

# CORONAVIRUS & STIGMA

Viruses don't discriminate, and neither should we



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

The 2019 novel coronavirus 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:

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC): [cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov)
- Wisconsin Department of Health Services: [dhs.wisconsin.gov](https://dhs.wisconsin.gov)
- La Crosse County Health Department: [lacrossecounty.org/health](https://lacrossecounty.org/health)



## **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.



**LA CROSSE COUNTY**  
Health Department  
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