Oregon is seeing an increase in incidents of discrimination and harassment related to the COVID-19 virus. It is important that all people, businesses, and other organizations act on facts, not bias or xenophobia. Health officials confirm there are no links between COVID-19 infection and a person’s race, color, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, ability, or national origin. COVID-19 can infect anyone who is exposed to it, and anyone can spread COVID-19.

It is illegal to discriminate against someone because you are afraid or believe that their race, color, gender, sexual orientation, religion, ability, or national origin predisposes them to COVID-19 infection.

All Oregonians are entitled to full and equal access to the privileges of any place of public accommodation, without any distinction, discrimination or restriction on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, or other protected class.

A place of public accommodation includes, but is not limited to, any location or service offering to the public “accommodations, advantages, facilities or privileges whether in the nature of goods, services, lodgings, amusements, transportation or otherwise.”

The Oregon Department of Justice has received reports that Asian-Americans and Native Americans have been denied entry, denied service, or received less service when attempting to patronize area restaurants, hotels, and treatment providers because of misplaced fears about COVID-19. This is unacceptable.

If you feel you have experienced or witnessed discrimination motivated by race, color, disability, religion, national origin, sexual orientation or gender identity, we urge you to report it today. In Oregon, contact the Oregon Department of Justice by filing a report online at https://www.doj.state.or.us/oregon-department-of-justice/bias-crimes/report-a-hate-and-bias-crime/ or by calling 1-844-924-2427.

The DOJ and its agency partners will address this behavior. Here’s how you can help:

**Report it**

**Report** COVID-19 related discrimination or harassment based on race, color, national origin, or other protected classes. **Example:** Not allowing people of a certain race to enter a place of business.

If you are in danger or have been the victim of a violent crime, call 911 or your local police.
department first, then report it to https://www.doj.state.or.us/oregon-department-of-justice/bias-crimes/about-the-law/ or call 844-924-BIAS.

For documenting discriminatory treatment:
Please take care to note: the date, location and address of the business, the business name, the name of the person denying you access and services, or conditions they are placing on you (e.g., requiring coronavirus test results before allowing you to rent a room), and justification for refusing you service. Also list the name of any witnesses and take photos if you can. For more information visit https://www.oregon.gov/boli/CRD/Pages/Public-Accommodation-Questionnaire-(English)-.aspx

Report price gouging

Report the sale of fraudulent COVID-19 cures or treatments. Currently there is no known cure or treatment for COVID-19. https://www.doj.state.or.us/consumer-protection/sales-scams-fraud/report-scams-fraud/

Reports will be investigated. Some investigations may be delayed because of COVID-19 related staffing shortages. Be assured, the DOJ will investigate.

Support survivors
Support survivors of COVID-19 related discrimination by listening empathetically, sharing resources as appropriate, and directing them to the DOJ reporting lines above.

Remember to keep at least six feet between you and people outside your household. When possible, talk on the phone instead of in person.

Stop false information. Explain to those around you that COVID-19 is not linked to race, color, gender, sexual orientation, religion, ability, or national origin.

Share reliable information. Direct people to reliable sources of COVID-19 information like the Oregon Health Authority or the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

http://healthoregon.org/coronavirus


Especially during times of crisis, we must remain just as committed to stopping the spread of xenophobia, racism, and discrimination as we are to stopping the spread of this virus.

Together we can slow down the spread of COVID-19 infection. Together we can fight bias.