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COVID-19: Creating an Equitable Path Forward Insights from a Virtual Road Trip

The American Hospital Association's [The Value Initiative](#) partnered with the [Advancement League](#) to virtually convene emerging leaders in health to discuss how to create a more equitable path forward from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The virus' disproportionate impact on communities of color has brought the health equity conversation to the forefront, illuminating many of the existing social inequities in our society.

- Black and Latinx Americans are [three times more likely](#) than white Americans to contract COVID-19.
- The COVID-19 hospitalization rate for Black and Latinx persons is [4.7 and 4.6 times higher, respectively, than white persons](#).
- Black Americans are dying at a rate [nearly two times higher](#) than their share of the population.

Emerging health leaders have the power to take action to make our communities more just and equitable. Here are a few ways you can make a difference.

1. **Follow your values.** Recognize what is really important in your life and career. Align yourself with organizations that allow you to be true to yourself and your values.
2. **Listen to your community.** Hear others' perspectives, especially when they are different than yours. Partnership and real community engagement are key.
3. **Make connections.** Health equity is intertwined with numerous other sectors. Find the connection between health and housing, paid sick time, child care, unemployment insurance, education, etc.
4. **Get creative.** Now is the time for innovation to make a more equitable society. Embrace the potential of technology. It is ok to start small. Take your ideas, find your partners and run with it.
5. **Be an advocate.** Use your voice for good. Raise awareness about systemic racism and health inequities equity in your organizations, your community and your social circles. Spread the word among your networks about the importance of the 3Ws – wear a face covering, watch your distance and wash your hands. Be civically engaged. Complete the census. Vote.

Though the road to health equity will certainly have obstacles, we are confident that emerging leaders in health are poised to take on these challenges. Our time is now. And we have taken the next step toward building a more just and equitable future.