosed documents that may serve as valuable resources for local chapters to use in their advocacy. These include:

- The latest World Health Organization (WHO) and Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines for preventing the spread of COVID-19
- The WHO's 2015 guidelines for naming diseases
- The Department of Education's letter to educational institutions
- OCA's letter to the White House, Federal Bureau of Investigation, and Department of Justice to prioritize the safety of AAPI communities
- A copy of House Resolution 6040: "Small Business Relief From Communicable Disease Induced Economic Hardship Act of 2020."
- A copy of House Resolution 6202: "The Resilient Elections During Quarantines and Natural Disasters Act of 2020."
- A document outlining the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) plan for COVID-19 response

HATE CRIMES TRACKING

OCA is keeping a working list of anti-AAPI hate crimes. If you have an incident to add to the list, please use the online reporting tool at <https://www.aapihatecrimes.org/> and contact Matt Nguyen-Ngo, Civil Rights Fellow at matthew.nguyen.ngo@ocanational.org.

Find the working list of anti-AAPI hate crimes here:
<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1A2FgScC6YcPiy.5Bsfh-RaYLigg9xmJejPBRJA3rz-ko/edit?usp=sharing>

MULTILINGUAL HEALTH RESOURCES

The CDC offers its COVID-19 website in:

[中文 \(Chinese\)](#)

[Español \(Spanish\)](#)

King County, WA offers health information in:

[Amharic](#), [Arabic](#), [Chinese](#), [Filipino/Tagalog](#), [French](#), [Hindi](#), [Japanese](#), [Khmer](#), [Korean](#), [Marshallese](#), [Russian](#), [Somali](#), [Spanish](#), [Thai](#), and [Vietnamese](#).



SHOW UP



YOUR GUIDE TO BYSTANDER INTERVENTION



**PUBLIC
ACCESS
DESIGN**

WE ALL PLAY A ROLE

in creating safe public space by supporting each other when we're harassed. That's what bystander intervention is all about.

A LOT OF DIFFERENT THINGS COUNT AS HARASSMENT...

- Intimidating looks and staring
- Comments about appearance
- Vulgar gestures, whistling, and making kissing noises
- Following someone
- Racist, xenophobic, homophobic, sexist, and transphobic slurs

WE ALL HAVE THE RIGHT TO BE SAFE IN PUBLIC SPACE. But that's not how everyone experiences it.

- Public exposure and masturbation
- Grabbing, touching, and groping
- Defacing public spaces

HARASSMENT CAN ESCALATE INTO VIOLENCE

HARASSMENT CAN HAPPEN ANYWHERE...

- Near schools, playgrounds, and campuses*
- On buses, trains, and planes
- In stores and other places of business
- On sidewalks and streets, and in parks

- At sports events, festivals, and concerts
- Online
- Near workplaces*

*Special laws cover harassment at school and work, but they aren't addressed here.



PEOPLE EXPERIENCE PUBLIC SPACE DIFFERENTLY

OUR IDENTITIES—who we are and how others see us—impact our safety in public space and how we experience harassment.

What are your identities?



How do they affect how you move through public space?



Have you experienced harassment before?



Do you identify as female or gender nonconforming?



Do you identify as LGBTQ+?

Are you a person of color?



Are you from an immigrant family?



Do you have a visual or hearing impairment? Do you have a disability?



WHAT IS PRIVILEGE?

Privilege is a set of unearned benefits and power maintained by a group in society. It extends to all parts of identity—race and ethnicity, gender identity and expression, class, language, ability, religion, and many others. Your privilege—and your vulnerability—can change depending on the situation you're in. In some spaces, your privilege gives you more power than others. That means you might be able to help in a way others can't.

But remember: Bystander intervention isn't about being a hero!

COMMON REASONS PEOPLE DON'T TAKE ACTION

“NOBODY ELSE IS DOING ANYTHING.”

This kind of thinking is called the “bystander effect” and it allows a whole crowd to wait for someone else to act. It takes courage to be the first to do something.

“I’M AFRAID I’LL MAKE THINGS WORSE.”

You can pick a less direct action, like asking someone else to help.

“IT’S HARMLESS, RIGHT?”

Verbal harassment makes targets feel uncomfortable and threatened, and can escalate to physical violence.

“IT’S A CULTURAL THING.”

Harassment is a product of racism, sexism, homophobia, and xenophobia—not the product of any one culture or identity.

“I CAN’T MAKE A DIFFERENCE.”

Your actions can discourage the harasser, support the target, and help prevent future harassment.

“IT’S NOT MY PROBLEM.”

Even if you’ve never been a target, a friend or loved one probably has been. Harassment hurts everyone.

TIPS FOR MOVING TO ACTION

The first step to being helpful is paying attention to what’s going on around you. If it’s hard to tell what’s happening, focus on the person targeted. Do they look uncomfortable? Are they trying to move away? Look up from your phone and take out your earbuds to be a good observer.

Turn the page for tips on becoming a good bystander.



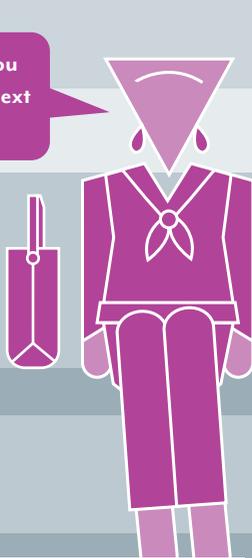
THE 5 D_s OF BYSTANDER INTERVENTION

DISTRACT

Take an indirect approach to de-escalate the situation.

SAY:

Excuse me, do you know what the next stop is?



@#%(@#(@#&(#*
&#\$\$\$? #@\$#...

&(#\$&!@#\$&##\$?
*#?#\$?#%#@\$#...

Start a conversation with the target or find another way to draw attention away from them. Ask them for directions or the time, or drop something.

THE 5 Ds OF BYSTANDER INTERVENTION

DELEGATE

Get help from someone else.

SAY:

Excuse me! This person is being harassed. Can you help?

Find someone in a position of authority—like a bus driver, flight attendant, security guard, teacher, or store manager—and ask them for help. Check in with the person being harassed. You can ask them if they want you to call the police.



THE 5 D_s OF BYSTANDER INTERVENTION

DELAY

After the incident is over, check in with the person who was harassed.

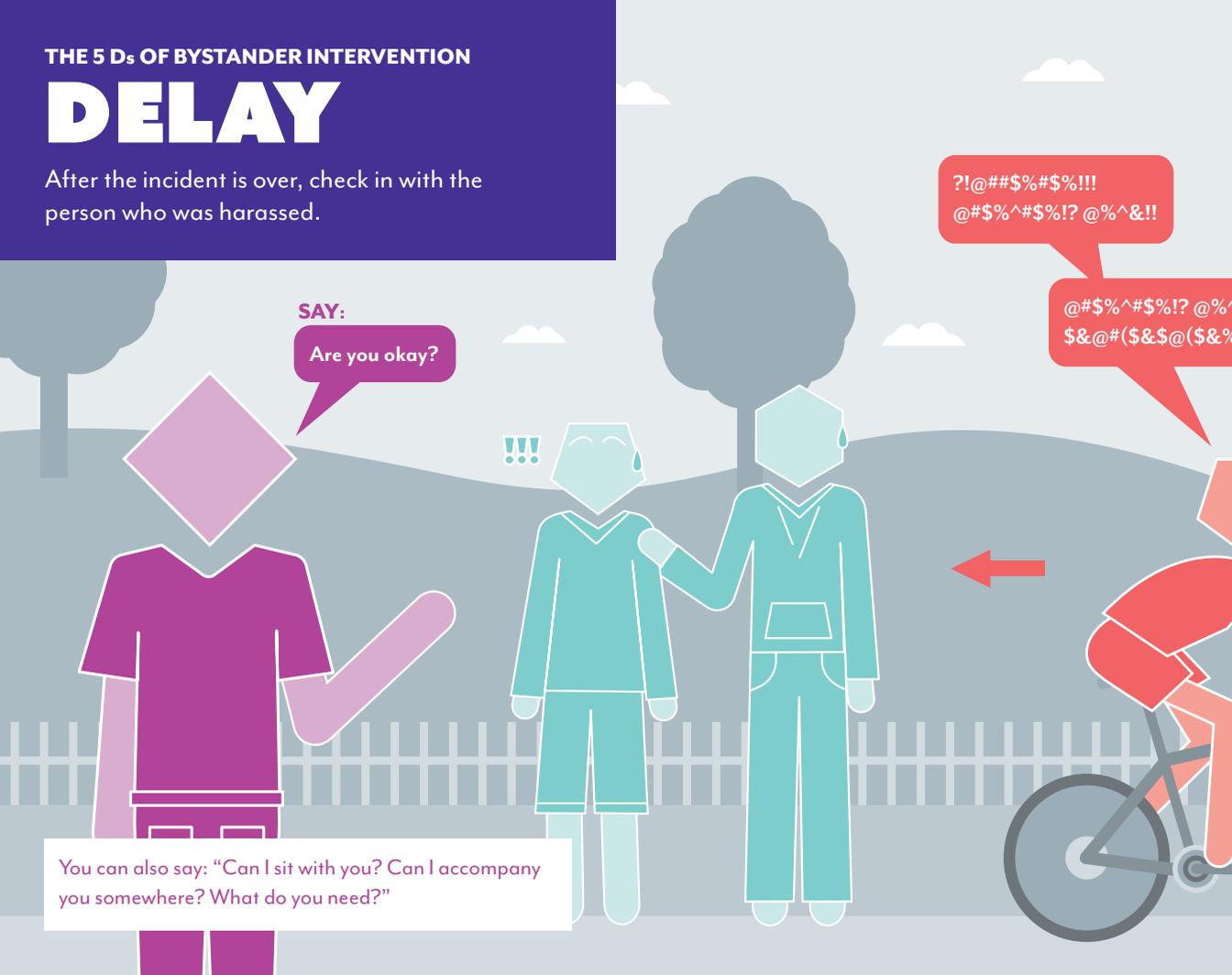
SAY:
Are you okay?

!!!

?!@##\$%#\$%!!!
@#\$%^#%\$!?! @%^&!!

@#\$%^#%\$!?! @%
\$&@#(\$&\$@(\$&%

You can also say: "Can I sit with you? Can I accompany you somewhere? What do you need?"



THE 5 D_s OF BYSTANDER INTERVENTION

DIRECT

Assess your safety first. Speak up about the harassment. Be firm and clear.

SAY:

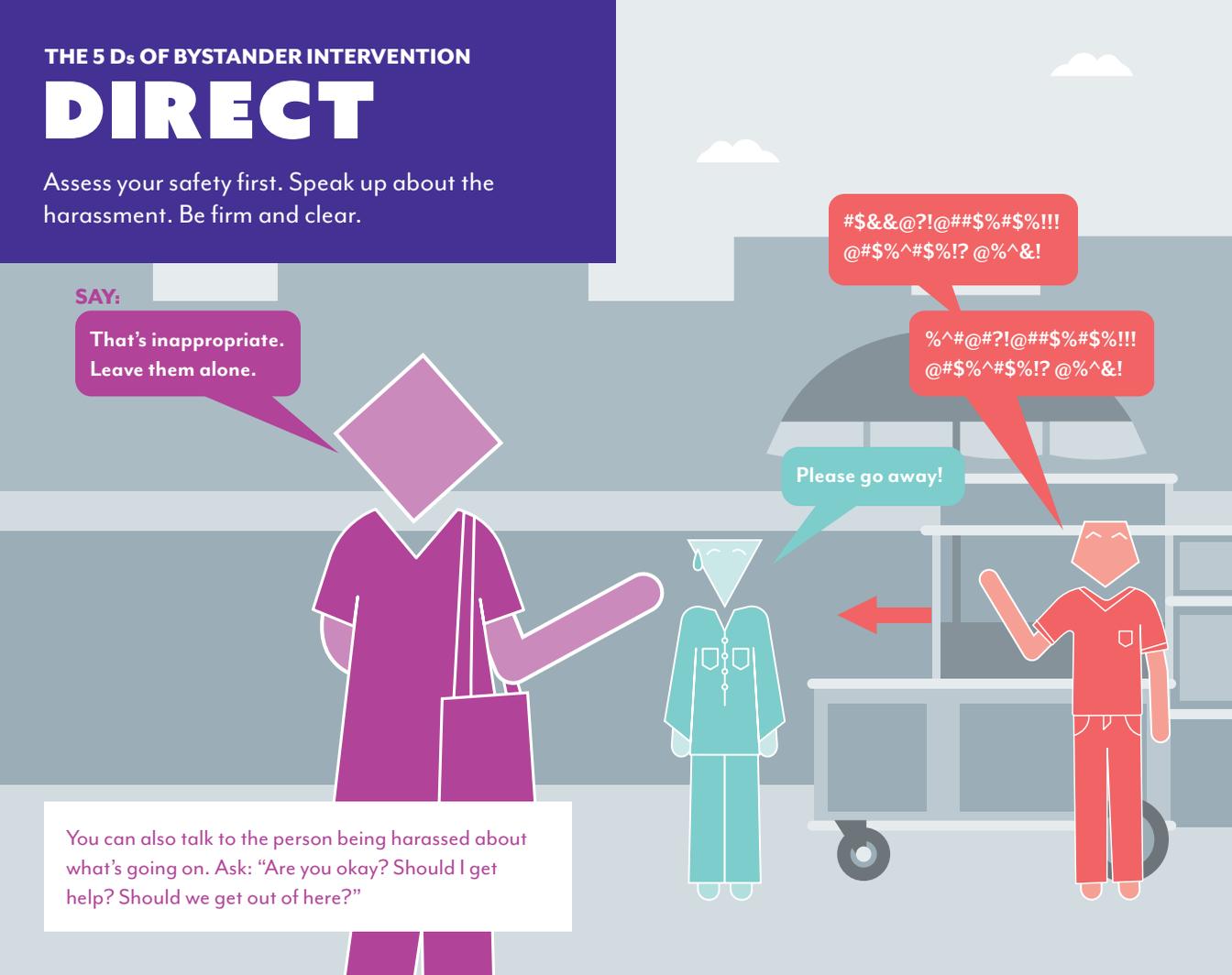
That's inappropriate.
Leave them alone.

You can also talk to the person being harassed about what's going on. Ask: "Are you okay? Should I get help? Should we get out of here?"

Please go away!

#\$&&@?!@##\$%#\$%!!!
@#\$%^#\$%!@%&!

%^#@#?!@##\$%#\$%!!!
@#\$%^#\$%!@%&!



THE 5 Ds OF BYSTANDER INTERVENTION

DOCUMENT

It can be helpful for the target to have a video of the incident. Laws about recording in public vary, so check local laws first.

Is anyone helping the person being harassed? If no, use one of the other 4 Ds to help them.

Only document the situation if it's safe.

&!^\$#\$%!!!&(#%
@#\$%^#\$\$!?! @%^&!*

TIPS FOR DOCUMENTING PUBLIC HARASSMENT

- Keep a safe distance.
- Film street signs or other landmarks that help identify the location.
- Say the day and time.

ALWAYS ask the person targeted what they want to do with the footage. **NEVER** post it online or use it without their permission.

Keep your attention on the person being harassed—**make sure anything you do is focused on supporting them.**

SHARING YOUR STORY AS A BYSTANDER...



Helps build a network of support by reminding others they're not alone

Gives other people and organizations important info on where and how harassment is happening



Amplifies the stories of targets and bystanders

Helps make harassment visible



Share your story and read other people's stories at ihollaback.org or download the Hollaback! app for your iPhone or Android. For more resources—including info on what do if you're harassed—visit ihollaback.org.

This project was produced through **Public Access Design**, a program of the **Center for Urban Pedagogy (CUP)**. Public Access Design projects use design to make complex urban issues accessible to the people most affected by them. publicaccessdesign.org

CUP

Ingrid Haftel

Hollaback!

Debjani Roy, Leah Entenmann, and Agunda Okeyo

Designer

Leah Garlock

The Center for Urban Pedagogy (CUP)

is a nonprofit that uses the power of design and art to increase meaningful civic engagement. welcometoCUP.org

Hollaback! is a global, people-powered movement to end harassment. We work together to understand the problem, ignite public conversations, and develop innovative strategies that ensure equal access to public spaces. ihollaback.org

Leah Garlock is a visual and interactive designer, with an insatiable curiosity for cultures, people, and big ideas. leahgarlock.com

BIG THANKS TO: Christine Gaspar, Nick Johnson, Oscar Nuñez, Deja Holden, Frampton Tolbert, Christy Batta, and Sabrina Hightower

Special thanks to WITNESS for their guidance on documenting harassment.



Support for this project was provided by The New York Community Trust. Additional support for the Public Access Design program was provided by The Shelley & Donald Rubin Foundation, public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council, and Council Members Brad Lander, Carlos Menchaca, and Antonio Reynoso.

© the Center of Urban Pedagogy, 2017

WE ALL PLAY A ROLE IN MAKING PUBLIC SPACE SAFE.

Together, we can end hate and harassment!



Wash your hands

Wash your hands with soap and running water when **hands are visibly dirty**



If your **hands are not visibly dirty**, frequently clean them by using alcohol-based hand rub or soap and water



Protect yourself and others from getting sick

Wash your hands



- after coughing or sneezing
- when caring for the sick
- before, during and after you prepare food
- before eating
- after toilet use
- when hands are visibly dirty
- after handling animals or animal waste



World Health
Organization

Protect others from getting sick

When coughing and sneezing
cover mouth and nose with
flexed elbow or tissue



Throw tissue into closed bin
immediately after use

Clean hands with alcohol-based
hand rub or soap and water
after coughing or sneezing and
when caring for the sick



World Health
Organization

Protect others from getting sick



Avoid close contact when you are experiencing cough and fever

Avoid spitting in public



If you have fever, cough and difficulty breathing **seek medical care early** and share previous travel history with your health care provider



World Health
Organization

93

Receive Updates 

U.S. Department of Education

OCR Coronavirus Statement

U.S. Department of Education sent this bulletin at 03/04/2020 05:29 PM EST

Having trouble viewing this email? [View it as a Web page.](#)



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

March 4, 2020

Dear Education Leader:

I write to request your careful attention to recent challenges that have been reported in light of the coronavirus (COVID-19). There has been an increasing number of news reports regarding stereotyping, harassment, and bullying directed at persons perceived to be of Chinese American or, more generally, Asian descent, including students. These reports are quite troubling and are of particular concern to Secretary Betsy DeVos and the Office for Civil Rights.

The Department appreciates that some institutions are taking prompt and forceful measures to protect the health and safety of students, instructors, and staff, consistent with guidance issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Schools and educators should follow the recommendations in the [CDC guidance](#) and this Department's [Information and Resources for Schools and School Personnel](#), as these recommendations are the most effective precautions that can be taken to safeguard the health of our educational communities. In an environment of fear, however, some individuals may regrettably turn toward racial or ethnic stereotypes. Worse, ethnic harassment or bullying exacerbates hatred, harms students, and is never justified. These incidents can create a climate of misunderstanding and fear. This hurts all of us.

Educational institutions should take special care to ensure that all students are able to study and learn in an environment that is healthy, safe, and free from bias or discrimination. Discrimination can take many forms, ranging from verbal abuse to physical attacks based on race, ancestry, or misunderstandings about cultural traditions. As education leaders working within our respective communities, we must ensure that harassment based on race or ethnicity is not tolerated.

The Department appreciates the efforts of educators who have reaffirmed their commitment to protecting all students from the harmful effects of bullying and harassment based on race and national origin. We also remind you that in some circumstances, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VI) may require educational institutions to investigate bias incidents and take reasonable steps to end unlawful harassment, eliminate hostile environments, prevent the harassment from recurring, and, as appropriate, remedy its effects.

Through our own conduct, as well as through the language that we use to discuss this sensitive topic, we must demonstrate that health and tolerance are compatible values; they are both central elements of the educational excellence that our students deserve.

If you have questions or would like additional information or technical assistance, you may visit the website of the Department of Education's OCR at www.ed.gov/ocr or contact OCR at (800) 421-3481 (TDD: 800-877-8339) or at ocr@ed.gov. You may also contact OCR's Outreach, Prevention, Education and Non-discrimination (OPEN) Center at OPEN@ed.gov. For more information about your civil rights obligations, including the obligation to avoid discrimination on the basis of race, color, and national origin, please visit Ed.gov/OCR.

Thank you for your help in ensuring that our educational system is safe for all students.

Sincerely,

/S/

Kenneth L. Marcus

Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights

Update your subscriptions, modify your password or email address, or stop subscriptions at any time on your [Subscriber Preferences Page](#). You will need to use your email address to log in. If you have questions or problems with the subscription service, please contact subscriberhelp.govdelivery.com.

This service is provided to you at no charge by U.S. Department of Education.

Powered by



March 23, 2020

President Donald Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Attorney General William Barr
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20530

Director Christopher Wray
Federal Bureau of Investigations
935 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20535

Dear President Donald Trump, Attorney General William Barr, and FBI Director Christopher Wray:

On behalf of OCA - Asian Pacific American Advocates, and the undersigned organizations, we urge you to publicly recognize and denounce the increasing racist attacks and discrimination against the Asian American community, in the wake of rising concerns over the Coronavirus Disease of 2019 (COVID-19). While we understand that all levels of government are suffering from lack of resources during this serious pandemic, we cannot allow Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders to become scapegoats.

Specifically, we call upon the President to issue an Executive Order to establish a Task Force for the purpose of investigating and protecting the civil rights of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPIs), in collaboration with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the Department of Justice (DOJ). We urge the FBI to prioritize and expand data collection of hate crimes against AAPIs, with particular attention to ethnic and geographic disaggregation, to better inform our communities' response to this pressing issue. We further ask the DOJ to reaffirm its commitment to AAPI survivors by making a public statement and prioritizing the investigation of anti-AAPI hate crimes. Finally, we ask the White House, Secretary of State, and other elected officials to cease using terms like "Chinese Virus", "Wuhan Virus", and "Kung Flu," which falsely and harmfully associate COVID-19 with the Chinese ethnicity.

With increasing alarm, we have witnessed incidents across the country targeting AAPIs in



connection to COVID-19. For example, on March 14th, a 47-year-old father and his 10-year-old son were followed and attacked in Queens, NY at a bus stop.¹ The assailant struck the father on the head in front of his son. On the same day, an Asian American family fell victim to a knife attack while shopping at a Sam's Club in Midland, TX.² In the San Fernando Valley, CA, a 16-year old Asian American boy was physically assaulted at school because he was accused of having the coronavirus.³ And at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, two Chinese international students were attacked with raw eggs thrown from a moving vehicle.⁴ We know these incidents to be merely the tip of the iceberg, as hate crimes have long been severely under-reported and inadequately defined. As these racially-motivated attacks accelerate in the midst of the coronavirus crisis, it becomes increasingly imperative that this nation's leadership ensures the safety of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

There is a stigma associated with COVID-19 (as it originated in Hubei Province, China) which leads some to assume that anybody with perceived Asian ancestry might carry the disease. However, *the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) maintain that ethnicity is not a risk factor for transmission of COVID-19.* For this reason, the CDC and World Health Organization (WHO) discourage associating diseases with geographic locations, or “cultural, population, industry or occupational references.”⁵ Naming Asian ethnicities in reference to COVID-19 only strengthens this false association, and harms Asian American and Asian-perceived communities across the country. Perpetuating age-old stereotypes of Chinese people and culture being “dirty” and “diseased” directly enables further attacks on Chinese Americans and other Asian Americans. Elected officials have been proactive in combating misinformation by reminding their constituents that it is safe to visit their local Chinatown,⁶ but recent attacks on AAPIs prove that more needs to be done.

On February 26th, the members of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC)

¹ New York Post. (2020, March 14). Victim of possible coronavirus hate crime in Queens speaks out. Retrieved from <https://nypost.com/2020/03/14/victim-of-possible-coronavirus-hate-crime-in-queens-speaks-out/>

² News West 9. (2020, March 14). Teen charged in 'racially motivated' Sam's club stabbing. Retrieved from <https://www.newswest9.com/article/news/stabbing-at-sams-club/513-da08cae7-b407-491a-9c24-dcec22ee5dd3>

³ CBS News. (2020, February 14). Bullies attack Asian American teen at school, accusing him of having coronavirus. Retrieved from <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/coronavirus-bullies-attack-asian-teen-los-angeles-accusing-himof-having-coronavirus/>

⁴ Cavalier Daily. (2020, March 12). Chinese international student reports attempted assault at U.Va. Retrieved from <https://www.cavalierdaily.com/article/2020/03/chinese-international-student-reports-attempted-assault-at-u-va>

⁵ World Health Organization. (2015, May). World Health Organization Best Practices for the Naming of New Human Infectious Diseases. Retrieved from https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/163636/WHO_HSE_FOS_15.1_eng.pdf;jsessionid=B646C7585BC8F003CBD121B8C513B0F7?sequence=1

⁶ Nancy Pelosi. (2020, February 24). Pelosi Remarks at Media Availability Following Visit to San Francisco's Chinatown and Meetings with Local Business Owners. Retrieved from <https://www.speaker.gov/newsroom/22420>

circulated a letter to Members of Congress, urging them to help stop the spread of xenophobia and misinformation by only sharing verified information pertaining to COVID-19, how it spreads, and how Americans should protect themselves. We call on you to do the same; In the face of this growing threat, the American people need to hear from their leaders that Asian Americans are not to blame.

We therefore call upon the White House to issue a public statement condemning these increasing racist attacks, and to establish an investigative Task Force via Executive Order to protect the civil rights of AAPIs. This might draw inspiration from the largely successful AAPI Bullying Prevention Task Force, established in 2014. The body conducted research and provided federal resources to AAPI victims of classroom bullying. This new Task Force should include offices of the FBI and DOJ to facilitate their collaboration on this urgent matter.

To the FBI and DOJ, we ask Director Wray and Attorney General Barr to make the investigation of anti-AAPI hate crimes a top priority, as AAPI communities are particularly vulnerable at present time. Jamie Raskin, Chairman of the House Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, wrote to Director Wray in February asking the FBI to improve its hate crimes data collection.⁷ We echo those concerns. Options such as improved law enforcement officer training, improved quality assurance for data collection, and incentives for local law enforcement agencies to report hate crimes to the FBI should all be explored. We request the collection and publication of comprehensive, quantitative data that is disaggregated by ethnicity and geographic location, and we urge the FBI and DOJ to allocate more resources to address this priority. These actions are necessary for the safety and peace of mind of AAPI communities nationwide.

It is imperative that our nation comes together in these uncertain times. We need leadership that is grounded in truth, equity and compassion, and is committed to taking on racism and xenophobia directly. We urge you to call on elected and appointed officials in all levels of government to demonstrate their commitment to keeping ALL communities safe and healthy. OCA - Asian Pacific American Advocates stands ready to do our part in fighting against racism, bigotry, and xenophobia.

Sincerely,
Rita Pin Ahrens
Executive Director, OCA - Asian Pacific American Advocates

⁷ Committee on Oversight and Reform. (2020, February 12). Letter to FBI Director Christopher Wray. Retrieved from <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1qhy8O2iRR-Zipeb4QQ0xTWPffk7WX2X/view?usp=sharing>



OCA - Asian Pacific American Advocates

ADVOCATE EMBRACING THE HOPES AND ASPIRATIONS OF ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICANS

cc: The Honorable Judy Chu, Member of Congress, Chair of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus

343 E 81st Association LLC

AACC

AAPI Progressive Action

Act To Change

African American Ministers In Action

Alabama Justice Initiative

Alief Art House

All Access Interpreters

Amaanah Refugee Services

American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee

Apex for Youth

Arab American Association of New York

Arab American Institute

Arizona Asian American Bar Association

Arizona Women Lawyers Association

Asian American Action Fund

Asian American Arts Alliance

Asian American Bar Association of Chicago

Asian American Bar Association of Houston

Asian American Bar Association of New York

Asian American Chamber of Commerce

Asian American Federation

Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund (AALDEF)

Asian American Prosecutors Association

Asian Leaders Alliance

Asian Pacific American Bar Association of Colorado

Asian Pacific American Bar Association of Los Angeles County

Asian Pacific American Bar Association of South Florida

Asian Pacific American Bar Association of Tampa Bay

Asian Pacific American Heritage Association

Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies (APAICS)

Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance, AFL-CIO

Asian Pacific American Lawyers Association of New Jersey

Asian Pacific American Lawyers of the Inland Empire (APALIE)

Asian Pacific American Women Lawyers Alliance (APAWLA)

Asian Pacific Partners for Empowerment, Advocacy and Leadership (APPEAL)

Asian Real Estate Association of America

Asian/Pacific Bar Association of Sacramento (ABAS)

Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations (AAPCHO)



OCA - Asian Pacific American Advocates

ADVOCATE EMBRACING THE HOPES AND ASPIRATIONS OF ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICANS

Association of Chinese Americans, Inc.
Border Angels
Bread & Roses Missouri
Brooklyn Chinese-American Association
California Asian Pacific American Bar Association
Center for Asian American Media
Chhaya CDC
Chinese American Council of Sacramento
Chinese Community Center, Houston
Chinese Culture Education and Services
Chinese Methodist Center Corporation
Chinese Progressive Association
Chinese Railroad Workers Descendants Association
Chinese-American Planning Council (CPC)
CMP (Chinatown Manpower Project)
Coalition of Asian-American IPA
Communities United Against Hate
Community Partners Advocate of Little Saigon Sacramento (cPALSs)
Connecticut Asian Pacific American Bar Association
Council of Korean Americans
Council Of Peoples Organization
Crossings TV
Dallas Asian-American Bar Association
Daya Inc
Decarcerate Tompkins County
Development (National CAPACD)
Disability Rights Education & Defense Fund
Dr. Michael Hutchins Impact on Wildlife Fund
EARLY MO
East Coast Asian American Student Union (ECAASU)
Emgage-TX
Enero LLC
Equality California
Equality Labs
Filipino American Lawyers of San Diego
Filipino American National Historical Society - Houston (FANHS)
Filipino Lawyers of Washington (FLOW)
Filipino Young Leaders Program (FYLPRO)
Filipinx Artists of Houston
Florin Road Partnership
Girls Inc.
Greater Orlando Asian American Bar Association
Hamilton-Madison House



OCA - Asian Pacific American Advocates

ADVOCATE EMBRACING THE HOPES AND ASPIRATIONS OF ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICANS

Hindu American Foundation
Hispanic Federation
Hmong American Partnership
Hmong National Development
Houston Coalition Against Hate
Houston Immigration Legal Services Collaborative
Huaxia Chinese Academy of Greater New York
Human Rights Campaign
Intec Industries
Interfaith Alliance
International Institute of Buffalo
International Institute of Los Angeles
International Institute of New England
International Institute of St. Louis
IntuitiveX
Japanese American Citizens League (JACL)
Japanese American Social Services, Inc.
Jewish Community Relations Council of St. Louis
Jewish Council for Public Affairs
KAACCH
Korean American Bar Association of Northern California
Korean American Bar Association of Washington
Korean American Voters League
Korean Community Lawyers Association
Korean-American Bar Association of Washington, DC
Lambda Legal
Laotian American National Alliance
League of Women Voters of the United States
Matthew Shepard Foundation
Metro Theater Company
Mi Familia Vota
Migrant Clinicians Network
Minnesota Asian Pacific American Bar Association
MotivAsians for Cleveland
Muslim Advocates
NAACP
NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc.
NALEO Educational Fund
NASTAD
National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (NAPABA)
National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum (NAPAWF)
National Association of Asian American Professionals (NAAAP)
National Association of Social Workers (NASA)



OCA - Asian Pacific American Advocates

ADVOCATE EMBRACING THE HOPES AND ASPIRATIONS OF ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICANS

National Center for Farmworker Health
National Coalition for Asian Pacific American Community
National Council of Jewish Women
National Federation of Filipino American Associations (NAFFAA)
National Filipino American Lawyers Association (NFALA)
National Health Care for the Homeless Council
National Indian Education Association
National LGBTQ Task Force Action Fund
National Queer Asian Pacific Islander Alliance (NQAPIA)
National Women's Law Center
OCA - Central Virginia Chapter
OCA - Fairfield County
OCA - Greater Chicago
OCA - Greater Houston
OCA - Greater Los Angeles
OCA - Greater Washington, DC Chapter (OCA-DC)
OCA - Las Vegas
OCA - New Jersey
OCA - New York Chapter
OCA - Pittsburgh
OCA - Sacramento
OCA - San Francisco
OCA - St. Louis Chapter
OCA - Westchester Hudson Valley
Orange County Asian American Bar Association
Orange County Korean American Bar Association (OCKABA)
Pan Asian Lawyers of San Diego
People For the American Way
Philippine American Bar Association (PABA)
Philippine American Chamber of Commerce (PACC)
Pilipino American Unity for Progress Inc. - Texas Chapter
Public Affairs Alliance of Iranian Americans (PAAIA)
RAISE
Sakhi for South Asian Women
Salesforce Asiapacforce
Sampreshan Inc
San Diego Chinese Attorneys Association
Sikh Coalition
Silver State Equality - Nevada
South Asian Americans Leading Together (SAALT)
South Asian Bar Association - Southern California
South Asian Bar Association of Chicago
South Asian Bar Association of San Diego



OCA - Asian Pacific American Advocates

ADVOCATE EMBRACING THE HOPES AND ASPIRATIONS OF ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICANS

South Asian Youth Action
Southeast Asia Resource Action Center (SEARAC)
Southern California Chinese Lawyers Association
St. Francis Community Services, Catholic Legal Assistance Ministry
St. Louis Chapter of JACL
Thai American Samakkee Coalition
The Korean-American Family Service Center
The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights
The Witness to Witness program
U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants
UnidosUS
Union for Reform Judaism
United Church of Christ, Justice and Witness Ministries
Uptown Studios
VN TeamWork, Inc.
Washington Chinese Youth Club
Washington University Undergraduate and Graduate Workers Union
Westchester Association of Chinese Americans
Western States Center

The Small Business Relief From Communicable Disease Induced Economic Hardship Act of 2020

Background: SARS-CoV-2, commonly referred to as coronavirus disease 2019 or COVID-19, has been detected on every continent except Antarctica. First discovered in Wuhan City, Hubei Province in China, the disease has spread throughout the globe. Global efforts at this time are focused concurrently on containing spread of this virus and mitigating the impact of this virus.

On January 27, 2020, Health and Human Services Secretary Alex M. Azar II declared a public health emergency under the Public Health Service Act, which follows a declaration by the World Health Organization (WHO) that spread of the virus constituted an international public health concern. The last similar HHS public emergency declarations for communicable diseases was due to the zika virus in 2017 and the H1N1 flu outbreak in 2009 and 2010. There have only been four pandemics¹ since the 1918 Spanish Flu epidemic with the coronavirus believed to be the fifth such outbreak.

Travel alerts have been issued by the Department of State for international travelers due to the coronavirus. As of February 20, 2020, the travel advisory for China is at a Level 4, resulting in a do not travel alert. It was also raised to a Level 3 advisory for South Korea, meaning that travelers should reconsider travel.

America's small businesses are beginning to feel the impact from the coronavirus. Economists have lowered the global forecasts for major economies from 2.6 percent to 2.4 percent. Much of the recent slowing of economy is linked to the coronavirus, which has weakened demand in travel and tourism.² Besides the decline in foot traffic for many retailers and restaurants, particularly those in Chinese communities, small firms have experienced challenges related to their supply chains.³ Companies sourcing products and services from China have had delays or complete cancellations of orders, resulting in lower profits for the company.⁴ Besides these challenges, small firms must start the process of preparing their companies for the potential to have employees become infected and remain home or telework. In many instances, a small employer may be unable to absorb the additional workforce reductions without a coinciding loss in productivity.

Legislation: The purpose of the bill is to assist small businesses experiencing an economic injury as a result of the coronavirus. In doing so, the Small Business Administration's Disaster Loan program. In this program, an economic injury disaster loan exists for purposes of assisting small businesses and private nonprofit organizations in the event of a disaster.

¹ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases (NCIRD), Pandemic Influenza, <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/pandemic-resources/basics/past-pandemics.html>, last visited Feb. 28, 2020.

² Paul Hannon and Amara Omeokwe, Coronavirus Hits U.S. Business Activity Surveys indicate February U.S. output fell to lowest level in more than six years as global economies started to feel effects of China's virus outbreak, Wall Street Journal, Feb. 21, 2020.

³ *Id.*

⁴ Ali Gostanian, It's not just Apple – small businesses are feeling the effects of the coronavirus outbreak, NBCNews.com, Feb. 27, 2020; Monique Lopez, Coronavirus impacting small businesses in Northeast Wisconsin, Fox11News.com, Feb. 26, 2020.

The Small Business Relief From Communicable Disease Induced Economic Hardship Act of 2020

Economic injury is the inability of a business to meet its obligations as they mature and to pay its ordinary and necessary operating expenses, which allows them to be eligible for an economic injury disaster loan. These loans are for working capital to small businesses and small agricultural cooperatives to assist them through the disaster recovery period. EIDL assistance is available only to small businesses determined unable to obtain credit elsewhere. The SBA can provide up to \$2 million to help meet financial obligations and operating expenses which could have been met had the disaster not occurred. Loan amounts are based on actual economic injury and the business's financial needs. If a business is a major source of employment, SBA has authority to waive the \$2,000,000 statutory limit. Currently, the interest rate on such loans will not exceed 4 percent per year.

The disaster loan program has carry-over funding of \$1 billion from previously appropriated funds. Therefore, the agency has only requested loan administration funding of \$168 million for FY2021.

Section Summary

Section 1: Designates the short title of the bill as the "Small Business Relief From Communicable Disease Induced Economic Hardship Act of 2020"

Section 2: Sets for the conditions for economic injury loans for communicable diseases by:

- Expanding the definition of a disaster to include a communicable disease for which the Federal Government has issues a travel alert or warning
- Adding a triggering event for which the economic injury loan may be utilized. Such event shall be the presence of a communicable disease for which the federal government has issues a travel alert or warning in conjunction with a federally declared public health emergency for such communicable disease.
- The SBA is prohibited from requiring a payment of interest upon such economic injury loan
- The loan program is effective upon the date of enactment



THE RESILIENT ELECTIONS DURING QUARANTINES AND NATURAL DISASTERS ACT OF 2020

Congressman Earl Blumenauer ■ Third District of Oregon ■ blumenauer.house.gov

Unless Congress acts quickly, the Novel Coronavirus (“COVID-19”) has the potential to significantly disrupt the 2020 primary and general elections. The virus will likely impact voters who cannot leave their homes as well as those who are under mandatory or self-imposed quarantines at the recommendation of health experts. According to the Election Assistance Commission, **58% of all poll workers in 2018 were over 60**, the prime at-risk population for COVID-19.

The Resilient Elections During Quarantines and Natural Disasters Act of 2020 addresses the serious threat to our democracy posed by COVID-19 by requiring states and localities, within 30 days, to create and publish a plan to operate their elections in the event that large numbers of voters or poll workers have been subjected to a mandatory quarantine or a self-quarantine at the advice of government officials or health experts.

In the event that 25% of states declare an emergency related to COVID-19, another infectious disease, or a natural disaster, this legislation requires all states to:

- Offer all registered voters the ability to vote by absentee ballot. Currently, 34 states and Washington D.C. either allow any voter to request an absentee ballot or vote entirely by mail. However, 16 states still have restrictions on who can request an absentee ballot.
- Offer voters the ability to submit electronically a request for an absentee ballot rather than having to do so in person or with a paper form.
- Offer voters the choice of receiving their blank absentee ballot electronically to print at home and return by postal mail. Currently, print-at-home ballots are only offered to overseas and military voters.
- Accept absentee ballot requests up until 5 days before an election (for blank ballots sent to the voter by mail) and 1 day before the election (for electronic print-at-home ballots)
- Accept ballots that have been postmarked by election day - which will be important in the event that mail is delayed due to large numbers of postal workers being quarantined.

Even if the 25% threshold has not been met, the provisions of the act can be triggered within a state at the discretion of a governor by declaring a state of emergency. The provisions of this legislation will apply to all federal elections held until 180 days after states declare that the emergency has ended.

The act also requires all states to offer postage prepaid self-sealing envelopes to voters who vote absentee in order to reduce the risk associated with infection at post offices, and provides \$500 million in grants to states to cover the cost of postage and for high-speed scanners necessary to process large numbers of absentee ballots.

Please contact Amber Ray in Rep. Blumenauer’s office at (202) 225-4811 for more information.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic Response

Tuesday, March 24, 2020

Topline Messages

- > The federal government continues taking aggressive and proactive steps to address the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. The health and safety of the American people is our top priority.
- > We are halfway through [15 Days to Slow the Spread](#). Do your part to flatten the curve: Stay home as much as much as possible. If you need to go out, practice social distancing.
- > Under the direction of the White House Coronavirus Task Force, FEMA, HHS and our federal partners are working with state, local, tribal and territorial governments to execute a whole of government response to fight the COVID-19 pandemic and protect the public.
- > On March 22, President Trump directed the Secretary of Defense to allow the states of California, New York and Washington use of the National Guard in a Title 32 status to support state and local emergency assistance efforts.
 - This allows the governors to activate the National Guard to support their disaster response efforts, on a fully reimbursable basis and under their respective command and control, if that becomes necessary. To date, 8,000 National Guard troops have activated to help with testing and other response efforts.
 - Additional states can request this assistance and those requests will be considered.
- > On March 13, 2020, President Trump declared a nationwide emergency pursuant to Sec. 501(b) of Stafford Act. The President's action cuts red tape and bureaucracy and avoids governors needing to request individual emergency declarations.
- > In addition, the states of New York, Washington and California were approved for major disaster declarations to assist with additional needs identified in these states.
- > Medical supplies are en route to these states, including respirators, surgical masks and gowns, face shields, coveralls and gloves, with quantities already delivered to Washington and New York. We anticipate additional supplies will be delivered within the next 24 hours.
- > The U.S. Navy hospital ship Mercy is en route to Los Angeles to provide additional hospital beds and medical staff because the projected cases there are expected to be greater than Washington.
- > FEMA issued a \$350 million Mission Assignment to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for construction of alternate care facilities in New York. Four sites have been selected.
- > FEMA is working with the Department of Health and Human Services and the state of New York to complete the construction of a 1,000-bed medical station at the Jacob K. Javits Convention Center in New York City to care for patients with special health needs. These medical stations increase local healthcare capabilities and can be tailored to meet local requirements.



FEMA

FEMA and HHS Responding

- > All 50 states, the District of Columbia, five territories and two tribes are working directly with FEMA under the nationwide emergency declaration for COVID-19.
 - States, tribal and territorial governments do not need to request separate emergency declarations to receive FEMA assistance under this nationwide declaration. A tribal government may choose to be a subrecipient under a state that has chosen to be a recipient of FEMA assistance, or choose to be a direct recipient of FEMA.
- > Since February, FEMA has worked directly with the White House Task Force and HHS to provide situational awareness, planning, logistics and supply chain support.
- > FEMA activated all 10 Regional Response Coordination Centers to support ongoing response efforts across the country. Emergency operations centers in 48 states, Guam, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands are at full or partial activation.
- > It is important that requests for assistance, especially for critical supplies, get routed through the proper channels as soon as possible. The most efficient way to identify critical gaps and get results:
 - Consistent with the principle of locally executed, state managed, and federally supported response, requests for assistance at the local and county levels should first be routed to their respective state.
 - Any needs that cannot be met by the state or tribe should then be sent to the respective FEMA regional office. FEMA regions will direct requests to FEMA NRCC in Washington, D.C. for fulfillment.
- > FEMA is working with HHS to deliver additional supplies and ventilators. This includes using its Logistics Supply Chain Management System to procure and track commodities to supplement state and tribal purchases.
- > Federal agencies working to meet demands for personal protective equipment (PPE) through new acquisition, DOD allocation and the Strategic National Stockpile.
- > On March 23, FEMA obligated \$31 million to the state of Louisiana to reimburse expenses for the response to COVID-19.
- > On March 22, FEMA obligated \$32 million to the state of California to reimburse costs related to the COVID-19 response.
- > The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) also has funding available, including \$40 million dollars specifically identified for tribes, tribal organizations, and tribal health service providers.
- > National Institutes of Allergy and Infectious Diseases mobilized a rapid research response to quickly develop effective countermeasures for COVID-19, including diagnostics, vaccines, and treatments.

Supporting Delivery of Critical Goods and Services

- > We are asking governors to keep the roads open for grocery trucks and related supporting supply chains.
 - Continue to provide safety and priority to your health care staffs, law enforcement, EMT, fire and new responders who include truck drivers, fuel providers and grocery clerks.

Community-Based Testing Sites (CBTS)

- > To date, over 250,000 tests have been performed for COVID-19 in state and local public health and commercial laboratories throughout the U.S. Approximately 10% of individuals test positive for coronavirus.

- > Federal officials and the U.S. Public Health Service are working closely with state, local and private sector partners to bolster testing capabilities and supplies. We're working to make testing more easily accessible to high risk populations: healthcare facility workers, and first responders. There are currently 27 sites open in 10 states.
- > Community-based Testing Sites (CBTSs) are focused on testing our nation's frontline heroes, healthcare facility workers and first responders, who are working around the clock to provide care, compassion, and safety to Americans.
- > It is critical to test healthcare facility workers and first responders who are concerned that they may have been exposed to COVID-19, because they need to know their status as soon as possible in order to prevent infecting individuals in their care.
- > CBTSs are another tool for states, local public health systems and healthcare systems to use as they work together to stop the spread of COVID-19 in their communities.

Ventilator Guidance

- > On March 22, the FDA issued guidance that will help expand the availability of ventilators and accessories, as well as other respiratory devices, during the COVID-19 pandemic. This guidance will help increase availability by providing the maximum regulatory flexibility.
- > The new guidance will also assist health care personnel on how to use other ventilators like CPAP devices for sleep apnea, with COVID-19 patients in respiratory distress, as well as on shelf life of existing ventilators.
- > Additionally, the FDA is providing information for manufacturers on adding production lines or alternative sites, like automobile manufacturers, for making more ventilators during the COVID-19 public health emergency.

Defense Production Act

- > On March 18, President Trump issued an executive order outlining use of the Defense Production Act (DPA) in response to COVID-19 and supplementing Executive Order 13603, which delegates DPA authority to federal agencies.
- > Because of the outpouring of support from the private sector, there has not been immediate need to use DPA.
- > The order provides federal departments with the authority to take actions implementing the DPA, if and as necessary. This includes the ability to prioritize acceptance and fulfillment of contracts, allocate limited supplies, incentivize investment in additional production capacity, and enter voluntary agreements with industry partners that might otherwise be subject to antitrust laws.
- > Additional information on the Defense Production Act and how its authorities may be used to support the national response to COVID-10 is available at fema.gov/coronavirus.

Other Federal Agencies

- > The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers completed 14 reconnaissance missions. Nearly 200 USACE personnel are supporting the COVID-19 mission.
- > The Small Business Administration is providing low-interest loans to small businesses and nonprofits severely impacted by the Coronavirus (COVID-19). The SBA also announced deferments on all SBA disaster loans from previous disasters, effective through December 31, 2020.
- > The U.S. Department of Labor announced the availability of up to \$100 million for Dislocated Worker Grants to help address the workforce-related impacts related to COVID-19.

- > The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development issued a moratorium on foreclosures and evictions for single family homeowners with FHA-insured mortgages for the next 60 days.
- > The U.S. Department of Agriculture is delivering one million meals per week to children in rural areas who are out of school.
- > The U.S. Department of Education announced all borrowers with federally held student loans will have zero interest rates for at least 60 days. Additionally, these borrowers will have the option to suspend their payments for at least two months to allow them greater flexibility.

Combatting Disinformation and Rumors

- > There are foreign adversaries who are trying to cause chaos in our country and spread disinformation and rumors.
- > To help the American public distinguish between rumors and facts regarding the response to COVID-19, FEMA has created a Rumor Control page on FEMA.gov. The public can help control the spread of rumors by sharing our page: [fema.gov/coronavirus](https://www.fema.gov/coronavirus).
- > Check the sources of information you see about COVID-19 by seeking out trusted, verified sources like [coronavirus.gov](https://www.coronavirus.gov) or your state and local government's official accounts.
- > Everyone can do their part to stop the spread of disinformation by doing three things; don't believe rumors, don't pass them along, and go to trusted sources of information to get the facts.

How to Help

- > Cash donations to the non-profit of your choice IS THE BEST donation.
- > If you have medical supplies or equipment to donate, please email FEMA's National Business Emergency Operations Center at nbeoc@fema.dhs.gov.
- > Trained medical volunteers can offer their services by registering with a National VOAD member on [nvoad.org](https://www.nvoad.org).
- > One thing people can do to help is to donate blood. Many blood drives have been cancelled, impacting the supply. Blood donation centers have the highest standards of safety and infection control. To find where you can donate blood, visit [redcross.org](https://www.redcross.org).
- > To sell medical supplies or equipment to the federal government, businesses can register through the [System for Award Management](https://www.sam.gov) (SAM) website.

Strategic National Stockpile

- > The Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) continues to ship medical equipment nationwide.
- > As of March 23, the SNS has delivered the following personal protective equipment and supplies to support public health authorities in the states, four largest metro areas and U.S. territories:
 - 7.6 million N95 respirators
 - 14.3 million surgical/face masks
 - 2.4 million face shields
 - 720 ventilators
 - 1.9 million gowns
 - 8,500 coveralls
 - 12.4 million gloves