

Dear Colleagues,

As we continue to serve the public through the COVID-19 pandemic, the Pennsylvania Dental Association (PDA) has been deeply saddened by ongoing high frequency incidents of harassment and xenophobic violence directed towards those of Asian descent across the country.

According to Stop Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) Hate, more than 6,600 hate incidents have been reported since the pandemic in the United States. A third of those incidents were reported in March 2021 alone.

PDA condemns all forms of violence and harassment, and our hearts go out to colleagues and patients who were affected by these despicable acts as well as their loved ones. Let us be vigilant and bear in mind that colleagues and patients alike may be experiencing subtle or overt acts of discrimination inside and outside of dental practices. As oral health leaders across the state of Pennsylvania, we are called to treat all patients, in any walks of life, with respect.

We ask you to join us in taking a stand against Asian hate and work to support individuals who experience hatred. Suggested ways to take action against Asian hatred include:

- Learn more about the history and current situation of Asian Americans
- Support Asian-owned businesses
- Make donations to Asian-led organizations
- Stand up to any anti-Asian incidents you witness
- Discuss this with your friends and colleagues
- Become more self-aware of personal bias

PDA is working to provide resources to members. Presently, PDA's Diversity and Inclusion Task Force is preparing a workshop to help members and dental team members with addressing issues of microaggression specific for dental settings.

We ask you to join us in taking a stand against Asian hate – indeed, against hate in all its forms towards any group or individual – and working to support individuals who experience hatred and prevent all forms of bias, inequity and discrimination.

Sincerely,

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