

COVID 19 and Racial Justice- ***More than a Vaccine.***
Dr. Santiago- Narvaez

With SARS-CoV-2 spread across the globe, the virus has gotten us ruminating on the uncertainty of its impact on our lives. Unfortunately, the virus is not affecting us all equally. While the virus is novel, the brokenness in our societal structure is not. COVID-19 has magnified the inequalities that exist for members in our society. As we are inundated by data and information one piece of information continues to be repeated over and over again. Black and Hispanic people are among the individuals affected the most by this disease.....More so than any other group in our society. The inequality of how these communities experience this pandemic is pervasive.

We should be asking ourselves why?

We cannot attribute these observations to the simple fact that the virus is “new”. This problem goes beyond a pandemic and instead reveals the realities that affect people of color on a daily basis. These “preexisting conditions” that we so casually mention to explain why and how people of color are affected by COVID -19 are the result of societal structures that have put these individuals at a disadvantage.

As this season of quarantine has revived the black lives matter movement, we should use this time to bring lasting change and support initiatives that help create a society that provides support and resources equally to all. Advocate for consistent data collection and transparency for communities of color, sign petitions, volunteer for racial justice initiatives and educate yourself about why these inequities exist. In the last 7 months we have made incredible strides in the development of SARS-CoV-2 vaccine candidates. If anything, this demonstrates the power of people working together for a cause. If we can do it for a vaccine, we can certainly do it to make our society one that provides equally for all.