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“The COVID-19 pandemic changed the way people view each other. In particular, the Chinese people. I grew up in a household of Chinese descent in Toronto, I am a third generation Canadian, and have never been out of the continent before. In addition, I have never personally experienced direct racism. However, we, as a community, are facing racism because of our looks and ethnicity due to the ongoing pandemic and its origins. Although China did report the virus first and ground zero is located in China, it is still unconfirmed if the virus came from China. The virus may, in fact, originate from a bordering country like Russia, Mongolia, Vietnam, Nepal, or India. But instead, people jump to the conclusion and pointed fingers at China.

Social media became a dark platform for Chinese people because most commenters posted several racist and hurtful comments. When I posted a comment to send feedback for someone, I witnessed several racist comments, most of which either from the United States or white people. Comments include "Go back where you came from", which they think I came from China, and "Stop eating bats, snakes, and dogs, you uncivilized trash eater", which they used the Chinese stereotype that we eat every living thing on the ground and China is undeveloped, unlike European and North American countries. Fortunately, there was a comment that called people out saying that if it was a white person in the post and was making the same Chinese meal, people wouldn't be posting any racist comments.

My mom and sister never shared any story about their incidents of racism, and I respect that because it's personal and maybe emotionally distressing. My dad shared his stories but I won't share them because it's his, not mine.

Although a pandemic changed how people view the Chinese and their culture, we are also human and that makes us no different from the rest of society.”