

CORONAVIRUS INTERIM RACIAL EQUITY PLAN

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Disparities in outcomes from COVID-19 between racial and ethnic groups result from the accumulated impact of centuries of systemic racism. To mitigate the impact of the pandemic on the city's communities of color and to ensure that our response to this pandemic focuses resources on those at highest risk, the Department of Public Health will work with community stakeholders to:



Improve access to COVID-19 testing with a focus on access for communities of color, low-income neighborhoods, and populations that are high-risk:

- Provide testing opportunities that do not require a car; partner with sites that already have trusted relationships within communities of color. Current: 56 testing sites; Goal: 75 sites.
- Through an RFP process, PDPH is collaborating with Federally Qualified Health Centers, the Black Doctors' Consortium, and other community partners to expand testing.



Collect and publicize data on the impact of the pandemic on racial and ethnic groups

- PDPH will post COVID-19 data daily by race, ethnicity and age on [Phila.gov/COVID](https://phila.gov/COVID).



Conduct community outreach

- PDPH has created plain language materials and simple infographics in multiple languages and is working with community partners to share information broadly with communities who otherwise may not receive the information.



Prevent chronic health conditions that increase the risk of severe COVID-19 infection and disparately impact communities of color

- PDPH will monitor progress via data from partners at area FQHCs and hospital-based practices and from a quarterly online survey of a random sample of Philadelphians.

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Protect essential workers who are disproportionately people of color

- We have created simple infographics on required protections for workers and disseminated them via food distribution boxes, community partners, and to businesses.
- Environmental Health Services and Licenses and Inspections will respond to complaints, educate employers, and ticket persistent violators.



Conduct contact tracing

- PDPH will complete the recruitment of a diverse contact tracing team that represents the people who they will be serving. A public-facing dashboard is available [here](#).
- As of 7/3/20, of 114 people hired to staff the new division, 52% are Black, 28% are White, 6% are Latino, and 9% are Asian. Of 14 managers in this new division, 43% are Black and 7% are Latino.



Minimize spread in congregate settings, which have seen disproportionate numbers of infections and deaths

- PDPH is working with congregate settings to ensure that infection control recommendations are being followed and to provide technical assistance.
- PDPH is working with the Office of Emergency Management to provide personal protective equipment (PPE) to staff and residents in congregate care settings.
- The City has created multiple sites to house homeless city residents with COVID-19 or possible COVID-19, as well as a site to house homeless individuals at high risk.



Reduce community spread, with a focus on communities of color who are at highest risk

- PDPH will disseminate messages around masking, distancing, and essential worker protections via mass media, community partnerships, and community meetings.
- PDPH has put out an RFP to offer support including temporary housing to non-homeless individuals who have COVID-19 infection and cannot safely isolate at home.