# C9
## American Medical Student Association
## House of Delegates 2022
## Resolution:

**INTRODUCED BY:** Amanda Huff; Amanda Gong; Coco Victoria Gomez Tirambulo; David Schaub; Emily Harnois; Gabriela Triant; Laura Tran; and Pantea Sazegar.

**SCHOOL:** University of Arizona College of Medicine Tucson

**SUBJECT:** Principles Regarding Epidemics, Pandemics, and Other Public Health Crises

**TYPE OF RESOLUTION:** Resolution of Principles

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WHEREAS historically public health crises (e.g., epidemics and pandemics) have disrupted global systems, processes, and greatly affected healthcare systems and

WHEREAS misinformation and fear during these times have exacerbated systemic inequities and exposed structural biases and racism and

WHEREAS healthcare workers are in a unique position to experience stigmatization, xenophobia, and racism in the forms of microaggression and hate crimes and

WHEREAS AMSA condemns xenophobia, racism, and hate crimes and

WHEREAS AMSA supports mental health services that are crucial for healthcare workers experiencing extreme stressors caused by the strain on the healthcare systems and

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Preamble, Purposes, and Principles be AMENDED BY ADDITION to include the Principles Regarding Epidemics, Pandemics, and Other Public Health Crises:

The American Medical Student Association:

   a.  RECOGNIZES historically during epidemics and pandemics, vulnerable and marginalized groups have been stigmatized and targeted as scapegoats (Batasin, 2020; The Pandemic of Xenophobia and Scapegoating, 2022).

b. RECOGNIZES healthcare workers are at an increased risk of experiencing racism and xenophobia in the form of microaggressions and hate crimes during pandemics and epidemics (Orellana, 2020).

c. RECOGNIZES the potential for long-lasting detrimental physical and mental health consequences on healthcare workers due to racism, xenophobia, hate, and terror (Orellana, 2020).

d. RECOGNIZES the role of the infodemic of misinformation in perpetuating xenophobia, racism, and vaccine hesistancy (Rzymski, 2021).

    i. RECOGNIZES that those with less scientific training and health literacy are less likely to question the credibility of their sources (Batasin, 2020; Pennycook, 2020)

    ii. SUPPORTS accessible and understandable public health communication campaigns that consider cultural, ethnic, and religious beliefs to refute misinformation and xenophobia (Rzymski, 2021).

    iii. URGES the active participation of healthcare workers in tackling misinformation and supporting vaccination campaigns (Rzymski, 2021).

    iv. URGES the accountability of media in the role of misinformation (Cuello-Garcia, 2020).

e. ENCOURAGES hospitals and organizations to provide their employees with mental health care during times of emotional and psychological stress such as a pandemic, epidemic, or other public health crises without subsequent jeopardization of their careers (Weiner, 2020).

f. ENCOURAGES safeguarding of healthcare worker families to alleviate fear of endangering their loved ones as a result of their profession (Shmerling, 2020).

g. ENCOURAGES healthcare institutions to implement trauma risk management programs for healthcare professionals (Tracy, 2020).

h. POSES that healthcare organizations adopt a holistic approach towards evaluating the psychological safety of their employees, recognizing the emotional impact that public health crises have on healthcare professionals (Rangachari, 2020).

**FISCAL NOTE**: None

CITATIONS:

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3. Orellana CI. Health workers as hate crimes targets during coviD-19 outbreak in the Americas. *Revista de Salud Pública*. 2020;22(2). doi:10.15446/rsap.v22n2.86766

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9. Weiner, S. (2020, December 10). Doctors forgo mental health care during pandemic over concerns about licensing, stigma. AAMC. Retrieved January 21, 2022, from https://www.aamc.org/news-insights/doctors-forgo-mental-health-care-during-pandemic-over-concerns-about-licensing-stigma