

STAY SAFE MN

LGBTQ+ Community and Risk for COVID-19

The LGBTQ+ community is strong and resilient, even when faced with discrimination in many aspects of life such as housing, employment, and health care. This ongoing discrimination has led to LGBTQ+ people experiencing health disparities – some increasing the risk of severe health outcomes from COVID-19.



Tobacco use

Tobacco use affects the health of the respiratory system and can cause more severe impacts from COVID-19. LGBTQ+ folks are 50% more likely to use tobacco than those who do not identify as LGBTQ+.



Older adults

Around 1.1 million LGBTQ+ community members are 65 and older. Our elders are at higher risk of severe outcomes from COVID-19 and LGBTQ+ elders in particular are also less likely to seek health care due to discrimination.



HIV/AIDS

People living with HIV who do not take their HIV medication every day have compromised immune systems. People who have compromised immune systems may contract COVID-19 more easily and have more severe outcomes.



Support during the COVID-19 pandemic

The [Minnesota Department of Health COVID-19 & MN LGBTQ Community resource guide](https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/equity/about/covid_lgbtq.pdf) (https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/equity/about/covid_lgbtq.pdf) provides basic information about COVID-19 and supportive services available for the LGBTQ+ community in Minnesota. It includes where to find testing locations, LGBTQ-competent health care, discrimination support, housing resources, financial aid, workplace safety resources, and food access programs.



Health care discrimination

Many LGBTQ+ folks avoid or delay medical care due to fear of discrimination. As such, LGBTQ+ people may avoid getting tested for COVID-19, have unmanaged chronic conditions that increase the risk of severe outcomes from COVID-19, or delay seeking emergency care for COVID-19 related complications.



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