

STRATEGIES TO PROVIDE **EQUITABLE CARE** DURING **COVID-19**

Health Equity, Defined

When **every person** has the opportunity to attain their **full health potential**.

When **no one** is **disadvantaged** from achieving this potential because of social position or other socially determined circumstances.



Why Racism is Important in COVID-19

Racism

Social Determinants of Health
including access to healthcare, food, housing, and education

Co-Morbid Conditions

COVID-19 Incidence & Outcomes

IMPACTS

Emerging Inequities in COVID-19

Increased rates of hospitalization and death in **Black, Hispanic and Native American communities**

Higher prevalence of COVID-19 disease among those of **low socioeconomic status**

Higher risk of infection in **prisons, group homes and residential treatment facilities**

Notable increase in xenophobia and bias towards **Asian Americans**

COVID-Specific Threats to Health Equity

Living and working circumstances make **social distancing** challenging for some (e.g. undocumented people, the LGBTQ community), survivors of IPV.

Inequitable access to COVID-19 testing.

Undocumented immigrants and uninsured people have **limited access to public safety nets.**

Challenges Accessing Telehealth

To accommodate social distancing, many health care services are being offered via **computer or telephone**. Yet, some people may have **difficulty accessing services this way** (e.g. people with disabilities or people without broadband internet access).

Stress, time constraints, fatigue and fear

increase the risk of **biased behavior** among health care providers and among the general public.

STRATEGIES

Confront Bias with Proven Upstander Techniques

Direct

Directly address biased behavior. Advise the person that their behavior is biased or ask them to clarify their meaning/intent.

Distract

Disrupt a biased interaction by mentioning or doing something unrelated. Consider using when there is a concern for violence.

Delegate

Ask another person to help you address the biased behavior

Delay

Wait until a safer/more appropriate time then address biased behavior

Increase Access to Community-Based Testing

Design and Conduct Studies with Community Input and Participation from Inception

"Nothing *about* us *without* us"

Advocate: Ask policymakers to ensure that **all pregnant people have access to care**, that **health care workers have the resources they need to stay safe**, and that **pregnant people are included in COVID-19 research.**

Provide Equitable Care

- Recognize racism is at the root of inequities
- Screen for social determinants of health
- Ask about:
 - ability to safely social distance
 - availability of cleaning supplies
 - access to internet/data for virtual visits
 - Screen more frequently for IPV and safety
- Identify key community resources:
 - Food banks or pantries
 - Housing assistance
 - Infection mitigation supplies (e.g. masks, sanitizer)
 - Intimate partner violence services
- Provide information in the language that your patient speaks, reads, or understands.
- Increase capacity for care for vulnerable populations (i.e. increase provider, nursing, social service resources)

Remain Vigilant in Collecting Clinical, Quality & Safety Metrics

Data should be stratified by age, race, ethnicity, gender/gender identity, payor, employment status, and preferred language.

Collect **COVID-specific outcomes** such as **testing access** and **hospitalization rates.**