



Nurses care for all patients, regardless of their race, age, religion, gender, or other status. The Code of Ethics for Nurses obligates us to advocate for our patients and communities and speak up against racism, discrimination and injustice.

We must expect the same level of care from the authorities. We demand justice for George Floyd and an end to the deaths of Black people at the hands of those who are meant to protect them.

As nurses, we see the devastating effects of racism in our communities. Systemic racism is a very real public health crisis, and the COVID-19 pandemic has only added to the stress and health inequity in Black communities and other communities of color where higher rates of infection and deaths are being experienced.

We as nurses have a responsibility during this time to use our trusted voices to call for change. We also encourage all nurses to listen and learn as we work to address the issues that lead to so many needless deaths in Black communities and communities of color. To help further this, we are removing the member paywall from our continuing education on health inequity, beginning with [*Social Determinants of Health: The Zip Code is the Most Important Number on the Patient's Chart*](#). We will post other relevant continuing education resources and readings to our social media and website.

We must also continue to encourage our communities to continue to stay vigilant in the fight against COVID-19. It is vital that all Virginians continue to wear masks in public settings and practice social distancing and adequate handwashing to prevent the spread of COVID-19, including while exercising their first amendment right to assemble.

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