

NEWS AND UPDATES: RESOURCES FOR “THE UNEQUAL IMPACT OF COVID 19”

EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

I. Organizational Resources

- a) HRiA Health Resources in Action - [COVID-19 and Dimensions of Health Inequity](#)

Health Resources in Action (HRiA) has launched a comprehensive online resource, [COVID-19 and Dimensions of Health Inequity](#) containing curated evidence and resources to evaluate and respond to the crisis through a health and racial equity lens. Also highlighted is exemplary leadership addressing these inequities and many opportunities for action and engagement.

HRiA is a Boston-based, nationally renowned leader in developing programs that advance public health and medical research. Working with governments, communities, scientists and non-profit organizations, HRiA is committed to health equity and resolving the most critical public health issues through policy, research, prevention and health promotion.

- b) Social Interventions Research and Evaluation Network (SIREN), University of California, San Francisco - [COVID-19 Resource Page](#)

UCSF’s Social Interventions and Evaluation Network (SIREN) has compiled a variety of resources focused on health equity, including a selection of data highlighting the potential impacts on resource-poor individuals and communities. They also link to a repository of questions developed to identify impacts of the epidemic and its aftermath on vulnerable populations.

- c) Massachusetts Public Health Association - [Emergency Task Force on Coronavirus & Equity](#)

Founded in 1879, the Massachusetts Public Health Association (MPHA) is a private, nonprofit membership organization that champions public health in the Commonwealth, serving as a catalyst for change, eliminating health inequities and creating healthy communities for all. MPHA convened an **Emergency Task Force on Coronavirus & Equity** which issued a number of recommendations and legislative actions. **[Click Here for a Status Update on Each of the Task Force’s Recommendations** and here for Policies Endorsed by Task Force on Coronavirus & Equity](#)**

- d) Jewish Council on Public Affairs-- [Jewish Advocacy During the COVID-19 Pandemic | JCPA](#)

Jewish Council for Public Affairs (JCPA) is the national hub of the community relations network, representing 125 local Jewish community relations council and 17 national

Jewish agencies to advocate for a just and pluralistic American society. This new webpage details advocacy actions that can immediately be taken during this crisis.

II. Critical Issues and Looking toward a Post-Pandemic America

- a) [“The America We Need”](#) - The NYT Editorial Board (4/9/2020)

NYT Magazine April 9, 2020 issue is dedicated to "The America We Need" including several articles on COVID-19: “The United States has a chance to emerge from this latest crisis as a stronger nation, more just, more free and more resilient. We must seize the opportunity.”

- b) [“The U.S. Approach to Public Health: Neglect, Panic, Repeat”](#) - Jeneed Interlandi (4/9/2020)

NYT Editorial Board member Interlandi argues that it is time to give new life to an old idea: A strong public health system is the best guarantor of good health.

- c) [“Why the Virus is a Civil Rights Issue: ‘The Pain Will Not Be Shared Equally’](#) - Audra D.S. Burch (4/19/2020)

How COVID-19 Is the New Civil Rights Frontier: “First came early data showing that the coronavirus affected African-Americans disproportionately. Then came the fight for a fair response and recovery.”

- d) [“Flattening the Next COVID-19 Curve - Our Essential Resource”](#) - Alexandra Quinn, CEO, Health Leads (4/13/2020)

This sobering piece by Health Leads CEO Quinn calls attention to the next demand curve that threatens to swamp our national capacity and social safety net: the secondary, social impacts of COVID-19. Founded at Boston Medical Center, Health Leads is a national healthcare organization that connects low-income patients with the basic resources they need to be healthy.

- e) “A Terrible Price: The Deadly Racial Disparities of Covid-19 in America”--Linda Villarosa NYT Magazine, 5/3/2020

For the Zulu club, a black social organization in New Orleans, Mardi Gras was a joy. The coronavirus made it a tragedy.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/29/magazine/racial-disparities-covid-19.html?smid=em-share>

III. Upcoming Webinars and Educational Opportunities

Featured Virtual Events



Join WBUR live every Tuesday in May at 6:00 pm EDT for WBUR's Town Hall Series, where you'll learn more about what to expect during the COVID-19 crisis and get your questions answered directly by our reporters and other experts. Click the links below to register for upcoming events in the series.

- **May 5:** [The Societal Costs of COVID-19](#)
- **May 12:** [How Acting on Climate Change Can Prevent Future Pandemics](#)
- **May 19:** [The Big Stay: What COVID-19 Means For Students and Families](#)
- **May 26:** [Debunking COVID-19 Myths](#)

Community Violence During COVID-19, May 5th, 7 pm

Join the Massachusetts Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence in an upcoming Town Hall with staff and participants from [ROCA](#) and [College Bound Dorchester](#) for a panel discussion on violence prevention during and after COVID-19. Hear about each program's model for addressing and preventing violence and how they are carrying out their mission during the pandemic.

[Click here to register for the Zoom event.](#) You will receive an email with the link before the event.

LEGISLATIVE

Update on The Work and Family Mobility Act

The Work and Family Mobility Act was given a favorable report from the Joint Committee on Transportation and sent to the Senate Ways and Means Committee. Efforts are underway to have it released and sent to the Senate floor. This rationale for this bill to issue driver's license is stronger than ever as this pandemic underscores that not having a license is a public health issue as well as an economic justice issue. Immigrants are packing public transportation to get to essential jobs, losing employment when they can't drive to where they can get jobs, and can't get to food banks to get meals for themselves and their families. STAY TUNED for upcoming ACTION Steps!

Update on The Safe Communities Act

Although the Safe Communities Act has not been released from committee, it has been given an extension with the hope that it will reach the House Ways and Means Committee. Again, STAY TUNED!

Urge MA Officials to Release Immigrants in Detention

Because of the dangers of the coronavirus for individuals held in ICE detention, BIJAN (Boston Immigration Justice Accompaniment Network) asks you to urge the Massachusetts Governor, Charlie Baker, to release all ICE detainees. Here is some language you can use - please add your own personal touches to increase meaning and impact:

I urge the Governor and public officials--using emergency powers-- to work quickly to take the following actions to dampen the spread of COVID-19 through these imperiled communities.

- *Release all people in ICE detention immediately*
- *Reduce the prison population:*
 - *By prioritizing the immediate release of elderly and medically vulnerable people*
 - *By agreeing to the early release of anyone who is held pretrial and who does not pose an unreasonable safety risk*
 - *By halting all new state prison sentences, unless the person poses an unreasonable safety risk*
 - *By releasing all people serving a misdemeanor sentence who are within six months of their release date*
 - *By releasing all people held on probation and parole technical violation detainers or sentences*
 - *By not making new custodial arrests for any crimes that do not pose an unreasonable safety risk*
- *Create, publicly release and implement a policy, vetted by public health official for handling COVID-19 within each facility*

Email this message to all the people below. Include your name, city/town where you live. The Governor will receive your message.

-Marylou Sudders, Secretary of the MA Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS): marylou.sudders@state.ma.us

-Monica Bharel, Commissioner of the MA Department of Public Health: monica.bharel@state.ma.us

-Lauran Peters, Undersecretary of of the MA Executive Office of Health and Human Services: Lauren.B.Peters@state.ma.us

-Constituent Services: constituent.services@state.ma.us

-Maura Healey, Attorney General: maura.healey@state.ma.us

You may wish to phone the Governor's office with the same message: 617-725-4005. Sometimes it's hard to get through. ([You can email him at this link](#))

Tell your State Legislator to Provide Relief to Families in Poverty

[Click here](#) to ask your state legislators to co-sponsor H.4622, an Act to Provide Short Term Relief to Families in Deep Poverty. H.4622 would provide immediate one-time supplemental cash assistance to 30,000 families in Massachusetts hit especially hard by the pandemic.

Contact the Governor to Keep Gun Stores Closed

The Massachusetts Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence asks for your assistance with this very important action item to keep gun stores in Massachusetts closed during the pandemic. They have sent a letter to Governor Baker urging him to clarify and enforce his decision to classify gun stores as non-essential businesses. Allowing gun stores to remain open during the COVID-19 pandemic is a threat to public health and safety with increased risk of death from domestic violence homicides, suicides, and unintentional shootings. Stress, anxiety, and isolation abound during our current national emergency.

[Click to see their letter to Governor Baker](#)

Your advocacy matters. Contact Governor Baker's office to express your concern about the need to clarify the message and ensure that gun stores are closed now.

Call: 617-725-4005

Email: <https://www.mass.gov/forms/email-the-governors-office>

Tell Congress to Pass Coronavirus Relief

Call and write to congress and urge them to pass comprehensive legislation to address the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, helping people who rely on Medicaid and federal food programs.

[Click here to take action through the United Way](#)

[Click here to take action through the ADL](#)

PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Masks for Immigrant Groups and Communities of Color

Abdulkader Hayati, the dad of one of the Syrian families TBE helped to resettle, is a tailor who started making masks at home and has trained a number of **TBE** congregants on the "how to" of sewing masks. More volunteers are needed to scale up production to meet the demand for masks from our community partners. You can help in two ways:

1) Join the Volunteer Sewing Team!

The demand for masks is overwhelming and TBE is making a difference! Through our relationship with Boston's Grove Hall neighborhood, we are supplying masks to local residents, distributed through street outreach workers and local *bodegas* who are supplying masks to their shoppers and employees. Through Beth Israel Lahey Health, fact sheets about COVID 19 (and the need for masks) are available in three languages - English, Spanish and Cape Verdean Creole. TBE has also been asked by the Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers to supply upwards of 250 masks for farm workers working in the Connecticut River Valley. These seasonal, migrant farmworkers are considered essential workers but are not prioritized for any type of PPE.

If you are interested in joining the volunteer sewing team, please contact Michael Gilman at michaelgilman315@gmail.com.

2) Contribute to the Syrian Refugee Resettlement Fund (through the TBE donation webpage) to support this project and our Syrian families!

Mother's Day Walk for Peace: Join the TBE Team on Sunday, May 10th, 9:00-9:45 am

Make a difference this Mother's Day. Join the TBE team at the (Virtual) 24th annual Mother's Day Walk for Peace benefitting the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute in Boston.

To join the TBE team, [please register here](#). When asked, "Credit this event registration to a fundraiser," click on Temple Beth Elohim--Wellesley" in the drop-down box. (Note: TBE is currently toward the top of the list, not alphabetically listed). Donations may also be made on this page. A \$20 registration fee is suggested.

Watch the walk festivities LIVE from the comfort of home this year! Join the event on Sunday morning 9:00-9:45 am by going to the [Mothers Day Walk For Peace home page](#) and clicking on the live link. The event will include a live cast with founder Chaplain Tina Cherry (a TBE Shabbat service speaker last year) and other speakers, survivors and entertainment. For more details about the special online event, [please click here](#).

For more information on the Louis D. Brown Institute and the critical services offered to support families and communities impacted by murder, grief, trauma and loss, [please click here](#). The TBE Walk Team is sponsored by TBE Congregants to Prevent Gun Violence & Racial Justice Initiative, championed by Nicole Roos at nroos19@yahoo.com.

Blood Donations (especially needed for Sickle Cell patients!)

Sickle cell anemia is a disease that disproportionately affects African American children. Many patients require transfusions to prevent stroke and a variety of other complications including acute chest pain system. And, many of these symptoms are worsened by infection with COVID

19. Blood supply is down as are donations due to the cancellation of mobile blood drives but blood donation centers remain open. If you are healthy enough to donate, please consider going online to sign up or calling a blood center to discuss a blood donation.

- [American Red Cross Find a Blood Drive](#) - Note that social distancing is observed and appointments are required. With thousands of blood drives cancelled, ARC is working to expand the number of blood drive sites; in the meantime, you should search for a blood donation appointment 14 days out.
- Boston Children's Hospital Blood Center, 617-355-1997, ask for Casey
- American Red Cross Blood Services, Dedham, 800-733-2767

Supporting Black-Owned Businesses: Our Partner, Commonwealth Kitchen



After a two-week temporary shutdown, CWK reopened its kitchens on a limited basis. The facilities team put in place a range of new operating procedures, such as limiting the number of people allowed in the kitchen to ensure proper distancing, requiring temperature checks for every team member entering the kitchens, and implementing a new cleaning and sanitizing process to limit exposure risk.

Although most member companies are temporarily closed, a handful of bakers and packaged goods companies have products available online. So, if you're looking for a sweet or spicy fix, please order: [Hillside Harvest](#), [Top Shelf Cookies](#), [Third Cliff Bakery](#), [Humble Bones Granola](#) and [Five Way Foods](#).

CWK is supporting community needs in many other ways from Fresh Good Generation delivering meals to The Dimock Center's Early Childhood programs to serving as a fiscal sponsor for [Off Their Plate Boston](#), which is putting local restaurant staff back to work to preparing meals for front line hospital staff. For more info and to make a donation to support CWK and Black-owned businesses, please visit the website: <https://commonwealthkitchen.org>