

**Letter to the Editor – *New York Times*
July 31, 2019**

Dear Editor,

[“Should Black People Wear Sunscreen”](#) is factually inaccurate and misleading in at least two ways. First, those who identify ethnically as African-American may have a mixed genetic heritage, and hence a more uncertain risk for skin cancer than native Africans. Second, contrary to the assertion that there is a lack of consensus among scientists that sunscreen is safe, the opposite is true. There are hundreds of prominent scientists in dermatology departments and medical schools across the country who almost without exception believe sunscreen to be safe. It is regrettable that the NYT, which has highlighted the importance of scientific consensus in reporting on climate change has decided to ignore, and even disavow, the comparable consensus on the safety and importance of sunscreen.



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