

New Jersey Chapter

INCORPORATED IN NEW JERSEY

American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN®



The NJAAP Call to End Racism



The New Jersey Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics (NJAAP) calls for each of us to take action to end systemic racism and senseless violence that further risk the lives and health of our children and our communities. We stand firm in our commitment to peaceful actions to bring about the end of inhumane acts on people of color.

Racism, prejudice and disrespect can and will not be tolerated in any form. The American Academy of Pediatrics recently released a policy statement on racism "[The Impact of Racism on Child and Adolescent Health](#)." It clearly describes, based on scientific evidence, the negative impact of racism on the health and well-being of all children, leading to health inequity.

As New Jersey pediatricians, we live and work in one of the country's most multi-cultural states. Blatant disrespect for those who live and work in our communities is unacceptable. We took an oath to uphold ethical standards through the practice of medicine. This includes the protection, health and well-being of human beings regardless of color, creed, religion or class.

As the premier association of 1,800 pediatricians and other allied healthcare professionals, we remain committed to embracing a culture of individuals with diverse life experiences. This includes

engaging a well-rounded representation of individuals who care about social justice issues and its impact on communities. In pursuit of advancing our mission, we promote the values of diversity, equity and inclusion in our work.

We are committed to speak up for those who are disadvantaged and underrepresented within our communities, especially for those who have been significantly impacted by the pandemic. Since the issue of racism is systemic, we are challenged to respond.

What can we do?

- Listen to the stories and experiences of others who are impacted by racism and discrimination in ways that you are not and may not even notice
- Be a resource for families and empower them to have meaningful conversations with children about recent events. For suggestions, refer to [Healthy Children.org](https://www.healthychildren.org)
- Speak up by talking to legislators and policy makers supporting policies that reduce and eliminate the impact of racism and other social inequities that persist in American society
- Use the power of the ballot to speak up for an equal and more just society
- [Complete the U.S. Census](#) and make sure your patients do the same
- [Register to vote](#)

There is much work to be done and we will remain vigilant in our efforts to serve as a resource for our members and our communities. It is through patience, solidarity, courage and respect that we will build a healthier tomorrow for our children and our nation.

Sincerely,

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