

# KNOW THE FACTS

Legal update from City of Orlando Human Relations

March, 2020



## Discrimination Based on Fear of Coronavirus Disease 2019 is Illegal.

The Center for Disease Control (CDC) defines the Coronavirus disease 2019 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 the Coronavirus Disease 2019.

- **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 the Coronavirus Disease 2019.
- **NO ONE** should be denied emergency room care or be denied assistance from health care providers. Emergency departments must provide appropriate medical care irrespective of the ability to pay, immigration status or where someone is born.

## For Health Updates

The Florida Department of Health’s (FDH) dedicated COVID-19 call center contact number is 1.866.779.6121.

The FDH - Orange County dedicated COVID-19 contact number is 407.723.5004. For additional information visit:

[FloridaHealth.gov/COVID-19](https://www.floridahealth.gov/COVID-19)

## Need Help?

If you have experienced discrimination due to the COVID-19, and want to file a complaint, contact the Office of Human Relations (OHR). 407.246.2122  
[orlando.gov/humanrelations](https://www.orlando.gov/humanrelations)

The Office of Human Relations is mandated to enforce anti-discrimination and civil rights laws for the City of Orlando.