

Destigmatizing Chinese Communities in the face of COVID-19: Emergency Management Actions to Address Social Vulnerability in Toronto and Nairobi

Toronto Key Informant Interview Guide

Criteria:

Any person that self-identifies as ethnic Chinese living that:

- 1) has lived in the GTA for at least one year ahead of COVID-19 (since December 2019), and
- 2) has not travelled outside of the GTA for more than 3 weeks since December 2019

Demographic Details

- Name and area of residence?
- Age group: <24 years, 25 - 34, 35 - 44, 45 - 54, 55 - 64, 65 - 74, >75 years
- What ethnicity do you identify with?
- What languages do you speak?
- Highest education received?
- Occupation?
- How long have you been in the Greater Toronto Area? Canada?

Community Engagement

- Are you involved with organizations/community groups?
 - o a) within the Chinese community?
 - **Follow up:** What is the cultural make-up of your network? (**Prompts:** *Where are they from? How long have they been in Canada?*)
 - o b) broader, non-Chinese community?
Prompts: *Tai chi group, Mah Jong group, Badminton, Table tennis, Martial Arts, Dance, Faith-based groups (Churches/Buddhist temples), Hockey, Choirs, Book Clubs, Professional Associations*

Before COVID-19

- How would you describe the relationship amongst people of different Chinese backgrounds or heritages residing in the GTA (Taiwan, China, Hong Kong)?
- How well integrated do you feel the Chinese community is with the broader/mainstream Canadian community prior to COVID-19?
Prompts: *sense of community/belonging of the Chinese community*

COVID-19 Observations: The Start

- Where do you get your information or news?
 - **Follow Up:** How reliable/credible do you think that information is?
- When did you start paying attention to COVID-19? What were your thoughts about it when it first began? What are you feeling now?
- Did you or anyone in your Chinese community take actions to raise awareness about the risks early on?
- Do you think different Chinese groups perceive risks and/or react to COVID-19 differently?
 - o **Prompt:** e.g. whether you are from mainland China, Taiwan or Hong Kong, or depending on how long you have been in Canada?

COVID-19 Observations: Impacts

- What challenges/impacts due to COVID-19 have you experienced personally?

- **Prompts:** *medical, day-to-day routine, work disruptions, fulfilling life roles*
- What challenges/impacts due to COVID-19 have you observed amongst other members of the Chinese community in the GTA?
 - **Prompts:** *children, elderly, businesses, schools, women, etc.?*

[If stigma is not addressed already]

- Have you experienced treatment that is different since COVID-19?
 - **Prompts:** *Do you feel that you were treated differently because of your cultural background? Are people avoiding you?*
- Did you decide to wear a mask/when? If not, why?
 - **Follow Up:** *Did you want to wear a mask but feel pressure not to wear it?*
- Have you observed other members of the Chinese community in the GTA being treated differently since COVID-19?
- Have you observed discrimination from within the Chinese community (i.e. between individuals from Taiwan/Hong Kong/mainland China)?
- Have you observed those outside the Chinese community being treated differently since COVID-19? (e.g. people from Iran, Italy, Spain, etc. when COVID-19 numbers surged there?)

COVID-19 Observations: Coping Capacity (current state)

- Where do you seek support during this challenging time?
- What are you and your cultural community doing to overcome some of the challenges that you are facing following COVID-19?
 - **Prompts:** *Support chat groups, relying on family, sharing of supplies, raising awareness about the risks*
- How can emergency managers/public health officials/social services enhance the capacity of the Chinese community/accommodate the needs of the Chinese community during infectious diseases?
 - **Prompts:** *e.g., Information sharing in Chinese - if so, what kind of information do you think is most needed?*
- What are you and your cultural community doing to overcome some of the challenges as they relate to being treated differently since the outbreak?
- Are there things that you/others in the Chinese community doing to help the broader society during COVID-19? If yes, how do the people you are helping respond?
 - **Prompts:** *Group buying, making things at home*

Combating Stigma (forward looking)

- What else do you think ethnic Chinese people can do to help themselves to effectively address the stigma within the Chinese community since COVID-19?
- What can those outside of the Chinese community do to address/combat the stigma that the Chinese community is currently experiencing, i.e. to be effective allies?
 - **Prompts:** *individuals, employers, schools, neighbours, organized groups, other ethnic groups, media, governments/government policy etc.*

Closing Questions:

- We would like to meet with members of the general Chinese community in the GTA. Is there anyone in the Chinese community that you think we should aim to reach out to who can:
 - a) share a useful perspective?
 - b) can help us to arrange other focus groups?
- Is there anything you would like to add?