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Understanding the Challenges and Resilience among Visible Minority Essential Workers: Preparing for Future Pandemics in Ontario

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Visible minority essential immigrant workers in Canada have a more difficult time coping with the pandemic situation than other groups. Furthermore, they often are required to have multiple jobs to support themselves and their transitional dependents (Amoyay & Abada, 2016; Kuire, Arku, Luginnah, Buzzelli & Abada, 2016). Visible minority immigrant women working as personal support workers in long-term care facilities and other frontline jobs are at increased risk for contracting the virus due to the gendered nature of low-wage work (Gatzweiler, Rozenblat, Su & Luginaah, 2020). This project is interested in responding to the impacts of COVID-19 on essential immigrant workers in the Windsor area. Its aim is to investigate the challenges of immigrant essential workers and how to better prepare them for future pandemics. Researchers, employers, and policymakers must become aware of the unique circumstances and the full range of experiences of these essential workers during the COVID-19 pandemic.