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The *Khan*versation

Dear Colleagues,

This feels like a unique, and perhaps uniquely awful, part of our history as a country. Yet for those most impacted, it is no better or worse than any other week of racist attack and invective; now, we simply have video.

I can understand the temptation to cynically interpret responses both individual and institutional as merely 'the flavor of the month.' I see some of these as well when reading corporate statements from across the US. It is appropriate to support these statements, and also to wonder where their support for any of these issues was the day before. I am pleased and proud to be part of this team which decided, based on ongoing knowledge of our world and not the latest awful incident du jour, to promote social justice. To create programming with a conscious effort to recognize our biases, to include voices not our own, to honor and respect other views to the degree made possible by our imperfect selves and flawed systems. To improve, in fact, our imperfect selves and flawed systems.



What we have done thus far may not have been enough. But it is also not new. I don't need my conscience pricked by a TV ad or the latest injustice. My obligation to myself and to my profession is to live a life of full experience so that I retain the indignation and sensitivity to react to injustice, not to suddenly become "woke" in my mid-40s. I haven't been asleep or ignorant of racism, although reading the flurry of material in the past few days, one would think that racism and discrimination started earlier this week.

I went to high school in Delaware. I recall having my white friends be deeply concerned for my safety if I drove through certain parts of an adjoining state late at night, which were known at the time to be a KKK stronghold. I remember looks and comments when going to a drag strip close by in my Japanese car. I thought naively that a love for cars was agnostic to race, or that the only race that mattered was one involving a burnout. But guess what: the ugly specter of racism haunts that, too (interestingly, one can, if one is stupid enough, be racist towards the national origin of cars, not just of people).

The toxic mix of bullying, cruelty, ignorance, malice and all the other ugly pieces of racism we refuse to call out - some of us have actually seen those. Not as much as others, but far more than most. It is a shame that we have let our country - *ours*, belonging to *all of us* - become hijacked, and ourselves be terrorized. That persons of color are literally afraid to drive through certain parts of certain states because of fear of verbal or physical violence. What have we become as a nation when we tolerate this, and even convert it to humorous stereotype? When we even have an abbreviation for being pulled over for the perceived crime of 'Driving While Black/Brown'?

It's not funny. I want my country back, and you should too. This is highly in evidence in peaceful protests across the country this week. Where overlapping communities - of color, of privilege, of law enforcement, of health care - came together to pledge our common humanity and demand a better world. When we assert that Black Lives Matter. That saying so does not in the least diminish any other lives you may care about. Love is not zero-sum: caring about Black Lives elevates all lives.

These issues are not new to me, nor to most of us in medicine and public health. We do this work, we study it, we evaluate it, we improve it. I call out today all those who fight this fight on a daily basis, and who have done so long before the media spotlight chose to make it the news item of interest in June 2020. Who will keep on doing long after said spotlight moves on to the shiny new disaster of tomorrow. Our commitment to educating each other through our Delaware Journal of Public Health will continue. Incidentally, several months ago we had already made the decision to have the Summer 2020 theme issue as 'Racism & Public Health,' a topic which, unfortunately, is made more timely than ever.

We, the Academy/DPHA, have been improving the public's health and advancing medical knowledge since 1930. We intend to keep on improving, to keep challenging ourselves, to be forthright, evidence-based, and courageous with the truth. We want you to keep helping us to - you guessed it - *Drive On* (to anywhere in the country we please).

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Black Lives Matter Resources

Learn

- [Black Lives Matter](#)
- [BLM Resources](#)
- [BLM Teaching Resources](#)
- [Black Lives Matter \(You Tube\)](#)
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xNB-CVDuITA>

Help

- [Ways You Can Help](#)
- [WDEL Article - Next Steps](#)

COVID-19



By the end of May, the United States has seen almost 2 million cases of COVID-19, and over 103,000 people have died from the coronavirus ([CDC](#)). The State of Delaware has seen over 9,000 cases, 368 deaths, and over 5,000 people recovered ([DHSS](#)).

Despite these figures, the incidence rate is decreasing, and Delaware and the nation are seeing fewer patients exhibiting the symptoms of COVID-19, fewer patients being hospitalized, and fewer deaths than we were this time last month.

On **June 1, 2020**, Governor John Carney transitioned Delaware to Phase I of re-opening ([guidance](#)), and we are slowly learning what this new normal will become.

Coronavirus Resources

Delaware Resources:

- de.gov/coronavirus

From the CDC:

- [Guidance](#)
- [Summary of Current Situation](#)
- [Information for Travel](#)
- [Information for](#)
 - [Businesses](#)
 - [Pregnant Women and Children](#)
 - [Schools](#)
- [Information for Health Professionals](#)

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services

- [Coronavirus Front Page](#)

Consortium of Universities for Global Health (CUGH)

- [May 19 COVID Newsletter](#)

Johns Hopkins

- [Resource Center](#)
- [Preparedness Pulsepoints Newsletter \(subscribe\)](#)

National Academies

- [Resources](#)

University of Washington

- [Resources](#)

United States

- [Government Response](#)

Coronavirus Funding Monitor

[Frontiers](#) has curated list of open funding calls and other support for researchers, non-profit organizations and commercial organizations, specifically for COVID-19 and coronavirus-related research. The list is updated daily.

Academy Updates

Public Health Hang Out



The Mid-Atlantic Partnership brings you this weekly forum to discuss a series of topics related to COVID-19 in Pennsylvania, Delaware and Maryland.

Every Monday at noon, the Mid-Atlantic Partnership brings you information and resources on how public health professionals working from home can support the front lines in Pennsylvania, Maryland and Delaware. So, bring your lunch, your questions and your ideas and a FRIEND!

Registration is required!

[Register here](#)

Previous Topics

- Mental & Behavioral Health Resources
- Volunteering / What can I do?
- Food Access
- Housing
- Education (K-12, undergraduate/graduate)
- Phases of Re-Opening

Upcoming Topics

- June 8: Disparities seen in the COVID-19 pandemic
- June 15: The need for data; immunization coverage

Delaware Journal of Public Health

Check out the new DJPH Website: <http://djph.org>

This issue of the Journal focuses on education and public health. In this instance, we refer to higher education: training the healthcare workforce to operate in the realm of individual medicine and population health.

But there is an elephant in the room.

HEALTH SCIENCES EDUCATION



“Unprecedented.”
“Extraordinary.”
“Unparalleled.”

The global COVID-19 pandemic was unfolding as this issue of the Delaware Journal of Public Health was in final edit mode.

These times are unlike any other, as the profession of public health is taking center stage. The critical components of public health including (but not limited to) surveillance, epidemiology, infectious disease control and prevention, occupational health and safety, communications strategies, and global health are in the forefront of media broadcasts, social media posts, and people everywhere are educating themselves on these key areas. More people than ever understand what the nature of our work is, and ultimately that is a good thing.

National News

A Statement from APHA President Georges Benjamin:

“I can’t breathe.”

With those last words, George Floyd, an unarmed, handcuffed black man, died this week after being pinned down by a white Minneapolis police officer, an atrocious action that has sparked outrage throughout the nation.

We raise our voices, too, horrified, stunned and angered.

We are appalled but are not surprised by the despicable way Floyd was killed. We weep for the man, his family and a country that continues to allow this to happen. We also join in the chorus for justice and ring the alarm to all Americans. Racism is a longstanding systemic structure in this country that must be dismantled, through brutally honest conversations, policy changes and practices.

Racism attacks people’s physical and mental health. And racism is an ongoing public health crisis that needs our attention now!

[Click here to read more from APHA](#)



AMERICAN PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION
For science. For action. For health.

Call for Abstracts: APHA Council of Affiliates Scientific Sessions

Submission Deadline: June 15, 2020

Public Health Systems – Transforming & Responding: Public Health 3.0

The COVID-19 response has challenged every public health system, relationship and service across the country. The efforts have shown the need for strong public health policies, resources and services. More than ever, it is important to transform public health so that it is no longer defined solely by the public health department and its traditional programs. Public Health 3.0 recognizes the importance of working across sectors to advance population health and to look for innovative solutions, social determinants of health and health equity.

The APHA Council of Affiliates is seeking abstracts for [scientific sessions](#) (oral presentations) and [poster presentations](#) that describe the role of APHA affiliates in working in the COVID-19 response and/or this new landscape. Please download the [Conflict of Interest form](#) and/or the [poster submission](#) form.

June is...

Alzheimers and Brain Awareness Month
Men's Health Month
National Safety Month

[And Much More!](#)

Additional Resources

Delaware Division of Public Health: [The DPH Bulletin](#)

Trust for America's Health: Wellness and Prevention Digest - [Subscribe](#)

The Delaware Academy of Medicine / Delaware Public Health Association

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