

# VIRUSES DON'T DISCRIMINATE, AND NEITHER SHOULD WE

# CORONAVIRUS AND STIGMA



## **Coronavirus doesn't recognize race, nationality, or ethnicity.**

Coronavirus (COVID-19) started in Wuhan, China. That's just geography. Having Chinese ancestry — or any other ancestry — does not make a person more vulnerable to this illness.



## **Wearing a mask does not mean a person is ill.**

People wear masks for a variety of reasons, including to avoid pollen and air pollution and for cultural and social reasons. We should not judge someone for wearing a mask or assume they are sick.



## **Stop stigma by sharing accurate information.**

Avoid spreading misinformation. Stay informed through reputable, trusted sources:

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
- DC Department of Health (DC Health)



## **Speak up if you hear, see, or read discriminatory comments.**

Gently correct the false information and remind the person that prejudiced language and actions make us all less safe. If discrimination occurs, report it to DC's Office of Human Rights, 202-727-4559.



## **Show compassion and support for those most closely impacted.**

In the schools and workplaces, create learning opportunities for students and staff that dispel racist and misinformed ideas. Listen to, acknowledge and, with permission, share the stories of people experiencing stigma, along with a message that bigotry is not acceptable in our community.

[coronavirus.dc.gov](https://coronavirus.dc.gov)

