

COVID-19 & STIGMA

Viruses don't discriminate, and neither should we



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

The 2019 novel coronavirus, also known as 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 sick.

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



You can interrupt stigma. Start by sharing accurate information.

Avoiding spreading misinformation. Stay informed through reputable sources:

- For local updates, follow Chippewa County Public Health on Facebook
- For WI updates, visit dhs.wisconsin.gov/disease/covid-19.HTM
- Follow national updates and travel guidance, visit coronavirus.gov



Speak up if you hear, see, or read misinformation or harassment.

Gently correct the false information, and remind the speaker: prejudiced language and actions make us all less safe. If serious harassment occurs, consider reporting it.



Show compassion and support for those most clearly impacted.

In 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 communities.