



CITY OF BOSTON • MASSACHUSETTS

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
MARTIN J. WALSH

**EXECUTIVE ORDER
OF
MAYOR MARTIN J. WALSH**

An Executive Order Declaring Racism an Emergency and Public Health Crisis
in the City of Boston

WHEREAS; racism is threat to public health and safety, and is a paramount social determinant of health, shaping access to the resources that create opportunities for health, including public safety, housing, education and employment, and is a persistent barrier to health equity for all Bostonians;

WHEREAS; in addition to having an independent influence on the social determinants of health, racism in and of itself has been proven to have broad-reaching and direct negative impacts on individual health outcomes;

WHEREAS; racial justice is the creation and proactive reinforcement of policies, practices, attitudes and actions that produce equitable power, access, opportunity, treatment, and outcomes for all people regardless of race;

WHEREAS; the Mayor's Office of Health and Human Services by and through the Boston Public Health Commission have been working to promote racial justice and health equity throughout the past 20 years, advancing measures including the adoption of a Data Collection Regulation to require racial and ethnic health data reporting, the formation of the Anti-Racism Advisory Committee, the creation of mandatory all-staff Racial Justice Health Equity professional development trainings, and the adoption of an Equitable Procurement Policy;

WHEREAS; agencies of City government must recommit to addressing the impact that racism has on the lives of all of our neighbors and how it impacts the overall health of our City;

WHEREAS; the COVID-19 pandemic has revealed, reaffirmed, and cast in sharp relief the emergency nature of these pre-existing inequities caused by systemic racism. In cases where race and ethnicity is known, the rate of reported COVID-19 cases for Black Boston residents is 268.8 per

10,000, compared with 213.2 per 10,000 for Latinx/Hispanic residents and 89.8 per 10,000 for white residents; and

WHEREAS; all Boston residents are welcomed to join in working toward a city where all residents live fulfilling lives free of racism, poverty, violence, and other systems of oppression;

NOW THEREFORE; pursuant to the authority vested in me as the Chief Executive Officer of the City of Boston pursuant to St. 1948, c. 452, s. 11, and every other power hereto enabling, I hereby order and direct as follows:

I, Martin J. Walsh, Mayor of Boston, hereby declare that racism constitutes an emergency and public health crisis in the City of Boston.

In recognition of this fact, I hereby order the Mayor's Office of Health & Human Services to work in partnership with the Boston Public Health Commission and all City departments to undertake the following eight key strategies to combat racism as a public health crisis and resulting health inequities:

1. Develop policy and practice solutions that work to dismantle the systemic racism that creates barriers to strong public health. Strategies include using a health equity in all policies approach to evaluate current policies and practices and ensure access to data to drive equitable policy and practice development.
2. In partnership with COVID-19 Health Inequities Task Force, develop a 'Boston Health Equity Now' plan that outlines detailed objectives and measurable goals in which the City will focus on root causes of the inequities that cause disparities in health outcomes for our residents.
3. Engage historically marginalized communities in identifying problems and solutions and supporting community-driven responses.
4. Ensure complete and regular availability of specific race and ethnicity data that documents the health inequities that exist in Boston through collection, dissemination and remedies for gaps in that data to strengthen our collective understanding. This should include implementing and, if necessary, revising the Boston Health Equity Measure Set, and data sharing between BPHC and relevant agencies of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.
5. Conduct ongoing and enhanced analysis using all available data to understand the complexity of the interconnectedness of societal, environmental and behavioral factors that contribute to the impact of racism on access to those resources that promote good health including good jobs, access to healthy and affordable food and housing, equitable transportation options and

excellent public education. This includes a more comprehensive understanding of racism and its impact on violence in the community both as a direct correlation to its existence and the impact that it creates on the overall health of people and the community at large.

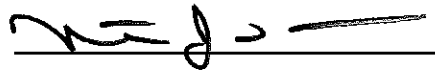
6. Focus on access to prevention and treatment that is culturally and linguistically competent and meets communities where they are to counter the inequities that exist in health care.
7. Develop direct service programs and services to address the negative impact that these inequities have had on specific populations as well as programs that empower communities to tackle these systemic barriers.
8. Advocate at the state and federal level for policies and funding opportunities that directly combat systemic racism.

I hereby order every City cabinet, department, agency, and office to take all necessary steps to implement this Executive Order, including through the allocation of funding and other resources in a manner consistent with applicable law.

The provisions of this Order are severable and if any provision, or portion thereof, should be held to be unconstitutional or otherwise invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction, such unconstitutionality or invalidity shall not affect the remaining provisions that shall remain in full force and effect.

This Executive Order shall take effect immediately. This Executive Order and the provisions herein shall remain in effect unless superseded or otherwise changed by Executive Order.

SIGNED THIS 12th DAY OF JUNE, 2020



Martin J. Walsh
Mayor of Boston