

June 2021

Dear PAWNY members,

India is currently experiencing the most severe COVID crisis the world has seen with official counts of over 300,000 daily COVID cases and 3,000 daily COVID-related deaths (and unofficial counts numbering five to ten times higher) amidst a dire shortage of COVID tests and vaccines. As we hear the horrific stories, learn about the devastating toll it is taking on the country of 1.3 billion people, and hear of the mismanagement and collapse of the healthcare system, we as a task force are reminded that we live in an interconnected world, and any support we may be able to provide, through donations, moral support and reaching out to those you know who are part of the Indian diaspora is desperately needed.

To this end, we are sharing NYSPA's message below. In addition, for those who may not be aware of the details of this crisis, we have shared a few resources, along with other organizations who are supporting India during this crucial time. Materials from social media links below are also attached for your convenience in viewing them.

Information:

[How Did India's COVID-19 Crisis Become a Catastrophe - TIME](#)

[Why The Record-Breaking COVID Count In India Is Likely An Undercount - NPR](#)

[Indians in the diaspora and their loved ones — how to manage the stress of India's COVID crisis](#)

How to provide direct support:

[Supporting front line workers in India during the current crisis](#)

Where to donate:

[How to Help India Amid the Covid Crisis](#)

[Addressing COVID-19 — India Philanthropy Alliance](#)

[Sewa International - Mobile Home](#)

[Americares | Disaster Relief & Global Health Organization](#)

[How to help India with donations for oxygen, meals, and families — Quartz](#)

[#IndiaAgainstCoronaVirus](#)

[BREATHE INDIA](#)

[24x7 Ambulance Network For COVID19 Patients And Healthcare Systems](#)

Thank you,

The Anti-Racism Task Force of the Psychological Association of Western New York (PAWNY)

Members: Nita Makhija (Co-Chair), Jane Dewey (Co-Chair), Melinda Haggerty, Tanisha Joshi, Amber Dewey, Alanna Lipinski, Karen Klementowski, Tacianna Indovina, Thomas Chacko

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"What happens there affects us all. There is clearly a humanitarian crisis, but it's also a

global problem. As countless infectious disease experts have said, this disease knows no borders."

Amita Gupta, Co-chair, Johns Hopkins India Institute

Dear Fellow NYSPA Members and Friends,

As NYPSA President, I am reaching out to you in hopes that you will consider providing some aid to India.

The world has been watching with distress and pain the implosion of that nation's health care system at all levels. Many of our members from that part of the world have endured losses in their families.

We are learning that the Indian strain of COVID-19 is impacting younger people more than previous strains. The situation is dire and exemplifies what happens in a systemic healthcare collapse.

For those who may wonder if it is similar to what NYS suffered last year, there is truly no comparison. India's high population, with polluted municipalities, poor infrastructure, under-funded public services, limited medical support (including supplies and human power) along with mismanagement has made the current situation truly catastrophic.

Some questions that you may have:

1. Why should you help?

You should help because the collapse of any nation that contributes to global intellect and scientific advancement will have an effect on the rest of the world. It's also the humanitarian response to do what we can to help and serve others. And finally, the virus and its variants cannot be contained in a nation state or a continent. Ultimately the safety of all people in the world depends upon treating and vaccinating people in all parts of our planet.

2. What can I do?

Please donate. Your donations pay for PPE for hospitals where physicians and medical teams have been tirelessly working for several days without a break, for oxygen tanks which are scarce right now, for ventilators which are not to be found at all, and for COVID vaccines, which India has run out for the next few days.

3. What if I do not donate?

That's okay. Send your healing thoughts, energy, and prayers. Reach out to check in with and to offer support to your Indian friends and colleagues. They will appreciate your concern.

These are some sites that are sending funds for

These are some sites that are sending funds for medical supplies and PPE, all COVID-19 related:

SEWA International: <https://www.sewausa.org/>

Association of Indian Physicians: <https://www.aapiusa.org/>

To our colleagues and friends who have lost family members and to those who are struggling, we send our hopes and prayers for comfort and strength and for all possible to emerge from this crisis with life and good health.

With gratitude,
Dr. Chris Allen
NSYPA President 2021

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