VIRUSES DON'T DISCRIMINATE, AND NEITHER SHOULD WE

CORONAVIRUS AND STIGMA

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

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 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.

You can interrupt stigma. Start by sharing accurate information.

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

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- New York State Department of Health
- Dutchess County Department of Behavorial & Community 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 a serious harassment occurs, consider reporting it.

Show compassion and support for those most closely 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 your community.

DutchessNY.gov/Coronavirus Coronavirus Hotline (845) 486-3555