

## AN OPEN LETTER TO OUR COMMUNITY,

The mission of the Kitsap Public Health District is to prevent disease and protect and promote the health of all persons in Kitsap County. Like many people in our community, we at Kitsap Public Health District have experienced feelings of grief, outrage, and frustration over the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis and our failings as a nation to address systemic racism. We need to do better.

Kitsap Public Health District joins in solidarity with our community partners to build a more equitable and just society. The pain felt across our country is deep and real. Healing can only come with meaningful change, and we all have roles in creating that change.

As public health workers, we know that racism and discrimination ingrained in our societal systems undermine the health of communities and increase suffering. Kitsap County is no exception. Our own [2017 Health Disparity Report](#) displays data revealing that people of color in our county are more likely than their white neighbors to experience illness, violence, and poor health, from infancy through adulthood. Kitsap Public Health is committed to collaborating with partners and communities to address the root causes of these disparities, creating an environment where all residents can thrive.

We are grateful to every community member and organization striving to make Kitsap County a safe and healthy place to live, learn, work and play.

Sincerely,

**Dr. Susan Turner**, Health Officer

**Keith Grellner**, Administrator

**Yolanda Fong**, Director of Community Health

**John Kiess**, Director of Environmental Health

**Siri Kushner**, Assistant Director of Community Health

**Eric Evans**, Assistant Director of Environmental Health