

Ethnicity, language or association with a country or region not a COVID-19 risk factor

BOULDER, Colo. – City of Boulder officials, together with state and federal authorities, are closely monitoring the outbreak of COVID-19 and working locally to keep our community healthy. And that starts with sharing facts, not spreading fear.

Some residents have experienced acts of racism and xenophobia, while some businesses have even reported fewer customers because of the myths surrounding COVID-19.

A person's ethnicity, language or association with a country or region is not a risk factor for this virus. Health officials have also emphasized that concern about COVID-19 is not a reason to deny care to a patient.

Fear and anxiety can lead to social stigma — discrimination against a group of people, a place, or a nation. Stigma can result from a lack of knowledge about how COVID-19 spreads. People might feel a need to blame or struggle to cope with fears about disease and death.

Stigma hurts everyone by creating more fear or anger — feelings misdirected towards people instead of toward the disease that is causing harm. Stigma can allow myth and rumor to gain traction.

People can fight stigma by offering social support. Counter stigma by learning and sharing facts. More facts can be found on the city's main site: [INFORMATION ABOUT COVID-19 \(NOVEL CORONAVIRUS\)](#) Communicating the facts that viruses do not target specific racial or ethnic groups and how COVID-19 is actually spread.

Report discrimination

Any discrimination incident that may be motivated by another person's race, color, disability, religion, national origin, sexual orientation or gender identity is considered a Human Rights Violation [Human Rights Ordinance](#)

To file a discrimination complaint with the City of Boulder Office of Human Rights:

- Complete and submit the complaint form [Discrimination Complaint Form](#) . (Use Internet Explorer to complete the form, save to your computer and submit by email to VelascoG@bouldercolorado.gov.)
- Contact German Velasco at VelascoG@bouldercolorado.gov or 303-441-4197 to inquire if the case falls within the jurisdiction of the Office of Human Rights or if you have questions about completing the form.
- Make sure to submit the form within the deadline for filing a complaint in the particular area.

Find Support

These incidents can cause fear and anxiety in all of us.

People who need support can visit [Mental Health Partners](#) or call: 303-442-8500

It is up to all of us to make sure that everyone feels welcome, supported and safe in our community.