

**MANITOBANS:
COVID-19
DOESN'T
DISCRIMINATE.
NOR SHOULD
YOU!**



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Immigration
Partnership
Winnipeg

Debunking Racist COVID-19 Myths & Misconceptions

Myth	Fact
All individuals of Asian descent have COVID-19.	Race and ethnicity are NOT determinates of COVID-19. Members of any racial or ethnic group can contract the disease. This myth is based off of old racist belief systems that link race and diseases and is the result of fears and scapegoating. In regards to patronizing Asian restaurants, the Government of Canada states that there are NO confirmed cases of COVID-19 being spread through food.
Calling COVID-19 the “Chinese virus,” “Wuhan virus,” and “Kung flu” is funny or accurate, not offensive.	Viruses are NOT named after their presumed places of origin. Doing so causes unnecessary effects, such as discrimination and stigmatization, on nations, people, and economies. The World Health Organization names viruses based on generic descriptive terms, such as the symptoms that the disease causes, how the disease manifests, and its severity or seasonality. If the pathogen that causes the disease is known, it will be part of the disease name, such as coronavirus in CO rona VI rus Disease 2019.
Immigrants are the carriers of COVID-19.	Everyone is capable of being a carrier of COVID-19. Emerging cases show that community transmission of people who have not travelled have become the hotspots of the COVID-19 cases. Assuming immigrants are carriers of COVID-19 is based on fear and scapegoating and leads to xenophobic discrimination against immigrants.
COVID-19 can be transmitted through products manufactured in China.	The World Health Organization states that COVID-19 is highly unlikely to remain on that surface after being moved, shipped, and exposed to different conditions and temperatures, though the virus can linger on surfaces for up to 24 hours after contact. The Public Health Agency of Canada suggests that surfaces that have been contaminated should be cleaned with disinfectants and that people follow good hand hygiene, such as washing your hands before and after shopping.
Telling people to “buy Canadian, not Chinese” is patriotic, not racist.	Supporting local and small business is a positive action. However, specifying “Chinese” in relationship to shopping local during COVID-19 is unnecessary and contributes to discrimination against Asians and Asian-owned businesses, as well as Chinese and Asian people who may be Canadian and are part of our communities.
COVID-19 is the “great equalizer.”	While people of all racial and ethnic groups can contract COVID-19, Black and Indigenous communities have experienced greater impacts as a result of systemic racism. Examples of racist public health responses include inadequate testing and minimization of racialized deaths. Racialized peoples are also disproportionately represented among essential workers and frontline health care workers, thereby increasing their exposure to COVID-19. These COVID-19 specific examples compound other impacts of systemic racism, such as income, housing, and food insecurity and physical and mental health concerns.
Black individuals are immune to COVID-19.	According to the John Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health, there is NO truth to claims that any race is immune to the novel coronavirus. Everyone is at risk of contracting the virus no matter their race.
Black individuals are more susceptible to COVID-19.	While some Black neighbourhoods have experienced higher transmission rates, researchers and scientists have stated that race and ethnicity are NOT factors in vulnerability to COVID-19 transmission. Public health experts state that racial disparities in health, such as higher COVID-19 community transmission rates and deaths, are directly linked to social and economic inequities, such as lower income, crowded housing, and dangerous working conditions (e.g., inadequate access to personal protective equipment).
All Hutterites have COVID-19.	Being a member of an ethnoreligious group is NOT a determinate of COVID-19. ALL individuals no matter their race, ethnicity or religion are susceptible in contracting the disease. While there have been COVID-19 clusters in some Hutterite colonies in Western Canada, there have mainly been cases of COVID-19 across Western Canada in non-Hutterite communities. Refusing service, stigmatizing, and blaming Hutterites because of COVID-19 is a form of discrimination.