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# Chinese American Citizens Alliance

~ National ~

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National Lodge  
ESTABLISHED 1895

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: March 16, 2020

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## C.A.C.A. National Provides Tips and Talking Points to Address COVID 19 Coronavirus-Fueled Racism

San Francisco, March 16, 2020 — The Chinese American Citizens Alliance (C.A.C.A.) is alarmed by the rise in international and domestic incidents where Asians and Asian Americans have been the subject of verbal and physical attacks as a result of the COVID-19 Coronavirus contagion.

Asians and Asian Americans have become targets due of the outbreak of COVID-19, the infectious disease caused by the most recently discovered Coronavirus, originated in Wuhan, China, in December 2019. Concerns of public safety and panic over infection has prompted mass event postponements, economic hardships, school closures, reduced government services, panic buying, curtails in travel and disruptions in normal social etiquette and interaction.

Since the Coronavirus outbreak, there has been a steady and increasing stream of media coverage and reports from law enforcement of anti-Asian acts. C.A.C.A. member is among the list of victims of Coronavirus-related racism. The identity of the C.A.C.A. victim and suspects are being withheld pending outcome of a criminal investigation.

C.A.C.A. National has developed a list of tips, talking points and action items in order to provide its chapters with template for creating responses when confronting xenophobia and racism:

- Be proactive. Facilitate meetings with the public and community organizations particularly if there may be an alarming rise in incidents against the Asian communities over the Coronavirus scare. Use the opportunity to help defuse tensions by enlisting the support of your local law enforcement and public health and safety authorities.
- Encourage people who are victims of racial attacks or discriminatory practices to report these incidents to the authorities. Contact your local law enforcement through 9-1-1.

National Resources:

The Federal Bureau of Investigation – Civil Rights/Hate Crimes Investigates and prosecutes hate crimes: <https://www.fbi.gov/contact-us>. (202) 324-3000



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National Center for Victims of Crime provides resources to victims of crime:

<https://victimsofcrime.org/>. (202) 467-8700

OCA Asian Pacific American Advocates Hate Incident Reporting Website: [aapihatecrimes.org](http://aapihatecrimes.org)

- Basic hygienic practices can help reduce your personal risk of exposure and infection. The World Health Organization (WHO) recommends regularly and thoroughly clean your hands with an alcohol-based hand rub or wash them with soap and water; avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth; and maintain safe distances from other people in public places (4-6 feet). [www.who.int/news-room/q-a-detail/q-a-coronaviruses](http://www.who.int/news-room/q-a-detail/q-a-coronaviruses)
- Don't focus entirely on negative experiences. While it's important to report verbal and physical attacks, balance with stories of how communities have come together helps restore our faith in cooperation that transcends race, ethnicity and gender. For example, the Jewish Council for Public Affairs recently issued a public letter of support to its friends in the Chinese and Chinese American communities, expressing their "heartfelt solidarity with you during these tense and troubling times."
- Finally, if elaborate explanations does not allay fears and anxiety, the simplest recommendation can prove more effective: "stay calm, take precautions such as washing hands frequently, and don't be a racist, the virus doesn't discriminate."

"Chinese Americans know all too well the ugly legacy of bigotry," states C.A.C.A. National President Melanie Chan. "The hostility against immigration of people from East Asia into the United States culminated in the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century with the passage of the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882. Sadly, the same arguments used against entry back then have resurfaced where Chinese are blamed for the economic hardships and threats to public health with the fears over the spread of COVID-19. We need to arm ourselves with accurate information and knowledge to effectively engage in the public conversation over this global health crisis."

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Chinese American Citizens Alliance

The Chinese American Citizens Alliance, established in 1895, is among the oldest civil rights organizations in the United States. Headquartered in San Francisco with chapter/lodges in Albuquerque (NM), Boston (MA), Chicago (IL), Greater San Gabriel Valley (CA), Greater New York (NY), Houston (TX), Las Vegas (NV), Los Angeles (CA), Mississippi, Oakland (CA), Peninsula (CA), Portland (OR), Phoenix (AZ), Sacramento (CA), Salinas (CA), San Antonio (TX), San Francisco (CA), Seattle (WA) and Washington, D.C., the Alliance addresses issues regarding voter education, political participation, racial discrimination and hate crimes, and supports youth leadership training programs and equal employment opportunities for all Chinese Americans.