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# COVID-19 EQUITY SNAPSHOT

## HEALTH JUSTICE STRATEGIES TO COMBAT COVID-19

APRIL 3, 2020



The Public Health Alliance of Southern California (Alliance) launched **“The COVID-19 Equity Snapshot”** to support our partners in advancing equity in response to COVID-19. The COVID-19 Equity Snapshot is meant to serve as a consistent, curated resource, aimed at elevating key equity-focused resources, tools and best practices (both here in California and nationally).

This week’s snapshot focuses on health and racial justice strategies to combat COVID-19. A health and racial justice approach to COVID-19 must also address the social determinants of health and root causes of inequities that threaten to exacerbate the health, financial, and social impacts of this public health emergency on low-income communities, communities of color, and other communities particularly vulnerable to the impacts of COVID-19.

In this week’s snapshot you will find information and resources related to:

- » [Communication Support for Advancing a Health Justice Response to COVID-19](#)
- » [Advancing Health Justice Strategies to Combat COVID-19](#)
- » [COVID-19 & Racial Bias: The Emerging Impact of Bias and Inequity on COVID-19 Outcomes](#)
- » [Racial Equity Tools: COVID-19 Racial Equity & Social Justice Tools](#)
- » [Equity Spotlight: King County Equity Impact Awareness Tool for Recovery and Quarantine Sites](#)



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# COMMUNICATION SUPPORT FOR ADVANCING A HEALTH JUSTICE APPROACH TO COVID-19

This week's equity framing tips come from the [The Opportunity Agenda](#).

## Talking About COVID-19: A Call for Racial, Economic and Health Equity

“What perhaps makes the COVID-19 pandemic unique is that we are literally all in this together – across boundaries illusory and recognized, across nations, oceans, and the globe. Therefore, we have a unique opportunity at hand. While the economic and racial disparities in how this epidemic could be handled are clear, now is the time to call for greater and more equal health justice. Now is the time to join communities of color in their demands for racial equity. Now is the time to protest the scapegoating of immigrants. We must push back against the language of fear and adopt language of inclusion, empowerment, and justice. Together, we can rise to the challenge.”

**Instead of** the virus “only gravely affects those who are old or those with an underlying medical condition,” a statement that inherently places greater value on the young and healthy....

**Try directing our conversation around how we can work together to protect those most likely to be affected.** After all, few of us know the invisible health conditions of those around us, and we all have someone we love who struggles with physical or mental health.

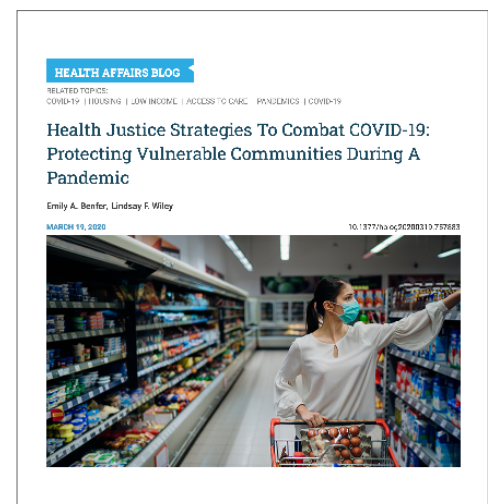
To get more tips and resources, visit the Opportunity Agenda's “Talking About COVID-19: A Call for Racial, Economic and Health Equity” [HERE](#).

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# ADVANCING HEALTH JUSTICE STRATEGIES TO COMBAT COVID-19

This blog post from two prominent health law and policy professors, “Health Justice Strategies to Combat COVID-19,” outlines comprehensive and immediate actions state and local governments can take to support low-income and other disproportionately impacted communities to safely shelter in place along with resources to understand the recommended policy actions.

A link to the full blog post on “Health Justice Strategies to Combat COVID-19” is included [HERE](#).



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# COVID-19 & RACIAL INEQUITY: THE EMERGING IMPACT OF BIAS & INEQUITY ON COVID-19 OUTCOMES



We see the emerging impact of bias and inequity on the health outcomes of those impacted by COVID-19 as more demographic data on testing and health outcomes becomes available. While we know COVID-19 does not discriminate, the health system is starting to see the [impact of racial and economic bias on COVID-19 related health outcomes](#).

This ~6:00 minute [conversation](#) with Dr. Uché Blackstock of Advancing Health Equity, succinctly outlines how disparities long present in the U.S. medical system are now driving what some call a crisis within a crisis: communities of color across the country are being hit harder by COVID-19 and with fewer resources to address the impact of the crisis.

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## RACIAL EQUITY TOOLS: RACIAL EQUITY & SOCIAL JUSTICE RESOURCES

Racial Equity Tools has recently released a COVID-19 “Racial Equity & Social Justice Resource List” which includes information and resources aimed at helping communities respond equitably to the COVID-19 pandemic. Resources are arranged in categories to help with sifting through the material. The link to the resource list can be found [HERE](#).

The screenshot shows the Racial Equity Tools website. The header includes the logo and navigation links: HOME | ABOUT US | GLOSSARY | FAQ. The main content area is titled "COVID-19 - Racial Equity & Social Justice Resources". Below the title, there is a brief introduction: "COVID-19 Racial Equity & Social Justice list includes information that we hope will help communities and activists as they work to understand and respond to the moment and for the long haul. Our COVID-19 Resources are arranged in categories to help you sift through the material:". This is followed by several sections: "Analysis" (a range of resources that look at the big picture), "Resources and Tools" (tips and strategies for response, communication and framing, and addressing hate), "Healing and Community Care" (how to care for ourselves and our people in this time), "Organizing and Solidarity" (resources on actions people are already taking), "Resource Building & Rapid Response" (lists of different funds currently available), and "Virtual Work and Online Engagement" (how we can stay connected). At the bottom, there is a "List of Lists" section and a request to submit resources. Two example articles are listed: "How Coronavirus Affects Black People: Civil Rights Groups Call Out Racial Health Disparities" by Royce Dunmore, NEWSONE, and "Women of Color Will Save Us All" by Erin Trent Johnson, Medium.com.

# EQUITY SPOTLIGHT

## KING COUNTY EQUITY IMPACT AWARENESS TOOL FOR RECOVERY AND QUARANTINE SITES

The Alliance “Equity Spotlight” is intended to highlight in real time efforts from Cities and Counties both here in California and nationwide, that are working to advance equity in response to COVID-19. The Spotlights are meant to showcase (not promote), these efforts for departmental consideration and adaptation. The Alliance strongly recommends that any department wishing to launch similar efforts ensure efforts comply with the most recent local, state, and federal laws, policies and guidelines.

This week’s equity spotlight is on the King County Office of Equity and Social Justice. In response to community concerns, the King County Office of Equity and Social Justice partnered with [Headwater People](#) to create an Equity Impact Awareness Tool to guide and support King County Facilities and Maintenance Division and Real Estate Services as they are reviewing and recommending potential sites for COVID-19 quarantine and recovery.

The intention of this tool is to ensure King County decision makers are aware of the potential for significant impact to communities of color who are least likely to recover from the COVID-19 health and economic crisis. The Equity Impact Awareness Tool was developed in response to the COVID-19 crisis and should not replace Equity Impact Review tools that include more inclusive community engagement processes.

More information about the King County Equity Impact Awareness Tool can be found [HERE](#).

The link to the King County Equity Impact Awareness Tool can be found [HERE](#).

### IMAGES FROM KING COUNTY EQUITY IMPACT AWARENESS TOOL (APR 2020)

KEY QUESTIONS FOR  
**EQUITY IMPACT AWARENESS**

Progress must be swift and this is an imperfect tool. Nevertheless, it aims to identify communities that are extremely vulnerable to prolonged hardship with less resources to recover in an economic crisis. These are not the only considerations in reviewing sites, however these questions will highlight the inequities of risks in the County by race, economics, and age.

Does this community’s Black, American Indian & Alaska Native and Latinx residents together exceed 10%\*? 20% of residents?

Are more than 20% of this community’s household incomes within 200% of the federal poverty level\*\*? 30% of households?

Do less than 50% of this community’s households own the home they live in?

Have more than 16% of residents in this community experienced food insecurity in the last year?

Are more than 14% of residents of this community 65 years or older?

\*The thresholds were chosen to highlight extreme economic conditions and to locate the 25% of areas with the most risk.  
\*\*In 2017 the federal poverty level was \$24,600 for a family of 4.

