

# COVID-19 Hate Incident

## What is a COVID-19 related Hate Incident?

A noncriminal act motivated in whole or in part by prejudice, bias or hate towards a specific person or identifiable group of persons due to COVID-19.

Simply put, this is when someone does something mean and hurtful because they have a negative feeling towards a section of the public distinguished by colour, race, religion, etc., and that hostility increases and is expressed due to COVID-19.

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, hate has been on the rise both online and in person. It is important to understand the ways that hate appears and also recognize that places that people can report to.

## What can be considered a COVID-19 related Hate Incident?

### Examples

- Saying that prisoners deserve to catch COVID-19
- Making anti-Asian comments about COVID-19
- Sharing anti-Semitic memes or posts about the COVID-19

## What is COVID-19 related Hate Crime?

This is a criminal offence motivated in whole or in part by prejudice, bias or hate towards a specific person, identifiable group of persons or property due to COVID-19.

In other words, a criminal act that can involve intimidation, harassment, physical force, or threat and that its motive is resentment or a negative opinion for the characteristics of a person because of COVID-19



### Examples

- assaulting an Asian person while referencing COVID-19
- Threatening to bring COVID-19 to Indigenous reserves



## The Law

According to the Criminal Code of Canada subsection 718.2 (a) (i), A sentence should be increased to account for aggravating circumstances such as evidence that the offence was motivated by bias, prejudice or hate.

Other sections of the Canadian criminal code specifically deal with hate crime: s.318, s.319. And s.430.

Unwanted jokes or insults when they occur on the basis of prejudice and discrimination related to COVID-19 are considered harassment, this is as a form of discrimination and is prohibited by the Alberta Human Rights Act.



## Report it!

If you are targeted because of a COVID-19 related hate crime or suspect someone is, contact law enforcement. If you are not ready to contact the police, call the number below to receive support. To report criminal related hate: 911

Calgary	Calgary Police Service	403-266-1234
Edmonton	Edmonton Police Service	780-423-4567
Lethbridge	Lethbridge Police Service	403-328-4444
Wood Buffalo	RCMP	780-788-4040

**You are not Alone! For support, Information, and reporting of a COVID-19 related hate incident contact:**

### Provincial:

**ACCT Foundation's COVID-19 Racism Reporting Centre Text: 587-507-3838**

**Report on website: <http://acctfoundation.ca/covid-19-community-support>**

## Want to file a human rights complaint?

If a hate incident or discrimination is committed by a co-worker, employer, prospective employer (i.e., during applying for employment), service provider, landlord, or involves the public display of materials, you may be able to make a human rights complaint.

**For information contact the Alberta Human Rights Commission:**

**Confidential inquiry: (780) 427 – 7661 [www.albertahumanrights.ab.ca](http://www.albertahumanrights.ab.ca)**

**To learn more : <http://coalitionscreatingequity.ca/>**

**Document any hate incidents at:**

[Stophateab.ca](http://Stophateab.ca)

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