Good afternoon, welcome to our “Hello Peril Couch Con” where we will listen to NPR’s Code Switch Program titled, “When Xenophobia Spreads Like A Virus” Feel free to turn off your web camera, find a cozy spot to sit and listen to the recording.

I will intermittently pause the recording to add to what has been said and ask if anyone would like to share personal experiences or thoughts on the program up to the point of pause.

To begin, I would like to clarify a term that has been used a lot in these conversations and that is- Xenophobia. The true definition of xenophobia is “dislike of or prejudice against people from other countries.” While some of the incidents in the US have involved Asians, we have to be careful about our use of language. Asian Americans are Americans. Not foreigners in the US. Breathing while Asian is a hashtag and phenomenon that has been taking place in the US where people of Asian heritage are looked at differently or verbally and/or physically abused for coughing, sneezing, or simply being out in public.

(00 - 1:00) Experiences of Coronavirus racism/discrimination
Pause- Prior to hearing this, were you aware of the increased discrimination and harassment against Asian and Asian Americans? As news about the coronavirus has become part of daily life, have you personally experienced or witnessed acts of bias or harassment over the past several weeks?

(8:12) Discouraging to see the continuation of ignorance
Pause - When you hear and see the news about the discrimination, racism, and violence against Asian Americans, how do you feel about it? Surprised or no?

(11:55) “Much Greater Threat”
Pause- When hearing about struggles of other ethnic minority groups, what are some thoughts that come to mind? Especially when we think of the African American community’s experiences with regards to fear of wearing masks in stores- or when undocumented immigrants fear detention and unsanitary conditions in detention camps.

(17:38) “Model Minority” yet “the Other”
Pause- How do we make sense of the duality of perspectives of being considered the model minority at one moment, and the next- a “carrier of disease”

If there’s time/interest- reflect on
- What are values traditionally held among neighborhoods and communities that you believe to be true for your neighborhood and how do you think incidents against Asians and Asian Americans would be handled there?