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Statement from the Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society on the Public Health Concerns of People of Color

Freedom from infections for all children. That’s always been the vision of the Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society. But from this day forward, we must also acknowledge that structural racism is more harmful to the health and wellbeing of children than infectious diseases, including COVID-19.

Our members share in the outpouring of grief and outrage over the brutal killing of Mr. George Floyd by a police officer in Minneapolis and strongly condemn the harm inflicted on other African Americans in recent weeks. We envision a world in which all children and their parents not only have access to healthcare, but are safe in their homes, their neighborhoods, and their communities.

As professionals dedicated to treating and preventing infectious diseases affecting children, our strengths—clinical care, research, education and advocacy—must be employed to mandate change and eliminate systemic bias against all people of color.

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The Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society membership encompasses leaders across the global scientific and public health spectrum, including clinical care, advocacy, academics, government, and the pharmaceutical industry. From fellowship training to continuing medical education, research, regulatory issues and guideline development, PIDS members are the core professionals advocating for the improved health of children with infectious diseases both nationally and around the world, participating in critical public health and medical professional advisory committees that determine the treatment and prevention of infectious diseases, immunization practices in children, and the education of pediatricians. For more information, visit http://www.pids.org.