

PINELLAS COUNTY OFFICE OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Discrimination Based on Fear of Coronavirus Disease 2019 is Illegal

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) defines COVID-19 (coronavirus) as a “respiratory illness that can spread from person to person”. It has also been reported that the virus is spread amongst people who are in close proximity (within 6 ft.) of one another through “respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes”. Although there may be fears contributed to this disease, it is illegal to discriminate against individuals based upon fear of COVID-19.

- NO ONE should be denied employment or access to places that are open to the public based upon their race, ethnicity, where they were born, or any perceived disability. This includes believing or suspecting them to have COVID-19.
- NO ONE should be denied medical care or be denied assistance from health care providers, and they and Emergency departments must provide appropriate medical care irrespective of a person’s membership in a particular race or ethnicity, where they were born, or any perceived disability.

KNOW THE
FACTS

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STAY INFORMED

For Health Updates

For questions about COVID-19 (coronavirus), current situation updates and safety tips, please visit the CDC website at www.CDC.gov, or the State of Florida’s Department of Health’s website at:

www.FloridaHealth.gov/covid-19.

You may also call the local office of the state health department at 727-824-6900.

Need Help?

If you have experienced discrimination due to the COVID-19, and want to file a complaint, contact the Pinellas County Office of Human Rights (PCOHR) online at:

[www.pinellascounty.org/
HumanRights](http://www.pinellascounty.org/HumanRights)

You may also call 727-464-4880.

The Pinellas County Office of Human Rights is mandated to enforce anti-discrimination and civil rights laws for Pinellas County.