



April 1, 2021

### Re: World Health Day

Each year on April 7<sup>th</sup> we recognize World Health Day. From its inception in 1950, World Health Day is an opportunity to highlight a specific health priority area as identified by the World Health Organization (WHO). Issues such as mental health, climate change and, last year, a recognition of the role of the nurse and midwife in world health have all been previously acknowledged. This year the theme for World Health Day is '*Building a fairer, healthier world*'.

People around the world have been unequally impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. This pandemic has further demonstrated health inequities and the inadequate health and social conditions that prevent many people from accessing necessary services. In Canada, we have seen the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 not only on seniors, but on Indigenous people and communities, workers who live in congregate settings, low-income workers in health settings (such as long-term care) as well as homeless and other vulnerable populations. Worldwide we have seen countries with fewer resources and access to health services struggle to manage the scope of the COVID-19 pandemic. These countries have seen increased exposure to disease, are less likely to have quality public health services, and are much more likely to experience negative outcomes as result of COVID-19.

In a connected world, global health impacts each of us. Health issues at home and abroad demonstrate that a renewed commitment to improving health outcomes is imperative. Nurses are critical not only in providing health care but also in teaching the public about the impacts and importance of global health. As nurses, we acknowledge World Health Day to remind ourselves of the important role that nursing plays in improving health inequities locally and globally.

### Further Reading:

- [WHO World Health Day](#)
- [COVID 19 & Racism Against Indigenous Populations](#)
- [COVID-19 & At Risk & Vulnerable Populations](#)
- [Canada's Long-Term Care Crisis](#)
- [Sex Workers and COVID-19](#)
- [COVID-19 & Prison Populations](#)
- [COVID-19 & Violence Against Women & Children](#)
- [Understanding the Implications of Dual Public Health Emergencies](#)
- [NNPBC COVID-19 Resources](#)