



Asian / Asian Pacific American Students' Coalition (AAPASC)
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Student Pavilion 225B - ASU Tempe Campus
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Asian / Asian Pacific American Students' Coalition (AAPASC) represents the voices of Asian and Pacific Islander diasporas at Arizona State University (ASU), and will continue to do so, especially with the rise of racist rhetoric and paranoia associated with the coronavirus. AAPASC fully condemns racist and xenophobic ideas, regardless if they are disguised as a 'public health' concern. Historically, similar types of rhetoric have been used against Asians, being a part of justifying xenophobic and racist hate during the Chinese Exclusion era, as well as the more recent SARS outbreak. While we do encourage people to take care of their wellness, such as regularly washing their hands, we would like to remind the community that many Asian people around ASU are now experiencing heightened stress, avoidance, exclusion and other antisocial behaviors directed at them. In addition to these xenophobic and racist behaviors around campus, there has also been an increase in prejudiced rhetoric being posted around social media and other platforms.

AAPASC greatly discourages people from spreading unchecked rumors and information about the coronavirus, as several outright lies have been found throughout social media, fueling the flames of racist ideas. There is no reason to believe that anyone of Asian heritage or appearance has the coronavirus at ASU, as there is no confirmation anyone with the virus at ASU is Asian. Even joking about Asians and the coronavirus reifies the idea that there is a valid association between the two. AAPASC is here to listen, support, and advocate for the Asian and Pacific Islander communities, and especially those with ties to mainland China. We encourage anyone to contact us through email, social media, or in person if there are any concerns or questions they have, and especially any reports of racist incidents around campus.

-Tevinh Nguyen
President of the Asian / Asian Pacific American Students' Coalition at ASU

Additional Information and Resources:

<https://eoss.asu.edu/health/announcements/coronavirus>

<https://eoss.asu.edu/counseling> | <https://eoss.asu.edu/health/services>