College of Public Health Statement Against APIDA Violence and Discrimination

To Ohio State College of Public Health faculty, staff and students:

The recent violent attacks on Asian, Pacific Islander and Desi Americans (APIDA), including the horrific March 16 shootings in Atlanta targeting six Asian/Asian American women, are both heartbreaking and repugnant. We grieve with and support those across our community who have been deeply affected by these acts of anti-Asian sentiment, harassment, violence and discrimination.

Data released last week by Stop AAPI Hate shows that anti-Asian hate has surged 190%, with nearly 3,800 reports of violence, discrimination and harassment against the APIDA community, rising in tandem with COVID-19 cases and deaths since March of last year. These incidents are likely underreported. Women made 68% of the reports, signaling a call to action against intersecting race-based and gendered violence. These trends are visible manifestations of durable, damaging and too often overlooked racism and xenophobia. We condemn not only recent acts of violence against the APIDA community, but also denounce the pervasive discrimination and stereotyping that has long caused irreputable harm in our country.

The College of Public Health continues to be committed to fostering a safe and inclusive community. We are working with campus partners to bring more awareness to this issue, and on ways to support our APIDA community of students, faculty and staff. Unequivocally, we stand against bias and believe that racism and xenophobia must not be tolerated.