UNDERSTANDING AGEISM AND COVID-19

Agism is discrimination based on negative assumptions about age.

Agism can have a big impact on older people's lives. It begins with biases that are implicit and unseen, resulting in a tendency to regard older people as debilitated, unwanted, or unsuitable for employment. When older people are stigmatized by negative stereotypes about aging, their physical and mental health are adversely affected.

1. Agism would suggest that only older people are dealing with loneliness and isolation.

2. Agism would suggest that age is the primary risk factor for COVID-19.

3. Agism would suggest that people of all ages are being impacted socially and emotionally.

4. Agism would suggest that lack of family and friends is particularly difficult for older people compared to those of all ages.

Social gatherings
Religious services
Exercise classes and educational courses

40%
10%
10%

Out of every 100 people in the United States who have COVID-19

24%
32%
18%

32% of all adults who have a major problem

Mental health problems
Financial problems
Physical health problems

Risk factors for COVID-19 among older people

• An increase in number of medical conditions
• A decline in immunity as people age, making it harder to fight off infections
• An increase in the number of people who live in nursing homes—people who are especially vulnerable to infection due to their age and other chronic conditions.

1 in 4 older adults have an annual income below $30,000 do not have an internet subscription.

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