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\*\*\*\*\*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE\*\*\*\*\*\*

**Guidance from the PHRC related to discrimination**

**and COVID-19 available**

**HARRISBURG** April 8, 2020: We are facing unprecedented times in our history, with this pandemic and everything surrounding it. Not only do we see the major implications that affect our health, but we are facing economic struggles too. The one thing we should not be facing is hate and discrimination to specific members of the community. We have seen information that our minority communities are being impacted disproportionately. We are seeing acts of aggression against our Asian American neighbors, discrimination against our Hispanic neighbors and deaths at a much higher rate in our African American communities. These are all unacceptable outcomes. “I, along with many others can’t say it loud enough or clearly enough, this virus does not see geographic, ethnic, or economic boundaries. No one in our neighborhoods is to blame, nor are they spreading it with purpose. It’s time for us to stop the hate and join together as we work through this.”-said Lassiter of the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission. We recognize discrimination exists, PHRC takes those complaints and as it relates to COVID we have new guidance posted on our website [www.phrc.gov](http://www.phrc.gov) . Those acts of hate and aggression may be criminal acts and should be reported immediately to the local police. Hate crime information is also available on our website with the other guidance’s. While we are all teleworking and there are challenges, PHRC is committed to our work and the civil rights of Pennsylvania’s citizens. If you plan to file a discrimination complaint related to COVID 19, please email those directly to us at PHRC@pa.gov with any questions. All of our guidance’s will be translated to better serve our non-English speaking communities and posted as soon as possible.