



## **Message Addressing Anti-Asian Hate Crimes**

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, there has been a marked increase in stigma and hate crimes against Asian and Asian-American communities in Alameda County and nationwide. Stigma includes generalized discrimination against a group of people based on incorrect information, stereotypes, or myths. A hate crime is a criminal act attempted or committed because the victim is presumed to be a member of a certain group, including race, ethnicity, nationality, gender, religion, sexual or disability. Such crimes include physical assault, threatening phone calls and vandalizing personal property. Hate crimes are punishable with up to one year in the county jail and felonies associated with a hate crime can increase that sentence.

The Alameda County Health Care Services Agency stands in opposition to all forms of hate and discrimination. In surviving this pandemic, we must all do our part to learn the facts about COVID-19 to protect ourselves and our community as a whole. Please join us in standing against discrimination and hate crimes directed at our Asian and Asian-American neighbors.

Please remember:

No individual or group of people are more likely than others to contract or spread COVID-19.

The best ways to avoid contracting the disease are to:

- Stay at least six feet away from anyone who does not live in your home
- Wear a cloth face covering when in public
- Wash your hands often for at least 20 seconds
- Clean and disinfect surfaces that are frequently touched (such as door handles, cell phones, etc.)

Other recommendations for avoiding the disease can be found here:

<http://www.acphd.org/media/591432/covid-19-prevention-tips-qa.pdf>

If you have been a victim of a hate crime, Alameda County's hate crime hotline can be reached at 510-208-4824, with messages available in English, Spanish, Farsi, Mandarin, Cantonese and Tagalog.