



NATICK BOARD OF HEALTH
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The Natick Board of Health is continuing the conversation of racism as a public health crisis. Health professionals understand that public health is an outcome of social determinates. Racism in America has prevented Black, Indigenous, and other People of Color, from equal opportunity in Social Justice, Affordable Housing, Education, Food Security, and Livable Wages. Differences in skin color have caused some Americans to misunderstand this historical problem. We would not believe this could happen with eye color or hair color, but with skin color we see that it has often occurred, and is happening still. Many may not be aware of aspects of the privilege they enjoy, and “white privilege” may prevent true understanding of the depth of this divide. With centuries of prejudice in America, we must continue to try to right this situation, and alter this dynamic in every way we can. The Natick Board of Health wants to confirm our stance that racism contributes to the public health crisis, and that racism perpetuates that inequality. This is a time to try to end the inequity and to reduce racism. Recent news coverage of these inequities along with the spread of COVID-19, have opened more eyes. Racism and this pandemic are linked together in many ways. During this pandemic, we must look to medicine and science for guidance, and adjust our behaviors. We direct everyone living and working in this area to do their part by socially distancing, wearing a mask when within six feet of others whether outside or inside, and by washing hands correctly. Let us level the playing field in this proven way. Keep in mind, vaccines are not coming quickly enough, and more people are dying every day.

The Natick Board of Health is optimistic, and we recommend that Natick continues these conversations on public health and safety. We should do better, and we might if we commit to the idea that “We are one” in this. The Natick Board of Health is united, stating that racism in the USA contributes to the public health crisis in America. Please allow everyone their right to both equal treatment and to optimal health. Plus, we encourage you to always behave safely.

Peter A. Delli Colli, DMD, Chair, Natick Board of Health, July 18, 2020

