



## Messaging Guidance

April 20, 2020

### Coronavirus Task Force on Racial Disparities

- **COVID-19's disproportionate impact on communities of color throughout our state further highlights staggering disparities in our health care system that have been growing for decades.** Of all the family, friends and loved ones Michiganders have lost to this pandemic, 40 percent have come from our African American communities.
- **The historical and systemic inequities leading to these outcomes didn't appear overnight with the emergence of this virus.** Our laws may have changed, but the echoes of racial discrimination, segregation and redlining continue to be felt strongly to this day. Gov. Whitmer's task force gives us the opportunity to begin undoing the damage that began so many years ago.
- **Your access to quality health care should not depend on where you live or the color of your skin.** Every Michigander has a right to receive the care they need, when and where they need it — including our communities of color. We must do everything we can to remove all barriers that stand in the way of that mission.