

# **COVID-19 Global Pandemic Scenario: for DARPA AIDA Program**

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## Introduction

The goal of Active Interpretation of Disparate Alternatives (AIDA) is to develop a multihypothesis semantic engine that generates explicit alternative interpretations of events, situations, and trends from a variety of unstructured sources, for use in noisy, conflicting, and potentially deceptive information environments.<sup>1</sup>

For each phase of the program a different scenario is chosen, one that exhibits a high degree of informational conflict. A *scenario* is a real-world situation within a specific subject domain, a situation that is broad enough to encompass multiple events or components, as is the case with international conflicts or natural disasters. Within the scenario are multiple *topics*. A topic is a real-world incident or situation about which there are conflicting assertions in the open-source data, to include text and image data. (Unlike Phases 1 and 2, video and audio data were not included in Phase 3 data.) A set of practice topics is chosen to support the development process and a set of evaluation topics is reserved for end-of-phase testing and evaluation. In addition to supporting the research and development goals of the DARPA AIDA program, the scenario is part of an open technology evaluation run by the National Institutes of Standards and Technology (NIST).

In Phase 1 the scenario was Ukraine-Russia Relations 2014-2015. In Phase 2 the scenario was the Crisis in Venezuela (pre-2018). The scenario for the third and final phase of the program is the COVID-19 global pandemic.

For each scenario and its associated practice topics, participants will be provided with the following materials:

1. A scenario document (such as the one you are reading now on the COVID-19 Global Pandemic). Content includes the following:
  - A description of the scenario and topics, focusing on the informational conflict that is inherently part of the selected scenario, along with relevant historical, political, and cultural context.
  - Links to online text and images which participants can (a) review to gain a deeper understanding of the subject domain and/or (b) collect as additional data related to the scenario.
2. Annotated practice data on topics in the scenario (as well as annotated data not related to the scenario), which will be provided by the Linguistic Data Consortium.

## A Note about Data Sources

In order to best illustrate real-world informational conflict, this scenario document references many sources of data, including some that are considered untrustworthy by media analysts. Inclusion or citation of a data source in this scenario document in no way represents endorsement of that source,

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.darpa.mil/program/active-interpretation-of-disparate-alternatives>

nor does it imply that the information cited is correct or reliable. Likewise, the claims quoted here preserve any typographical and grammatical errors.

## COVID-19 Global Pandemic Information Environment

### Epidemics and Infodemics

In the early days of the COVID-19 global pandemic the public was warned about a parallel “infodemic”:

“We’re not just fighting an epidemic; we’re fighting an infodemic,” said Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO) at a gathering of foreign policy and security experts in Munich, Germany, in mid-February, referring to fake news that “spreads faster and more easily than this virus.”

WHO explains that infodemics are an excessive amount of information about a problem, which makes it difficult to identify a solution. They can spread misinformation, disinformation and rumours during a health emergency. Infodemics can hamper an effective public health response and create confusion and distrust among people.<sup>2</sup>

Infodemics are not new. The term “infodemic” was first coined in 2003 by journalist and political scientist David Rothkopf in a *Washington Post* column. Rothkopf was writing about the ongoing epidemic of severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus (SARS-CoV or SARS-CoV-1).

[T]he information epidemic — or “infodemic” — has made the public health crisis harder to control and contain... What exactly do I mean by the “infodemic”? A few facts, mixed with fear, speculation and rumor, amplified and relayed swiftly worldwide by modern information technologies, have affected national and international economies, politics and even security in ways that are utterly disproportionate with the root realities.<sup>3</sup>

The term continued to show up in the context of disease outbreaks, e.g.,

“In recent months, we’ve experienced the worst economic downturn in 80 years; a swine flu outbreak that is serious and demands precaution, but has spawned an “infodemic” that has led to unhelpful panic...” — Sam Gilliland (testimony), Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Subcommittee on Competitiveness, Innovation, and Export Promotion Hearing (U.S. Senate Documents), 13 May 2009

Whether the term infodemic was used or not, misinformation and disinformation has been observed during prior disease outbreaks. For example, during the Ebola outbreak in Western Africa between 2013 and 2016 there was conflicting information about how it spreads<sup>4</sup> and the effectiveness of remedies<sup>5</sup>, as

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<sup>2</sup> The United Nations Department of Global Communications (DGC), UN.org, March 28, 2020. <https://www.un.org/en/un-coronavirus-communications-team/un-tackling-%E2%80%98infodemic%E2%80%99-misinformation-and-cybercrime-covid-19>

<sup>3</sup> Words We're Watching: 'Infodemic'. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/words-at-play/words-were-watching-infodemic-meaning>

<sup>4</sup> For example, see <https://www.buzzfeednews.com/article/andrewkaczynski/rand-paul-ebola-appears-to-be-very-easy-to-catch>

<sup>5</sup> For example, see <https://www.nigerianeve.com/2014/09/herbal-healers-claim-to-cure-ebola-false.html>

well as various debunked conspiracy theories<sup>6</sup>. Dissemination of misinformation in the U.S. was also widespread, despite very low case counts.<sup>7</sup>

Clearly, the present infodemic is not an aberration. Infodemics are likely to be repeated in future disease outbreaks. Thus, a disease outbreak such as the COVID-19 pandemic is a compelling domain to drive development and evaluation of a multihypothesis semantic engine.

## Informational Conflict in the COVID-19 Pandemic

### Misinformation and Disinformation

The infodemic is characterized by both misinformation and disinformation. The difference between the two is one of intent. According to Merriam-Webster, *misinformation* is inaccurate, incorrect, or misleading information that is communicated regardless of intention to harm or deceive. *Disinformation* is false information deliberately and often covertly spread (as by the planting of rumors) in order to influence public opinion or obscure the truth.

This explosion of misinformation and disinformation, combined with the efforts to combat it, creates a highly conflicting informational environment. Conflicting claims such as the following arise from misinformation and disinformation:

#### **CLAIM: COVID-19 Outbreak was Caused by Consuming Bat soup**

Example claims:

- ...the outbreak may be linked to bats that were served in bat soup--a soup that is made and served with a bat. The bat soup was available at the Wuhan open-air market, where the virus is believed to have originated before the market was shut down to prevent further contagion.
- the new coronavirus originated from people eating "bat soup" in China
- Chinese people consumed bat soup, causing the virus to jump from animals to humans.

COUNTERCLAIMS:

- Fact: Bats are absolutely not consumed by the Chinese, and there is so far no concrete evidence confirming the novel coronavirus comes from bats.
- Don't Blame Bat Soup for the Coronavirus
- Bat soup consumption didn't cause the COVID-19 pandemic.

#### **CLAIM: The U.S. survival rate is over 99%**

Example claim:

- U.S Survival Rate from COVID-19 is 99.983 percent.

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<sup>6</sup> For example, see <https://sciencepolicyforall.wordpress.com/2019/01/17/conspiracy-theories-and-ebola-how-a-us-federally-funded-research-facility-in-the-heart-of-sierra-leones-ebola-outbreak-acerbated-local-misconceptions-about-ebola/>

<sup>7</sup> Sell, Tara Kirk, Divya Hosangadi, and Marc Trotochaud. "Misinformation and the US Ebola communication crisis: analyzing the veracity and content of social media messages related to a fear-inducing infectious disease outbreak." BMC Public Health 20 (2020): 1-10.

<https://bmcpublihealth.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12889-020-08697-3>

COUNTERCLAIM:

- A scientific estimate by University of Washington researchers puts the percentage at 1.3 percent, for a survival rate of about 98.7 percent.
- the database shows that the current mortality rate in the U.S. is 5.9%, which puts the survival rate at 94.1%.

**CLAIM: 5G network towers cause COVID-19**

Example claim:

- NIH Admits 5G Can Actually CREATE Coronavirus Within Human Cells.

COUNTERCLAIM:

- NIH Did NOT Admit 5G Can Actually Create Coronavirus Within Human Cells.

**CLAIM: Mask wearers are not allowed to carry guns**

Example claim:

- Know what else wearing a mask does??? Anyone?? REMOVES YOUR CONCEAL CARRY ability. That's right!! Its in the rules. CCW licences are NOT allowed to wear face coverings while carrying. Now let that sink in.

COUNTERCLAIM:

- Laws vary by state, but authorities in several states have issued guidance making it clear that their law does not prohibit someone from lawfully carrying a concealed weapon while wearing a mask to help to stop the spread of COVID-19.

These claims and counterclaims often appear side-by-side. In an effort to protect the public from potentially dangerous false information, many organizations have collected and refuted myths and falsehoods, resulting in concentrated sets of conflicting statements. See the section below, Resources that Track COVID-19 Misinformation and Disinformation.

## Changes Over Time

Another source of informational conflict is changes that take place over time due to the rapidly evolving nature of the situation. For example, the United States CDC guidelines for the wearing of masks evolved over time:

March 24, 2020: The advice of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is unequivocal: Healthy people who do not work in the health sector and are not caring for an infected person at home do not need to wear a mask.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> <https://www.latimes.com/science/story/2020-03-24/to-wear-a-mask-or-not-experts-weigh-in-on-coronavirus-protection-questions> (accessed January 19, 2021).



May 27, 2020: Starting on April 3, the CDC began recommending that everyone wear cloth face masks in public settings where social distancing is difficult to maintain, such as grocery stores, pharmacies, and gas stations.<sup>9</sup>

January 13, 2021: CDC recommends that people wear masks in public settings, like on public and mass transportation, at events and gatherings, and anywhere they will be around other people.<sup>10</sup>

## Differences Across Locations

Locality can also play a role in informational conflict. In contrast to the guidelines published by United States CDC, as of the end of May 2020 the WHO guidelines still read “If you are healthy, you only need to wear a mask if you are taking care of a person with COVID-19.” Some speculated that lack of availability of even handmade masks in some countries at that time influenced the WHO's guidelines.<sup>11</sup>

## Different but Not Conflicting

Finally, while this is a domain rich in informational conflict, it also contains many sets of parallel statements about the same topic that do not negate one another. The claims within these sets could all be true, or could all be false, or some combination of true and false. Below are two example sets. For the first one, alternative claims about preventing the virus, one could attempt all of these measures to ward off the disease. For the second, any number of factors could increase the risk of contracting the virus.

### Preventing COVID-19:

- Taking a hot bath prevents you from getting COVID-19.
- You can protect yourself [from coronavirus] by gargling bleach.
- Rinsing the nose with saline protects against coronavirus.
- Taking vitamin C will prevent COVID-19.
- Eating garlic helps prevent COVID-19 infection.
- Flu and pneumonia vaccines can protect against COVID-19.

### Increased risk of contracting COVID-19:

- Face masks increase the risk of catching Covid-19.
- Ibuprofen increases the risk of catching Covid-19.
- Smoking does increase the risk of catching COVID-19 says new study.
- Vaping may increase the risk of catching COVID-19.
- Drinking alcohol can increase the risk of catching Covid-19.
- Injecting a joint with steroid to treat arthritis would increase the risk of catching Covid-19.
- Congregating in any crowds can increase the risk of catching Covid-19.
- Wearing gloves could actually increase the risk of catching COVID-19.

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<sup>9</sup> <https://apnews.com/article/8937511824>

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/about-face-coverings.html>

<sup>11</sup> CDC and WHO offer conflicting advice on masks. An expert tells us why. May 29, 2020. <https://abcnews.go.com/Health/cdc-offer-conflicting-advice-masks-expert-tells-us/story?id=70958380> . See also "Myth: Everyone should wear a mask"..."Reality: This one's a little trickier, and varies from country to country." <https://www.cnn.com/2020/03/04/health/debunking-coronavirus-myths-trnd/index.html>

- The factors that seem to increase the risk of catching COVID-19 the most are large groups of people, crowded together, shouting or singing indoors. All of these increase your risk of coming into contact with people with COVID-19 and their droplets.
- Mail ballots will help avoid long lines and crowds at polling places, which could increase the risk of catching COVID-19.
- Inmates with medical conditions that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has said increase the risk of catching COVID-19 or having a severe case of the disease — asthma, obesity, or high blood pressure, for instance — faced varying outcomes when they’ve gone to court, case records showed.

## Resources that Track COVID-19 Misinformation and Disinformation

Media, businesses, and government have vigorously responded to the COVID-19 infodemic by tracking and countering misleading information. There are hundreds of debunking sites with collections of COVID-19 myths. The following is just a small sampling of these resources.

### English-Language Resources

#### World Health Organization (WHO)

Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) advice for the public: Mythbusters

<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/advice-for-public/mythbusters>

#### FEMA

Coronavirus Rumor Control: <https://www.fema.gov/disasters/coronavirus/rumor-control>

#### Wikipedia

Misinformation related to the COVID-19 pandemic

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/COVID-19\\_misinformation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/COVID-19_misinformation)

#### Google Fact Check Tools

“The Fact Check Tools consist of two tools: Fact Check Explorer and Fact Check Markup Tool. Both tools aim to facilitate the work of fact checkers, journalists and researchers. Google does not endorse or create any of these fact checks. If you disagree with one, please contact the website owner that published it.”

<https://toolbox.google.com/factcheck/explorer/search/COVID%20OR%20Coronavirus>

#### EUvsDisinfo

“Using data analysis and media monitoring services in 15 languages, EUvsDisinfo identifies, compiles, and exposes disinformation cases originating in pro-Kremlin media”.<sup>12</sup> The EUvsDisinfo

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<sup>12</sup> About EUvsDisinfo, <https://euvsdisinfo.eu/about/>

database covers many topics, including the COVID-19 global pandemic. The database is maintained with EU funding and is freely accessible and searchable in many languages. Because Russian disinformation campaigns repost and amplify theories originating from other anti-Western sources, such as China, Iran, and conservative Arab regions, one finds disinformation from those sources in addition to Russian sources. Useful links:

Link for the database, preset with the keyword 'coronavirus' in English:

[https://euvsdisinfo.eu/disinformation-cases/?disinfo\\_keywords%5B%5D=106935](https://euvsdisinfo.eu/disinformation-cases/?disinfo_keywords%5B%5D=106935)

Collection of EUvsDisinfo articles related to Coronavirus:

<https://euvsdisinfo.eu/category/blog/coronavirus/>

Throwing Coronavirus Disinfo at the Wall to See What Sticks, April 2, 2020.

<https://euvsdisinfo.eu/throwing-coronavirus-disinfo-at-the-wall-to-see-what-sticks/>

EEAS Special Report Update: Short Assessment of Narratives and Disinformation Around the COVID-19 Pandemic (Update 23 April – 18 May), May 20, 2020. <https://euvsdisinfo.eu/eeas-special-report-update-short-assessment-of-narratives-and-disinformation-around-the-covid19-pandemic-updated-23-april-18-may/>

EEAS Special Report Update: Short Assessment of Narratives and Disinformation Around the COVID-19 Pandemic (Update May-November), December 2, 2020. <https://euvsdisinfo.eu/eeas-special-report-update-short-assessment-of-narratives-and-disinformation-around-the-covid-19-pandemic-update-may-november/>

EEAS Special Report Update: Short Assessment of Narratives and Disinformation Around the COVID-19 Pandemic (Update December 2020 – April 2021), April 28, 2021.

<https://euvsdisinfo.eu/eeas-special-report-update-short-assessment-of-narratives-and-disinformation-around-the-covid-19-pandemic-update-december-2020-april-2021/>

## **The Stanford Internet Observatory's Virality Project**

Studying COVID-19 related disinformation: <https://cyber.fsi.stanford.edu/content/virality-project>

## **Polygraph.info**

Spotlights fact-checks from other sources:

COVID-19: <https://www.polygraph.info/z/22050>

“Health” topics <https://www.polygraph.info/z/22036>

## **Lead Stories Fact Check**

Often has links to original sources. <https://leadstories.com/coronavirus/>

## **PolitFact**

Fact-checking site run by The Poynter Institute: <https://www.politifact.com/search/?q=coronavirus>

## NewsGuard

NewsGuard fact-checking on COVID-19 is available at no cost:

<https://www.newsguardtech.com/coronavirus-misinformation-tracking-center/>

## StopFake.Org

Fact-checking on multiple topics, including the COVID-19 pandemic:

[https://www.stopfake.org/en/category/covid19\\_en/](https://www.stopfake.org/en/category/covid19_en/)

## Information is Beautiful

Coronavirus Myths and Misconceptions: Most contagious falsehoods.

<https://www.informationisbeautiful.net/visualizations/coronavirus-myths-mythconceptions/>

## Spanish-Language Resources

### World Health Organization (WHO)

Consejos para la población acerca de los rumores sobre el nuevo coronavirus (2019-nCoV) [Advice for the public about rumors about the new coronavirus (2019-nCoV)]. Updated November 23, 2020.

<https://www.who.int/es/emergencias/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/advice-for-public/myth-busters>

### Wikipedia

Desinformación sobre la pandemia de COVID-19 [Misinformation about the COVID-19 Pandemic]

[https://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Desinformaci%C3%B3n\\_sobre\\_la\\_pandemia\\_de\\_COVID-19](https://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Desinformaci%C3%B3n_sobre_la_pandemia_de_COVID-19)

Negacionismo de la COVID-19 [Denialism of COVID-19].

[https://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Negacionismo\\_de\\_la\\_COVID-19](https://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Negacionismo_de_la_COVID-19)

### StopFake.Org

Fact-checking on multiple topics, including the COVID-19 pandemic:

[https://www.stopfake.org/es/category/covid19\\_es/](https://www.stopfake.org/es/category/covid19_es/)

### Maldita.es

La COVID-19 y sus bulos: 942 mentiras, alertas falsas y desinformaciones sobre el coronavirus [COVID-19 and its hoaxes: 942 lies, false alerts and misinformation about the coronavirus].

September 17, 2021. <https://maldita.es/malditobulo/20210205/coronavirus-bulos-pandemia-prevenir-virus-covid-19/>

## Russian-Language Resources

### World Health Organization

Рекомендации ВОЗ для населения в связи с распространением нового коронавируса (2019-nCoV): мифы и ложные представления [WHO recommendations for the public in connection with the spread of the new coronavirus (2019-nCoV): myths and misconceptions]

<https://www.who.int/ru/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/advice-for-public/myth-busters>

## Wikipedia

Конспирологические теории о пандемии COVID-19 [Conspiracy theories about the COVID-19 pandemic], [Wikipedia](#).

## StopFake.Org

Fact-checking on multiple topics, including the COVID-19 pandemic:  
[https://www.stopfake.org/ru/category/covid19\\_ru/](https://www.stopfake.org/ru/category/covid19_ru/)

## National Technology Initiative

Коронавирус. Мифы и факты [Coronavirus. Myths and facts]. 40+ myths about coronavirus  
[https://ntinews.ru/in\\_progress/likbez/koronavirus-mify-i-fakty.html](https://ntinews.ru/in_progress/likbez/koronavirus-mify-i-fakty.html)

# Claims about COVID-19 and the COVID-19 Global Pandemic

This section contains example claims seen in news media and social media related to the COVID-19 global pandemic.

The claims are organized by topic and then sometimes further subtyped into subtopics according to a *claim template*. The template serves as a normalized form that differentiates the subtopic from other subtopics. The variables in the template (e.g., 'X') identify where the informational conflict occurs. For example, under the Topic "Virus Creation" there are multiple subtopics with associated templates, to include:

**Topic:** Virus Creation

**Subtopic:** Who created the virus

Subtopic **Claim Template:** [X created SARS-CoV-2]

**Subtopic:** When the virus was created

Subtopic **Claim Template:** [SARS-CoV-2 was created on date-X]

Subtopic IDs (e.g., "topic C303") correspond to the IDs used by LDC in the practice data releases.

## Contracting the Virus

### Who contracts the virus [X can catch COVID-19] (topic C303)

This topic is about what kinds of people and animals can catch COVID-19.

### English-Language Claims

If I have had the COVID-19 virus and am now recovered, I am immune. October 5, 2020.

<https://www.rush.edu/health-wellness/discover-health/common-covid-19-myths-debunked>

Black people can't get the virus. <https://www.rush.edu/health-wellness/discover-health/common-covid-19-myths-debunked>

Chinese Doctors Say That African Blood Genes Are Resistant To Corona Virus. February 14, 2020. <https://kenyanbulletin.com/2020/02/14/chinese-doctors-say-that-african-blood-genes-are-resistant-to-corona-virus/>

COUNTERCLAIM:

False claim: African skin resists the coronavirus. March 10, 2020.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/uk-factcheck-coronavirus-ethnicity/false-claim-african-skin-resists-the-coronavirus-idUSKBN20X27G>

Only Chinese people have the coronavirus. April 3, 2020. <https://www.businessinsider.com/coronavirus-myths-debunked-wuhan-china-2020-2>

Young people can't get the virus. <https://www.rush.edu/health-wellness/discover-health/common-covid-19-myths-debunked>

COUNTERCLAIM:

Myth: Kids can't catch the coronavirus. July 14, 2020. <https://www.livescience.com/coronavirus-myths.html>

Children can definitely catch COVID-19, although reports of serious illness in children are rare. July 14, 2020. <https://www.livescience.com/coronavirus-myths.html>

Severe and fatal COVID-19 is rare in children. August 27, 2020. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-children/severe-or-fatal-covid-19-very-rare-in-children-study-finds-idUSKBN25N35F>

Pets cannot get coronavirus (no date). <https://cms.qz.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/mythbuster-1.png>

COUNTERCLAIM:

Pets can get coronavirus

The WHO has changed its position on coronavirus and pets. March 13, 2020.

<https://qz.com/1818227/the-who-says-that-dogs-cats-and-other-pets-can-get-coronavirus/>

Captive lions and tigers, farmed mink, ferrets, hamsters, rabbits, non-human primates and common marmosets can catch coronavirus. June 3, 2020. <https://wildlife.org/what-animals-can-catch-the-new-coronavirus/>

White tail deers can catch coronavirus. March 2, 2021. <https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-021-00531-z>

## Transmitting the Virus

### What transmits the virus [X transmits / transfers COVID-19] (topic C304)

This topic is about what kinds of people, animals, and insects can spread COVID-19 and what kinds of objects or surfaces the virus can be transferred on.

## English-Language Claims

Pets will give you coronavirus. March 20, 2020. <https://www.hopkinsallchildrens.org/ACH-News/General-News/5-Coronavirus-Myths>

COUNTERCLAIM:

Myth: Pets can spread the new coronavirus. July 14, 2020.

<https://www.livescience.com/coronavirus-myths.html>

Although pets may contract COVID-19 in rare cases, there is no evidence they can spread it to people. July 14, 2020. <https://www.livescience.com/coronavirus-myths.html>

Dutch Minks Contract COVID-19 — And Appear To Infect Humans. June 2020.

<https://www.npr.org/sections/goatsandsoda/2020/06/25/882095588/dutch-minks-contract-covid-19-and-appear-to-infect-humans>

Chimps and gorillas may catch COVID-19. Giant anteaters, bottlenose dolphins, horses, dogs, alligators, cats, sheep and Siberian tigers are also on the list of animals that may be able to catch and transmit the deadly pandemic coronavirus. August 25, 2020.

[https://www.medicinenet.com/what\\_animals\\_can\\_get\\_and\\_spread\\_covid-19-news.htm](https://www.medicinenet.com/what_animals_can_get_and_spread_covid-19-news.htm)

Houseflies and mosquitoes transmit COVID-19. Updated June 28, 2020. <https://covid-19.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202006/28/WS5ef840c2a310834817255911.html>

Houseflies and mosquitoes transmit COVID-19. Updated June 28, 2020. <https://covid-19.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202006/28/WS5ef840c2a310834817255911.html>

Coronavirus can be transmitted through mosquito bites. March 17, 2020.

<https://www.wvlp.com/weather/weather-news/cold-weather-kills-coronavirus-and-13-other-covid-19-myths-you-may-be-falling-for/>

You can get the virus by eating Chinese food. February 27, 2020. <https://www.wusa9.com/article/news/verify/verify-no-you-cant-get-coronavirus-by-eating-chinese-food/65-711a9b7e-5045-41d9-9d3e-db6c300839d2>

COUNTERCLAIM:

No, You Won't Get Coronavirus From Chinese Takeout. February 26, 2020.

<https://www.newsweek.com/coronavirus-united-states-facts-americans-should-know-1489307>

Myth: You can get the coronavirus if you eat at Chinese restaurants in the US. No, you can't. July 14, 2020. <https://www.livescience.com/coronavirus-myths.html>

Packages from China spread the virus.

[https://www.reddit.com/r/Coronavirus/comments/ets9is/serious\\_question\\_can\\_the\\_virus\\_be\\_spread\\_via/](https://www.reddit.com/r/Coronavirus/comments/ets9is/serious_question_can_the_virus_be_spread_via/)

COUNTERCLAIM:

There's no evidence that the new coronavirus can survive on packages for 28 days. March 11, 2020.

<https://fullfact.org/online/coronavirus-surfaces-packages-china/>

Myth: It's not safe to receive a package from China. July 14, 2020.

<https://www.livescience.com/coronavirus-myths.html>

It is safe to receive letters or packages from China, according to the World Health Organization. Previous research has found that coronaviruses don't survive long on objects such as letters and packages. Based on what we know about similar coronaviruses such as MERS-CoV and SARS-CoV,

experts think this new coronavirus likely survives poorly on surfaces. July 14, 2020.

<https://www.livescience.com/coronavirus-myths.html>

Virus can, possibly, spread through contaminated frozen food. June 16, 2020. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-china-food-factbox/factbox-can-frozen-or-chilled-food-spread-coronavirus-idUSKBN23N1JL>

COUNTERCLAIM:

There is no credible evidence of food or food packaging [frozen food] associated with or as a likely source of viral transmission of severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2), the virus causing COVID-19. February 25, 2021.

<https://www.foodbusinessnews.net/articles/18033-us-affirms-no-transmission-of-covid-19-through-food-or-packaging>

### Spanish-Language Claims

X = mosquitos

10 mitos y verdades sobre la COVID-19 [10 myths and truths about COVID-19] October 15, 2020

<https://www.icrc.org/es/document/10-mitos-y-verdades-sobre-la-covid-19>

COUNTERCLAIM:

“There is no evidence that the virus is transmitted by flies or mosquitoes”

La OMS desmiente los mitos sobre el coronavirus: de los paquetes desde China a la protección de la cocaína [WHO debunks myths about coronavirus: from packages from China to protection from cocaine]. February 25, 2020. <https://www.eleconomista.es/sanidad/noticias/10377845/02/20/Los-falsos-mitos-sobre-el-coronavirus-los-paquetes-desde-China-la-cocaina-o-la-orina-entre-los-peores-rumores.html>

“... the WHO has asserted that the new coronavirus cannot be transmitted through mosquito bites”

Los 17 mitos sobre el Coronavirus, desmentidos [The 17 myths about the Coronavirus, debunked]. (NO DATE). <https://medicoplus.com/medicina-general/mitos-coronavirus>

“Mosquitoes are capable of transmitting diseases like malaria, it is true. But the coronavirus does not follow this route of contagion.”

Últimas investigaciones afirman que los mosquitos no transmiten el covid-19 [Latest research affirms that mosquitoes do not transmit COVID-19]. August 10, 2020.

<https://www.minsalud.gov.co/Paginas/ultimas-investigaciones-afirman-que-los-mosquitos-no-transmiten-el-covid-19.aspx>

“It was demonstrated [study] that after 24 hours of the procedure, no trace of the virus was detected in the salivary glands, nor evidence of viral activity in the intestines of the 277 mosquitoes inoculated, subsequently collected and titrate

“According to the study, it is concluded that, although mosquitoes eventually feed on the blood of a person infected with the virus, "they have a very small chance" of contributing to viral maintenance and transmission in nature.”

X = mailings from China



¡Los Simpson lo hicieron de nuevo! La famosa caricatura habría predicho la llegada del #coronavirus a América y con ello se desatan los memes [The Simpsons did it again! The famous cartoon would have predicted the arrival of the #coronavirus to America and with it the memes are unleashed]. January 22, 2020. <https://perma.cc/D57A-G7RN>

Los Simpsons casi predijeron la expansión del coronavirus de Wuhan [The Simpsons almost predicted the spread of the Wuhan coronavirus]". January 27, 2020. <https://www.lavanguardia.com/cribeo/fast-news/20200127/473156349788/los-simpsons-casi-predijeron-expansion-coronavirus-wuhan-serie.html>

#### COUNTERCLAIM:

Los bulos del coronavirus: ¿Es contagioso un paquete llegado de China? ¿Comer ajo ayuda? [The coronavirus hoaxes: Is a package from China contagious? Does eating garlic help?]. March 5, 2020. <https://www.lavozdegalicia.es/noticia/sociedad/2020/02/03/bulos-coronavirus-puedo-contagiarme-paquete-llegado-china/00031580732560703503470.htm>

“People who receive packages from China are not at risk of contracting the virus. From previous analyzes, coronaviruses do not survive for long in objects, such as letters or packages”

La OMS desmiente los mitos sobre el coronavirus: de los paquetes desde China a la protección de la cocaína [WHO debunks myths about coronavirus: from packages from China to protection from cocaine]. February 25, 2020. <https://www.eleconomista.es/sanidad/noticias/10377845/02/20/Los-falsos-mitos-sobre-el-coronavirus-los-paquetes-desde-China-la-cocaína-o-la-orina-entre-los-peores-rumores.html>

X = bills and coins

<https://www.redaccionmedica.com/virico/noticias/coronavirus-bulos-tocar-billetes-monedas-no-es-motivo-de-contagio-9859>

“SPREAD the following message: To all the people who plan to go down to buy supplies at the supermarkets, remember that money is a very large source of contagion, use credit cards as much as possible, ATMs are very exposed! PROTECT THEM.” May 14, 2020. <https://twitter.com/Srtasantos196/status/1238801902931976193>

#### COUNTERCLAIM:

WHO Coronavirus y bulos: tocar billetes y monedas no es motivo de contagio

Los 17 mitos sobre el Coronavirus, desmentidos [Coronavirus and hoaxes: touching bills and coins is not a reason for contagion]. (NO DATE). <https://medicoplus.com/medicina-general/mitos-coronavirus>

“The virus can survive on the surface of inanimate objects for a short time, at most a few hours. Contagion by contact with objects such as coins, bills, doorknobs, credit cards, tables, armrests, etc., is possible but only a short time after an infected person deposited the virus there.”

### Russian-Language Claims

X = pets

The State Duma assured that cats and dogs are not carriers of coronavirus. April 1, 2020. <https://www.interfax.ru/russia/701921>

Moscow. April 1st. INTERFAX.RU - Pets cannot get infected with the COVID-19 coronavirus and spread it, said Vladimir Burmatov, head of the State Duma Committee on Ecology and Environmental Protection, urging Russians to take animals from shelters. April 1, 2020.

<https://www.interfax.ru/russia/701921>

According to the Central Research Institute of Epidemiology, pets, including cats and dogs, cannot be a source of infection with a new coronavirus infection, " Burmatov wrote on Instagram on Wednesday. April 1, 2020. <https://www.interfax.ru/russia/701921>

X = mosquitoes

Scientists have found that mosquitoes CAN still carry coronavirus. November 11, 2020.

<https://www.belnovosti.by/krasota-i-zdorove/uchenye-vyyasnili-chto-komary-vse-taki-mogut-perenosit-koronavirus>

COUNTERCLAIM:

it was found that the virus does not multiply in the mosquitoes. November 11, 2020.

<https://www.belnovosti.by/krasota-i-zdorove/uchenye-vyyasnili-chto-komary-vse-taki-mogut-perenosit-koronavirus>

Can Mosquitos carry the corona virus or not? Oct 4, 2020. <https://medicalinsider.ru/news/mtogut-li-komary-rasprostranyat-koronavirus/>

Mosquitoes cannot spread coronavirus, according to Italy's National Institute of Health (ISS). As evidence, the doctors conducted a study, the results of which was published by MedicalXpress. June 26, 2020. <https://www.eg.ru/society/910952-mojet-li-koronavirus-peredavatsya-chez-ukusy-komarov-084811/>

The World Health Organization has issued a statement saying the virus cannot be carried by mosquitoes. This hypothesis was also confirmed by the American Mosquito Control Association. The fact is that mosquitoes are immune to certain viruses, including coronavirus, so they cannot spread it. May 11, 2020. <https://bud-zdorov.ru/zdorovye/komary-ne-perenosyat-koronavirus/>

X = bills and coins

WHO: Cash Can Spread Coronavirus. March 5, 2020. [https://mignews.com/news/health/050320\\_91634\\_30836.html](https://mignews.com/news/health/050320_91634_30836.html)

The World Health Organization (WHO) has advised people to wash their hands and, if possible, not use cash, since bills can spread the coronavirus. The Bank of England has recognized that cash can carry bacteria or viruses and is urging people to wash their hands regularly. March 5, 2020.

[https://mignews.com/news/health/050320\\_91634\\_30836.html](https://mignews.com/news/health/050320_91634_30836.html)

Rospotrebnadzor: coronavirus can be transmitted through cash. March 15, 2020.

<https://www.kommersant.ru/doc/4290302>

Rospotrebnadzor, citing WHO data, announced that the coronavirus could theoretically be transmitted through cash. WHO strongly recommends washing your hands and not touching your face when using cash for payments, according to the Russian department. March 15, 2020.

<https://www.kommersant.ru/doc/4290302>

COUNTERCLAIM:

Russian money may not spread the infection, but it is better to be careful. March 16, 2020.

<https://www.1sn.ru/242680.html>

IA SakhaNews. Goznak assured that Russian money does not spread infections. During production, banknotes are treated with antiseptic substances, therefore they are an unfavorable environment for the life and reproduction of microorganisms, Izvestia writes. March 16, 2020. <https://www.1sn.ru/242680.html>

X = shoes and clothing

Coronavirus can be carried on shoes and travel a minimum of 13 feet through the air. April 14, 2020. <https://www.slavicsac.com/2020/04/14/covid-moves/>

Studies have shown that the virus can linger on shoes and thus spread. The conclusion was based on samples taken from the soles of the shoes of medical personnel in the intensive care unit of the Wuhan Hospital (China). April 14, 2020. <https://www.slavicsac.com/2020/04/14/covid-moves/>

Could coronavirus be on your clothes, hair and shoes? The short answer is yes, of course. The new coronavirus can get on any surface, including things, styling, glasses and even a beard. (NO DATE). <https://www.the-village.me/village/city/gorad-pytanne/281943-gde-corona>

#### COUNTERCLAIM:

According to research, the main mode of infection with COVID-19 is the transmission of the virus from person to person. There were no cases of infection through food or clothing during the entire epidemic. (NO DATE). <https://www.the-village.me/village/city/gorad-pytanne/281943-gde-corona>

Carol Winner, a public health professional, explains that there is no evidence that shoes pose a risk of infection. They are located farthest from the face, and the likelihood of germs reaching our mouths or nose is negligible. March 26, 2020. <https://archidea.com.ua/handmade/masterclass/1214394-mozhet-li-koronavirus-rasprostranyatsya-na-obuv>

## Curing/Preventing/Destroying the Virus

This topic is about substances, conditions, and actions that can render the virus harmless or eliminate it, whether it's on a surface, in the environment, or already infecting someone.

### Destroying the virus [X destroys COVID-19] (topic C306)

#### English-Language Claims

Cold weather kills the novel coronavirus. March 17, 2020. <https://www.wvlp.com/weather/weather-news/cold-weather-kills-coronavirus-and-13-other-covid-19-myths-you-may-be-falling-for/>

A number of sources suggest that freezing temperatures do not kill the novel coronavirus that causes COVID-19. May 15, 2020. <https://indianapublicmedia.org/news/do-freezing-temperatures-kill-the-coronavirus.php>

the virus survived longer in both lower temperatures and lower humidity. May 15, 2020. <https://indianapublicmedia.org/news/do-freezing-temperatures-kill-the-coronavirus.php>

The COVID-19 coronavirus could last up to two years at below freezing temperatures. March 19, 2020. <https://english.alarabiya.net/en/features/2020/03/19/How-long-can-coronaviruses-survive-in-a-freezer-Up-to-two-years-warns-expert>

High temperatures can kill the coronavirus. October 13, 2020. <https://www.mdanderson.org/cancerwise/does-hot-water-kill-coronavirus-and-three-more-covid-19-myths.h00-159381156.html>

Ultraviolet light can kill coronavirus. September 11, 2021. <https://www.getroman.com/health-guide/top-coronavirus-myths/>

Hand dryers kill coronavirus. November 8, 2020. <https://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/coronavirus-myths-explored>

Spraying chlorine or alcohol on the skin kills viruses in the body. November 8, 2020. <https://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/coronavirus-myths-explored>

Injecting or consuming bleach or disinfectant kills the virus. November 8, 2020. <https://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/coronavirus-myths-explored>

All the Ways to Kill a Coronavirus (So Far)...Kill it on contact ; Wipe it away or wash it down the drain. April 23, 2020, <https://www.wired.com/story/all-the-ways-to-kill-a-coronavirus-so-far/>

All the Ways to Kill a Coronavirus (So Far)...Chloroquine phosphate. April 23, 2020, <https://www.wired.com/story/all-the-ways-to-kill-a-coronavirus-so-far/>

All the Ways to Kill a Coronavirus (So Far)... protease inhibitors. April 23, 2020, <https://www.wired.com/story/all-the-ways-to-kill-a-coronavirus-so-far/>

All the Ways to Kill a Coronavirus (So Far)... Remdesivir. April 23, 2020, <https://www.wired.com/story/all-the-ways-to-kill-a-coronavirus-so-far/>

All the Ways to Kill a Coronavirus (So Far)... favipiravir. April 23, 2020, <https://www.wired.com/story/all-the-ways-to-kill-a-coronavirus-so-far/>

All the Ways to Kill a Coronavirus (So Far)... Flood the zone with decoys—synthetic molecules that look like ACE2 and trick the virus into binding with them instead, protecting lung cells from damage. April 23, 2020. <https://www.wired.com/story/all-the-ways-to-kill-a-coronavirus-so-far/>

## Spanish-Language Claims

X = warm weather

Donald Trump aseguró que el coronavirus desaparecerá después del invierno boreal [Donald Trump assured that the coronavirus will disappear after the boreal winter]. February 10, 2020. <https://www.infobae.com/america/mundo/2020/02/10/donald-trump-aseguro-que-el-coronavirus-desaparecera-despues-del-invierno-boreal/>

El coronavirus y el calor: ¿COVID-19 desaparecerá por las temperaturas altas? [The coronavirus and the heat: will COVID-19 disappear due to high temperatures?]. May 8, 2020. <https://maldita.es/malditaciencia/2020/05/08/coronavirus-calor-temperatura/>

Verdades y falsedades sobre las formas de transmisión del nuevo coronavirus [Truths and falsehoods about the forms of transmission of the new coronavirus]. February 27, 2020. <https://factual.afp.com/verdades-y-falsedades-sobre-las-formas-de-transmision-del-nuevo-coronavirus>

“According to the French epidemiologist Arnaud Fontanet, a specialist in emerging diseases at the Institut Pasteur, SARS appeared in winter and the epidemic ended in July 2003, during the summer in the northern hemisphere, leading some people to speculate that its disappearance was due to the arrival of good weather.”

“The president of the United States, Donald Trump, affirmed on February 10 that this disease will disappear in April, with the arrival of the boreal spring, since” the heat usually kills this type of virus.”

COUNTERCLAIM:

El coronavirus y el calor: ¿COVID-19 desaparecerá por las temperaturas altas? The coronavirus and the heat: will COVID-19 disappear due to high temperatures?]. May 8, 2020.

<https://maldita.es/malditaciencia/2020/05/08/coronavirus-calor-temperatura/>

"Based on the evidence so far, the virus that causes COVID-19 can be transmitted in all areas, including areas with hot and humid climates."

Verdades y falsedades sobre las formas de transmisión del nuevo coronavirus. [Truths and falsehoods about the forms of transmission of the new coronavirus]. February 27, 2020.

<https://factual.afp.com/verdades-y-falsedades-sobre-las-formas-de-transmision-del-nuevo-coronavirus>

"According to Jasarevic [WHO spokesperson], "the virus is too new for us to know how a warmer climate could affect transmissibility. The virus has affected people in cold, dry, hot, and humid climates. We advise the public to follow precautions wherever they live."

X = drinking hot water / hot fluids

El Presidente de Argentina, Alberto Fernández, recomendó "tomar bebidas calientes para matar el virus". [The President of Argentina, Alberto Fernández, recommended "drinking hot drinks to kill the virus.]. March 18, 2020. <https://twitter.com/descifraguerra/status/1240371082089160704>

X = using hand dryers (like those in public bathrooms) for 30 seconds

Estos son todos los bulos sobre el coronavirus que ha recopilado la OMS [These are all the hoaxes about the coronavirus that the WHO has compiled]. Updated February 25, 2020.

<https://www.lavanguardia.com/cribeo/fast-news/20200225/473784636143/estos-son-bulos-sobre-coronavirus-recopilado-oms-virus-rumores.html>

COUNTERCLAIM:

La OMS desmiente los mitos sobre el coronavirus: de los paquetes desde China a la protección de la cocaína La OMS desmiente los mitos sobre el coronavirus: de los paquetes desde China a la protección de la cocaína [WHO debunks myths about coronavirus: from packages from China to protection from cocaine]. February 25, 2020. <https://www.eleconomista.es/sanidad/noticias/10377845/02/20/Los-falsos-mitos-sobre-el-coronavirus-los-paquetes-desde-China-la-cocaina-o-la-orina-entre-los-peores-rumores.html>

"WHO has denied that hand dryers were able to kill the virus due to the rumor that it was suppressed in 30 seconds"

"... the WHO has asserted that the new coronavirus cannot be transmitted through mosquito bites; that infant urine or cocaine cannot protect against it; that the river and snow cannot kill the virus; and that hand dryers cannot kill it, despite rumors that the virus can be eliminated in 30 seconds with these devices."

Estos son todos los bulos sobre el coronavirus que ha recopilado la OMS [These are all the hoaxes about the coronavirus that the WHO has compiled]

<https://www.lavanguardia.com/cribeo/fast-news/20200225/473784636143/estos-son-bulos-sobre-coronavirus-recopilado-oms-virus-rumores.html>

“The WHO clarifies that hand dryers do not kill the coronavirus, as some rumors claim”

X = using ultra-violet light on body

Un desinfectante de manos por luz ultravioleta, nueva idea contra Covid-19 [An ultraviolet light hand sanitizer, a new idea against Covid-19]. April 21, 2020. [https://www.elconfidencial.com/tecnologia/2020-04-21/desinfectante-manos-luz-ultravioleta-covid-19\\_2559036/](https://www.elconfidencial.com/tecnologia/2020-04-21/desinfectante-manos-luz-ultravioleta-covid-19_2559036/)

“Recycled solar cells that generate ultraviolet light for hand disinfection against Covid-19. This idea from a German startup just won a 'hackathon' designed to quickly share and develop ideas to combat the coronavirus pandemic.”

Donald Trump propone inyectar desinfectante para acabar con el coronavirus [Donald Trump proposes to inject disinfectant to end coronavirus]. April 24, 2020.

<https://www.eitb.eus/es/noticias/internacional/videos/detalle/7190192/video-trump-propone-inyectar-desinfectante-acabar-coronavirus-covid19/>

“Donald Trump has proposed treating the coronavirus with a disinfectant injection or sunlight. Experts have already criticized the US president's proposals.”

¿Qué sabemos del uso de rayos ultravioleta para hacer frente a la COVID-19? [What do we know about the use of ultraviolet rays to deal with COVID-19?]. May 6, 2020.

<https://www.eitb.eus/es/noticias/sociedad/detalle/7212678/usar-rayos-ultravioleta-uv-hacer-frente-al-coronavirus-covid19-es-bueno/>

Coronavirus: lanzan en Nueva York programa piloto de luz ultravioleta para matar el covid-19 en el transporte público [Coronavirus: New York launches ultraviolet light pilot program to kill covid-19 in public transportation]. May 20, 2020. <https://cnnespanol.cnn.com/2020/05/20/coronavirus-lanzan-en-nueva-york-programa-piloto-de-luz-ultravioleta-para-matar-el-covid-19-en-el-transporte-publico/>

La luz solar y el cloro pueden matar el coronavirus en una banca del parque, pero pueden ser dañinos para tu salud [Sunlight and chlorine can kill the coronavirus on a park bench, but they can be harmful to your health]. April 24, 2020. <https://cnnespanol.cnn.com/2020/04/24/la-luz-solar-y-el-cloro-pueden-matar-el-coronavirus-en-una-banca-del-parque-pero-pueden-ser-daninos-para-tu-salud/>

COUNTERCLAIM:

La OMS desmiente los mitos sobre el coronavirus: de los paquetes desde China a la protección de la cocaína [WHO debunks myths about coronavirus: from packages from China to protection from cocaine]. February 25, 2020. <https://www.eleconomista.es/sanidad/noticias/10377845/02/20/Los-falsos-mitos-sobre-el-coronavirus-los-paquetes-desde-China-la-cocaína-o-la-orina-entre-los-peores-rumores.html>

“...the institution [WHO] has advised that ultraviolet lamps should not be used to sterilize the hands or other parts of the body, since ultraviolet radiation can cause erythema”

X = injecting disinfectant

Donald Trump propone inyectar desinfectante para acabar con el coronavirus [Donald Trump proposes to inject disinfectant to end coronavirus]. April 24, 2020.

<https://www.eitb.eus/es/noticias/internacional/videos/detalle/7190192/video-trump-propone-inyectar-desinfectante-acabar-coronavirus-covid19/>

“Donald Trump has proposed treating the coronavirus with a disinfectant injection or sunlight. Experts have already criticized the US president's proposals.”

#### COUNTERCLAIM:

La OMS desmiente los mitos sobre el coronavirus: de los paquetes desde China a la protección de la cocaína [WHO debunks myths about coronavirus: from packages from China to protection from cocaine]. February 25, 2020. <https://www.eleconomista.es/sanidad/noticias/10377845/02/20/Los-falsos-mitos-sobre-el-coronavirus-los-paquetes-desde-China-la-cocaína-o-la-orina-entre-los-peores-rumores.html>

“...the institution [WHO] has advised that ultraviolet lamps should not be used to sterilize the hands or other parts of the body, since ultraviolet radiation can cause erythema, and that spraying the entire body with alcohol or chlorine does not kill the viruses that have already entered the body.”

X = spraying body with alcohol and chlorine

Mitos sobre el Coronavirus [Mith about coronavirus]. (NO DATE).

<https://slp.gob.mx/ssalud/Paginas/mitos-coronavirus.aspx>

“Spraying the whole body with alcohol or chlorine does not work to kill the viruses that have already entered the body. Spraying these substances can damage clothing and mucous membranes (ie eyes, mouth, etc.). Both alcohol and chlorine can be used to disinfect surfaces, provided the relevant recommendations are followed.”

#### COUNTERCLAIM:

La OMS desmiente los mitos sobre el coronavirus: de los paquetes desde China a la protección de la cocaína [WHO debunks myths about coronavirus: from packages from China to protection from cocaine]. February 25, 2020. <https://www.eleconomista.es/sanidad/noticias/10377845/02/20/Los-falsos-mitos-sobre-el-coronavirus-los-paquetes-desde-China-la-cocaína-o-la-orina-entre-los-peores-rumores.html>

“spraying the entire body with alcohol or chlorine does not kill the viruses that have already entered the body”

Consejos para la población acerca de los rumores sobre el nuevo coronavirus [Advice for the public about rumors about the new coronavirus] (2019-nCoV). Updated November 23, 2020. <https://www.who.int/es/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/advice-for-public/myth-busters>

“Never spray bleach or other disinfectants on the body or introduce them into the body. These substances can be toxic if ingested, and contact with them irritates and damages the skin and eyes. Bleach and disinfectants should only be used to disinfect surfaces and always with due precautions.”

Coronavirus: ¿cómo actúa el alcohol frente al Covid-19? [Coronavirus: how does alcohol act against Covid-19?]. April 16, 2020.

[https://colombia.as.com/colombia/2020/04/16/actualidad/1587046951\\_603011.html](https://colombia.as.com/colombia/2020/04/16/actualidad/1587046951_603011.html)

#### Russian-Language Claims

X = toothpaste and mouthwash

Toothpaste can neutralize coronavirus in two minutes. December 12, 2020.

<https://www.m24.ru/news/nauka/12122020/145374>

A toothpaste containing zinc and tin can destroy the coronavirus in two minutes. This was revealed by American scientists, whose research results were published in the British Dental Journal. December 12, 2020. <https://www.m24.ru/news/nauka/12122020/145374>

the virus can be neutralized by cetylpyridinium chloride mouthwash in 30 seconds. December 12, 2020. <https://www.m24.ru/news/nauka/12122020/145374>

"The results show that some toothpastes and mouthwashes can help reduce the spread of SARS-CoV-2 by temporarily reducing the amount of virus in the mouth," the publication said. December 12, 2020. <https://www.m24.ru/news/nauka/12122020/145374>

Mouthwash can protect against COVID-19 by destroying the outer layer of fat that helps the virus attach to human cells. May 14, 2020. <https://www.inopressa.ru/article/15may2020/dailymail/mouthwash.html>

"Mouthwash has the potential to protect a person from COVID-19 infection by killing the coronavirus before it can infect human cells," says a new report. May 14, 2020. <https://www.inopressa.ru/article/15may2020/dailymail/mouthwash.html>

An international team of researchers believes that mouthwash can destroy the outer layer or "shell" of the virus, preventing it from growing in the mouth and throat," reports the Daily Mail. May 14, 2020. <https://www.inopressa.ru/article/15may2020/dailymail/mouthwash.html>

#### COUNTERCLAIM

No. The efficacy of LISTERINE® mouthwash against any strain of coronavirus has not been studied, even in a laboratory setting. LISTERINE® is a daily mouthwash that has been shown to kill up to 99.9% of bacteria that cause bad breath, plaque and gum disease. (NO DATE). <https://www.listerine.ru/chasto-zadavaemye-voprosy-o-covid-19>

X = using ultra-violet light on body

Trump: coronavirus dies in minutes from direct exposure to sunlight. April 14, 2020. <https://www.kommersant.ru/doc/4329375>

Sunlight kills coronavirus COVID-19 in the shortest possible time, said the US president Donald Trump at a briefing with reporters. "Provided that we expose the body to powerful ultraviolet radiation or just very powerful light. If you can deliver light inside the body, through the skin or otherwise, then it destroys it in a minute," he said. April 14, 2020. <https://www.kommersant.ru/doc/4329375>

Sunlight kills coronavirus in 15 minutes. May 28, 2020. <https://live24.ru/nauka/25665-solnechnyj-sposoben-ubit-koronavirus-za-15-minut.html>

Researchers at the US Department of Homeland Security and the National Center for Biological Defense Analysis and Counteraction have concluded that sunlight is capable of destroying particles of a new type of coronavirus. The duration of exposure to ultraviolet rays varies depending on latitude and time of day. May 28, 2020. <https://live24.ru/nauka/25665-solnechnyj-sposoben-ubit-koronavirus-za-15-minut.html>

#### COUNTERCLAIM



Trump has proposed using sunlight and bleach to treat COVID-19. Doctors asked not to do this, April 24, 2020. <https://meduza.io/feature/2020/04/24/tramp-predlozhit-ispolzovat-solnechnyy-svet-i-otbelivatel-dlya-lecheniya-covid-19-vrachi-poprosili-etogo-ne-delat>

Sunlight may not be a potential cure for the coronavirus, several medics told CNN. Doctors have warned that Trump's proposals for sun and disinfectant treatments are meaningless. Attempts to heal with sunlight can lead to burns, skin cancer, and more. April 24, 2020. <https://meduza.io/feature/2020/04/24/tramp-predlozhit-ispolzovat-solnechnyy-svet-i-otbelivatel-dlya-lecheniya-covid-19-vrachi-poprosili-etogo-ne-delat>

Neither the sun nor the ambient temperature affects the virus inside the body. June 26, 2020. <https://xn--80aesfpebagmflc0a.xn--p1ai/news/20200626-1757.html>

## Preventing the virus [X prevents COVID-19] (topic C307)

### English-Language Claims

X = hot bath

Taking a hot bath prevents you from getting COVID-19. March 17, 2020. <https://www.wvlp.com/weather/weather-news/cold-weather-kills-coronavirus-and-13-other-covid-19-myths-you-may-be-falling-for/>

X = vaccine against flu and pneumonia

Flu and pneumonia vaccines can protect against COVID-19. January 19, 2021. <https://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/coronavirus-myths-explored> , [https://www.reddit.com/r/COVID19/comments/f8knot/pneumonia\\_vaccine/](https://www.reddit.com/r/COVID19/comments/f8knot/pneumonia_vaccine/)

#### COUNTERCLAIM:

The pneumonia shot can help protect you against getting really sick with other types of viruses, like influenza, but not from the coronavirus, which causes pneumonia all by itself. April 20, 2020. <https://health.clevelandclinic.org/can-the-pneumonia-shot-protect-me-from-getting-covid-19/>

X = gargling with bleach

You can protect yourself by gargling bleach. January 19, 2021. <https://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/coronavirus-myths-explored>

X = rinsing nose with saline solution

Rinsing the nose with saline protects against coronavirus. January 19, 2021. <https://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/coronavirus-myths-explored>

#### COUNTERCLAIM:

There is no evidence that rinsing your nose with saline protects against infection with the COVID-19 virus. <https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/coronavirus/in-depth/coronavirus-myths/art-20485720>

X = drinking alcohol

Drinking alcohol reduces the risk of infection. January 19, 2021. <https://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/coronavirus-myths-explored> , March 20, 2020. <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/factcheck/2020/03/20/fact-check-drinking-alcohol-wont-reduce-coronavirus-risk/2881704001/>

X = eating garlic

Eating garlic helps prevent COVID-19 infection. March 17, 2020. <https://www.wvlp.com/weather/weather-news/cold-weather-kills-coronavirus-and-13-other-covid-19-myths-you-may-be-falling-for/>

X = vitamin C

Taking vitamin C will prevent COVID-19. March 16, 2020. <https://www.childrensmercy.org/parent-ish/2020/03/covidmyths/>

COUNTERCLAIM:

Excessive vitamin C does not help to prevent COVID-19. March 16, 2020. <https://www.childrensmercy.org/parent-ish/2020/03/covidmyths/>

There's no evidence that taking vitamin C regularly can help prevent coronavirus or COVID-19. March 24, 2020. <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/factcheck/2020/03/24/coronavirus-fact-check-could-vitamin-c-cure-covid-19/2904303001/>

### Spanish-Language Claims

X = washing hands and cleaning surfaces with children's urine

Frío, cocaína y orina infantil contra el coronavirus: los mitos que circulan en las redes [Cold, cocaine and children's urine against the coronavirus: the myths that circulate in the networks]. February 25, 2020. <https://www.telam.com.ar/notas/202002/435186-oms-mitos-coronavirus.html>

COUNTERCLAIM:

La OMS desmiente los mitos sobre el coronavirus: de los paquetes desde China a la protección de la cocaína [WHO debunks myths about coronavirus: from packages from China to protection from cocaine]. February 25, 2020. <https://www.eleconomista.es/sanidad/noticias/10377845/02/20/Los-falsos-mitos-sobre-el-coronavirus-los-paquetes-desde-China-la-cocaína-o-la-orina-entre-los-peores-rumores.html>

“the WHO has asserted that the new coronavirus cannot be transmitted through mosquito bites; that infant urine or cocaine cannot protect against it”

Los 17 mitos sobre el Coronavirus, desmentidos [The 17 myths about the Coronavirus, debunked]. (NO DATE). <https://medicoplus.com/medicina-general/mitos-coronavirus>

La OMS desmiente bulos: "La orina de los niños no mata al coronavirus" [WHO denies hoaxes: "Children's urine does not kill the coronavirus"]. March 2, 2020. <https://www.redaccionmedica.com/secciones/neumologia/la-oms-desmiente-bulos-la-orina-de-los-ninos-no-mata-al-coronavirus--8718>

Frío, cocaína y orina infantil contra el coronavirus: los mitos que circulan en las redes [Cold, cocaine and children's urine against the coronavirus: the myths that circulate in the networks]. February 25, 2020. <https://www.telam.com.ar/notas/202002/435186-oms-mitos-coronavirus.html>

X = vaccine against pneumonia

COUNTERCLAIM

La OMS desmiente los mitos sobre el coronavirus: de los paquetes desde China a la protección de la cocaína [WHO debunks myths about coronavirus: from packages from China to protection

from cocaine]. February 25, 2020. <https://www.eleconomista.es/sanidad/noticias/10377845/02/20/Los-falsos-mitos-sobre-el-coronavirus-los-paquetes-desde-China-la-cocaina-o-la-orina-entre-los-peores-rumores.html>

“...vaccines against pneumonia, such as pneumococcal and the 'haemophilus influenzae' type B (Hib) vaccine, do not protect against the new coronavirus; and that "there is no evidence" to show that regularly rinsing the nose with a saline solution protects against infection, as does eating garlic or applying sesame oil to the skin.”

Los bulos del coronavirus: ¿Es contagioso un paquete llegado de China? [The coronavirus hoaxes: Is a package from China contagious?]. March 5, 2020.

<https://www.lavozdegalicia.es/noticia/sociedad/2020/02/03/bulos-coronavirus-puedo-contagiarme-paquete-llegado-china/00031580732560703503470.htm>

X = eating plantains or bananas

Expertos aseguran que consumir plátano o banano no bloquea ni elimina el COVID-19 [Experts assure that consuming bananas does not block or eliminate COVID-19]. June 23, 2020.

<https://factual.afp.com/expertos-aseguran-que-consumir-platano-o-banano-no-bloquea-ni-elimina-el-covid-19>

COUNTERCLAIM:

Expertos aseguran que consumir plátano o banano no bloquea ni elimina el COVID-19 [Experts assure that consuming bananas does not block or eliminate COVID-19]. June 23, 2020. <https://factual.afp.com/expertos-aseguran-que-consumir-platano-o-banano-no-bloquea-ni-elimina-el-covid-19>

“Regarding fruits and vegetables, that organization affirms that "they are essential for a healthy diet", but does not link them with any treatment against the coronavirus.”

Los bulos del coronavirus: ¿Es contagioso un paquete llegado de China? [The coronavirus hoaxes: Is a package from China contagious?]. March 5, 2020.

<https://www.lavozdegalicia.es/noticia/sociedad/2020/02/03/bulos-coronavirus-puedo-contagiarme-paquete-llegado-china/00031580732560703503470.htm>

X = eating garlic

COUNTERCLAIM:

La OMS desmiente los mitos sobre el coronavirus: de los paquetes desde China a la protección de la cocaína [WHO debunks myths about coronavirus: from packages from China to protection from cocaine]. February 25, 2020. <https://www.eleconomista.es/sanidad/noticias/10377845/02/20/Los-falsos-mitos-sobre-el-coronavirus-los-paquetes-desde-China-la-cocaina-o-la-orina-entre-los-peores-rumores.html>

“... "there is no evidence" to show that regularly rinsing the nose with a saline solution protects against infection, as does eating garlic or applying sesame oil to the skin.”

X = rubbing sesame oil or coconut oil on the skin

Aceite de coco contra el COVID-19 [Coconut oil against COVID-19]. March 23, 2020.

<https://canceremocional.org/aceite-de-coco-contra-el-covid-19/>

“The Ateneo de Manila University in the Philippines defends the potential of coconut oil and its derivatives as highly effective antiviral agents against the new coronavirus COVID-19”

COUNTERCLAIM:

La OMS desmiente los mitos sobre el coronavirus: de los paquetes desde China a la protección de la cocaína [WHO debunks myths about coronavirus: from packages from China to protection from cocaine]. February 25, 2020. <https://www.eleconomista.es/sanidad/noticias/10377845/02/20/Los-falsos-mitos-sobre-el-coronavirus-los-paquetes-desde-China-la-cocaina-o-la-orina-entre-los-peores-rumores.html>

“...”there is no evidence” to show that regularly rinsing the nose with a saline solution protects against infection, as does eating garlic or applying sesame oil to the skin.”

Los bulos del coronavirus: ¿Es contagioso un paquete llegado de China? [The coronavirus hoaxes: Is a package from China contagious?]. March 5, 2020.

<https://www.lavozdegalicia.es/noticia/sociedad/2020/02/03/bulos-coronavirus-puedo-contagiarme-paquete-llegado-china/00031580732560703503470.htm>

Los 17 mitos sobre el Coronavirus, desmentidos [The 17 myths about the Coronavirus, debunked]. (NO DATE). <https://medicoplus.com/medicina-general/mitos-coronavirus>

X = rinsing nose with saline solution

COUNTERCLAIM:

La OMS desmiente los mitos sobre el coronavirus: de los paquetes desde China a la protección de la cocaína [WHO debunks myths about coronavirus: from packages from China to protection from cocaine]. February 25, 2020. <https://www.eleconomista.es/sanidad/noticias/10377845/02/20/Los-falsos-mitos-sobre-el-coronavirus-los-paquetes-desde-China-la-cocaina-o-la-orina-entre-los-peores-rumores.html>

“...”there is no evidence” to show that regularly rinsing the nose with a saline solution protects against infection, as does eating garlic or applying sesame oil to the skin.”

## Russian-Language Claims

X = vaccine against pneumonia

Vaccination case: vaccine against 23 types of pneumococcus will help prevent COVID-19. September 30, 2020. <https://iz.ru/1066883/mariia-nediuk/delo-privivki-vaktcina-ot-23-tipov-pnevmonokkka-pomozhet-ne-zabolet-covid-19>

Vaccinations against pneumococcal infection will help not to get infected with coronavirus or to transfer the disease in a mild form. Russian scientists told Izvestia that a twenty-valent vaccine is better for adults, and a thirteen-valent vaccine for children and the elderly. The difference between them lies in the set of strains of the dangerous bacteria against which the defense is formed. According to experts, a timely injection will help avoid bacterial complications in COVID-19 and improve the state of the immune system. September 30, 2020. <https://iz.ru/1066883/mariia-nediuk/delo-privivki-vaktcina-ot-23-tipov-pnevmonokkka-pomozhet-ne-zabolet-covid-19>

COUNTERCLAIM:

Myth: getting pneumonia vaccines can protect you from coronavirus. April 9, 2020. <https://www.covid-19facts.com/?p=84042&lang=ru>

There are ongoing speculations on social media that vaccination against pneumonia could protect people from COVID-19. It is not true. April 9, 2020. <https://www.covid-19facts.com/?p=84042&lang=ru>

X = rinsing nose with saline solution

Chinese doctor told how to rinse nose to protect against the virus, March 28, 2020.

<https://rg.ru/2020/03/28/kitajskij-medik-rasskazal-kak-promyvay-nos-dlia-zashchity-ot-virusa.html>

COUNTERCLAIM:

Gargling and washing your nose is not currently recommended to improve symptoms of COVID-19 or prevent infection. Harvard University Research Center T.Kh. Chana in India : "There is no evidence that regular rinsing [salt water or saline] has protected people from contracting the new coronavirus. While it can help relieve a sore throat, this practice will not prevent the virus from entering your lungs. July 3, 2020. <https://www.covid-19facts.com/?p=84759&lang=ru>

There is no evidence that regular rinsing of the nose with saline has protected people from contracting the new coronavirus. There is some limited evidence that regularly rinsing the nose with saline can help people recover faster from a cold. However, rinsing your nose regularly does not prevent respiratory infections. March 21, 2020. <https://www.slavicsac.com/2020/03/21/covid-19-world-health-organization/>

X = cocaine

COUNTERCLAIM:

French government warns citizens that cocaine use does not protect against coronavirus infection. March 11, 2020. <https://parstoday.com/ru/news/world-i111059>

The cocaine warnings appear to be a response to a number of popular but unsavory data that have been published recently on social media and in the internet world. For example, one of these hypotheses came from a documentary that shows that drugs destroy coronavirus. March 11, 2020. <https://parstoday.com/ru/news/world-i111059>

MYTH: Taking cocaine helps protect against COVID-19. March 9, 2020.

<https://www.pravda.com.ua/rus/news/2020/03/9/7242953/>

FACT: Taking cocaine does NOT help protect against contracting a new coronavirus. Cocaine is a stimulant drug that is addictive. Its reception causes dangerous side effects and harms health.

March 9, 2020. <https://www.pravda.com.ua/rus/news/2020/03/9/7242953/>

X = mouthwash

Virologist told if mouthwash can protect against coronavirus...Vitaly Zverev, Scientific Director of the Scientific Research Institute of Vaccines and Serums named after Mechnikov, said that such drugs can kill virus particles only directly in the oral cavity, while the protection will not pass further. In addition, the virologist emphasized that even when ingested through the mouth, coronavirus particles instantly spread further. "The virus is in the nasopharynx. You will not rinse your noses with dental fluid? The virus does not live in your mouth, it immediately enters the respiratory tract," Zverev emphasized. The expert explained that even if you clean your mouth, it will not completely rid a person of the presence of the virus. Of course not. Any toothpaste contains an antiseptic, which, in principle, also kills everything in the mouth, just like this liquid. But everything is much more complicated. It is impossible to remove the virus from the body by this means alone.

December 14, 2020. <https://www.m24.ru/news/medicina/14122020/145558>

X = drinking hot liquids

There are three things that will increase immunity to ward off the coronavirus: Drink liquids, drink hot liquids, and take vitamins. March 11, 2020. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pHCB0-cD4ss>

Coronavirus doesn't like hot tea. March 13, 2020. <https://pricom.kz/novosti/koronavirus-ne-lyubit-goryachij-chaj.html>

According to Baytolla Gazizov, head of the regional health department in Almaty, Kazakhstan, the COVID-19 virus has been confirmed to be afraid of hot tea, coffee and other drinks. March 13, 2020. <https://pricom.kz/novosti/koronavirus-ne-lyubit-goryachij-chaj.html>

You can eat ginger and drink tea with lemon to maintain health, but the therapeutic effect of these products against coronavirus has not been proven. This was announced at a briefing in Geneva by Michael Ryan, Director of the World Health Organization's (WHO) Health Emergencies Program, which was broadcast on the organization's Twitter on April 1, 2020. <https://iz.ru/994598/2020-04-01/v-voz-otcenili-effektivnost-chaia-s-limonom-protiv-koronavirusa>

X = eating garlic

Many social media users recommend eating garlic to prevent infection. The World Health Organization (WHO) endorses garlic as a healthy food that has some antimicrobial properties, but there is no evidence that it protects against the new coronavirus. March 9, 2020. <https://www.bbc.com/russian/features-51791985>

Garlic from COVID-19 will not help in any way," explains Sergey Netesov, professor, corresponding member of the Russian Academy of Sciences, head of the laboratory of biotechnology and virology at Novosibirsk State University and the laboratory of molecular biology of RNA viruses FGUN State Research Center of Virology and Biotechnology. March 19, 2020. <https://ria.ru/20200320/1568865573.html>

## **Curing the virus [X will cure covid-19] (topic C308)**

### **English-Language Claims**

X = Vitamin C (in various forms and modalities and combinations)

Vitamin C is an effective treatment for COVID-19.

An international consortium of vitamin C advocates wants regulators to bring vitamin C into the therapeutic bag of measures in the battle against COVID-19. December 17, 2020.

<https://www.nutraingredients.com/Article/2020/12/17/Global-campaign-makes-plea-for-vitamin-C-and-COVID-19>

Evidence shows injected or orally taken high doses of vitamin C can halt the onset of severe COVID-19 symptoms. December 17, 2020.

<https://www.nutraingredients.com/Article/2020/12/17/Global-campaign-makes-plea-for-vitamin-C-and-COVID-19>

Consuming foods high in vitamin C such as grapefruits, oranges, tangerines, sweet red pepper, broccoli, strawberries, kale, and kiwifruit are thought to increase white blood cell production, which is key to fighting infection. April 8, 2020.

<https://www.uchealth.com/en/media-room/covid-19/boost-immunity-with-food>

Vitamin C, also known as ascorbic acid, is currently making headlines in the fight against COVID-19. Reports say that intravenous (IV) vitamin C may help people suffering from this disease. (NO DATE).

<https://lpi.oregonstate.edu/COVID19/IV-VitaminC-virus>

High doses of vitamin C have been proven to be an effective treatment for COVID-19. June 2020.  
<https://www.newsguardtech.com/covid-19-myths/>

COUNTERCLAIM:

No food or drink can fight off the coronavirus, including oysters or OJ. May 26, 2020.  
<http://www.eatingwell.com/article/7823521/why-s-everyone-so-obsessed-with-orange-juice-right-now/>

There's no evidence that vitamin C is effective against the coronavirus. March 27, 2020.  
<https://www.npr.org/sections/coronavirus-live-updates/2020/03/27/822149981/stocks-are-sinking-but-orange-juice-futures-are-soaring>

X = garlic (in various forms and modalities and combinations)

Garlic can cure COVID-19. <https://www.newsguardtech.com/covid-19-myths/>

COUNTERCLAIM:

Garlic does not cure COVID-19. April 2, 2020. <https://urbanagnews.com/blog/functional-food/functional-food-facts-garlic-does-not-cure-covid-19-but-it-does-have-other-benefits/>

X = Lemon (in various forms and modalities and combinations)

Lemon and hot water can cure COVID-19. Updated June 2020. <https://www.newsguardtech.com/covid-19-myths/>

Slices of lemon in a cup of hot water can save your life. The hot lemon can kill the proliferation of" the novel coronavirus. March 24, 2020. <https://www.politifact.com/factchecks/2020/mar/24/chain-message/facebook-messenger-video-falsely-claims-hot-lemon-/>

Drinking lemon juice mixed with baking soda or aspirin kills the novel coronavirus. (NO DATE).  
<https://www.nationalacademies.org/based-on-science/lemon-juice-does-not-cure-covid-19>

COUNTERCLAIM:

FALSE. Lemon juice will not prevent or cure a COVID-19 infection, no matter what is mixed with it. (NO DATE). <https://www.nationalacademies.org/based-on-science/lemon-juice-does-not-cure-covid-19>

Lemon juice does not cure COVID-19. (NO DATE). <https://www.nationalacademies.org/based-on-science/lemon-juice-does-not-cure-covid-19>

Consuming acidic drinks like lemon juice has no effect on coronavirus infections. (NO DATE).  
<https://www.nationalacademies.org/based-on-science/lemon-juice-does-not-cure-covid-19>

There is no scientific evidence that lemon can treat or prevent the coronavirus. March 24, 2020.  
<https://www.politifact.com/factchecks/2020/mar/24/chain-message/facebook-messenger-video-falsely-claims-hot-lemon-/>

X = alkaline diet

Eating an alkaline diet could prevent someone from being infected with the coronavirus. April 1, 2020. <https://leadstories.com/hoax-alert/2020/04/Fact-Check-Alkaline-Diet-Does-NOT-Prevent-You-From-Getting-Coronavirus.html>

All we need to do, to beat coronavirus, we need to take more of an alkaline foods that are above the above pH levels of the virus. May 6, 2020. <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/factcheck/2020/05/06/fact-check-alkaline-diet-not-cure-coronavirus/3068027001/>

COUNTERCLAIM:

Fact Check: Alkaline Diet Does NOT Prevent You From Getting Coronavirus. April 2, 2020. <https://leadstories.com/hoax-alert/2020/04/Fact-Check-Alkaline-Diet-Does-NOT-Prevent-You-From-Getting-Coronavirus.html>

Does eating an alkaline diet prevent you from getting infected with the novel coronavirus? No, that's not true: This claim is a medical myth saying that eating an alkaline diet could prevent someone from being infected with the coronavirus. This false information has been debunked by news outlets and the World Health Organization amid the COVID-19 outbreak. April 2, 2020. <https://leadstories.com/hoax-alert/2020/04/Fact-Check-Alkaline-Diet-Does-NOT-Prevent-You-From-Getting-Coronavirus.html>

In fact, WHO reiterated that there are currently no cures for the coronavirus. April 2, 2020. <https://leadstories.com/hoax-alert/2020/04/Fact-Check-Alkaline-Diet-Does-NOT-Prevent-You-From-Getting-Coronavirus.html>

Fact check: An alkaline diet won't kill the coronavirus. May 6, 2020. <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/factcheck/2020/05/06/fact-check-alkaline-diet-not-cure-coronavirus/3068027001/>

Eating more alkaline foods is not a proven preventive measure or cure for the coronavirus. May 6, 2020. <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/factcheck/2020/05/06/fact-check-alkaline-diet-not-cure-coronavirus/3068027001/>

There are no established or approved preventive measures or treatments for COVID-19. May 6, 2020. <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/factcheck/2020/05/06/fact-check-alkaline-diet-not-cure-coronavirus/3068027001/>

The claim that an alkaline diet will help beat the coronavirus is FALSE. May 6, 2020. <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/factcheck/2020/05/06/fact-check-alkaline-diet-not-cure-coronavirus/3068027001/>

X = colloidal silver

Colloidal silver can cure COVID-19. February 12, 2020. <https://www.newsguardtech.com/covid-19-myths/>

CLAIM: Colloidal silver products can help prevent or protect against the new coronavirus from China. February 14, 2020. <https://apnews.com/article/8479480534>

COUNTERCLAIM:

According to the U.S. National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health, “scientific evidence doesn’t support the use of colloidal silver dietary supplements for any disease or condition.” June 2020. <https://www.newsguardtech.com/covid-19-myths/#silver>

In a February 2020 article by The Associated Press, NCCIH director Helene Langevin said, “There are no complementary products, such as colloidal silver or herbal remedies, that have been proven effective in preventing or treating this disease (COVID-19), and colloidal silver can have serious side effects.” June 2020. <https://www.newsguardtech.com/covid-19-myths/#silver>



FDA Warns of Silver, Other Bogus COVID-19 Cures. July 30, 2020.

<https://www.webmd.com/lung/news/20200730/fda-warns-of-silver-other-bogus-covid-cures>

MacCleery noted during her testimony that the National Institutes of Health says there is no evidence for silver supplements to prevent or treat any condition. July 30, 2020.

<https://www.webmd.com/lung/news/20200730/fda-warns-of-silver-other-bogus-covid-cures>

Colloidal silver has not been shown effective against new virus from China. February 14, 2020.

<https://apnews.com/article/8479480534>

AP'S ASSESSMENT: False. The silver solution has no known benefit in the body when ingested, according to officials with the National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health, a federal scientific research agency. February 14, 2020. <https://apnews.com/article/8479480534>

THE FACTS: Colloidal silver is made up of silver particles suspended in a liquid. The liquid solution has often been falsely peddled as a miracle solution to boost the immune system and cure diseases. Social media users have most recently linked it to products to address the new virus that emerged from China. February 14, 2020. <https://apnews.com/article/8479480534>

But experts have long said that the solution has no known function or health benefits and it comes with serious side effects. The FDA has taken action against companies promoting colloidal silver products with misleading claims. February 14, 2020.

<https://apnews.com/article/8479480534>

X = Miracle Mineral Solution (MMS)

Miracle Mineral Solution can cure COVID-19. Updated June 2020.

<https://www.newsguardtech.com/covid-19-myths/#mineral>

COUNTERCLAIM:

Miracle Mineral Solution, or MMS, is chlorine dioxide, a powerful bleaching agent that has been promoted as a cure-all for everything from cancer to autism. There is no reliable evidence supporting its use for COVID-19 or any other disease. Updated June 2020.

<https://www.newsguardtech.com/covid-19-myths/#mineral>

The treatment of MMS remains controversial, however. There is no proof that it actually works, or that it can help prevent the spread of the deadly coronavirus outbreak. January 25, 2020.

<https://leadstories.com/hoax-alert/2020/01/fake-news-no-proof-that-spray-can-protect-against-coronavirus.html>

The FDA issued the blunt advice: "Consumers who have MMS should stop using it immediately and throw it away." April 19, 2019 [Note: pre-dates claim about COVID-19]

<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2019/apr/19/church-group-to-hold-washington-event-despite-fda-warnings-against-miracle-cure>

Miracle Mineral Solution and similar products are not FDA-approved, and ingesting these products is the same as drinking bleach. Consumers should not use these products, and parents should not give these products to their children for any reason," said FDA Acting Commissioner Ned Sharpless, M.D. August 12, 2019. [Note: pre-dates claim about COVID-19].

<https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/fda-warns-consumers-about-dangerous-and-potentially-life-threatening-side-effects-miracle-mineral>

X = plasma therapy

Convalescent plasma therapy may help people recover from COVID-19. It may lessen the severity or shorten the length of the disease. August 29, 2020. <https://www.mayoclinic.org/tests-procedures/convalescent-plasma-therapy/about/pac-20486440>

It's not yet known if convalescent plasma therapy will be an effective treatment for COVID-19. You might not experience any benefit. However, this therapy might help you recover from the disease. August 29, 2020. <https://www.mayoclinic.org/tests-procedures/convalescent-plasma-therapy/about/pac-20486440>

Back in the spring, the pleas for donated plasma from coronavirus survivors were desperate. Doctors hoped then that the antibodies from survivors' blood could save the sickest patients from succumbing to the virus. January 11, 2021. <https://coloradosun.com/2021/01/11/convalescent-plasma-for-coronavirus-patients/>

COUNTERCLAIM:

No benefit of convalescent plasma in COVID-19 patients, study finds. June 4, 2020. <https://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2020/06/no-benefit-convalescent-plasma-covid-19-patients-study-finds>

Convalescent plasma isn't quite the coronavirus miracle treatment it was supposed to be. January 11, 2021. <https://coloradosun.com/2021/01/11/convalescent-plasma-for-coronavirus-patients/>

Now, 10 months into the pandemic, there is no evidence that convalescent plasma — the liquid part of blood collected from patients who have recovered from an infection — prevents hospitalized COVID-19 patients from getting worse. January 11, 2021. <https://coloradosun.com/2021/01/11/convalescent-plasma-for-coronavirus-patients/>

### Spanish-Language Claims

X = garlic (in various forms and modalities and combinations)

Coronavirus: 10 mitos y consejos falsos que debes ignorar sobre el covid-19 [Coronavirus: 10 myths and false advice you should ignore about covid-19]. Updated March 24, 2020. <https://www.bbc.com/mundo/noticias-51794632>

X = colloidal silver

Coronavirus: 10 mitos y consejos falsos que debes ignorar sobre el covid-19 [Coronavirus: 10 myths and false advice you should ignore about covid-19]. Updated March 24, 2020. <https://www.bbc.com/mundo/noticias-51794632>

“The use of colloidal silver to fight the coronavirus came up on the show of American evangelist Jim Bakker.”

#### COUNTERCLAIM:

Cuidado con las estafas por el coronavirus: plata coloidal, remedios a base de hierbas y kits de prueba falsos [Beware of Coronavirus Scams: Colloidal Silver, Herbal Remedies, and Fake Test Kits]. March 23, 2020. <https://www.latimes.com/espanol/california/articulo/2020-03-23/cuidado-con-las-estafas-por-el-coronavirus-plata-coloidal-remedios-a-base-de-hierbas-y-kits-de-prueba-falsos>

“Amid the coronavirus outbreak, public health officials have made it clear: there is no pill, vaccine, or supplement that can cure or prevent the virus.”

No, beber plata líquida no es un remedio para matar al coronavirus [No, drinking liquid silver is not a remedy to kill the coronavirus]. Updated February 14, 2020  
<https://www.lavanguardia.com/cribeo/fast-news/20200214/473551880932/beber-plata-liquida-no-esremedio-matar-coronavirus-wuhan-bulo.html>

X = Miracle Mineral Solution (MMS)

Coronavirus: 10 mitos y consejos falsos que debes ignorar sobre el covid-19 [Coronavirus: 10 myths and false advice you should ignore about covid-19]. Updated March 24, 2020.  
<https://www.bbc.com/mundo/noticias-51794632>

X = antibiotics

Antivirales para otras infecciones que podrían ser usados también contra el coronavirus COVID-19 [Antivirals for other infections that could also be used against the COVID-19 coronavirus]. March 2, 2020. <https://noticiasdelaciencia.com/art/36939/antivirales-para-otras-infecciones-que-podrian-ser-usados-tambien-contr-el-coronavirus-covid-19>

"For example, teicoplanin, oritavancin, dalbavancin, and monensin are approved antibiotics that have been shown to inhibit coronaviruses and other viruses in the laboratory," explains Denis Kainov, study co-author and professor at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU).

#### COUNTERCLAIM:

Coronavirus: ¿son eficaces los antibióticos para prevenir el COVID-19? [Coronavirus: Are Antibiotics Effective To Prevent COVID-19?] March 23, 2020  
[https://as.com/diarioas/2020/03/23/actualidad/1584955863\\_244546.html](https://as.com/diarioas/2020/03/23/actualidad/1584955863_244546.html)

"In recent days, several hoaxes related to the coronavirus have circulated on the Internet. Fake news that runs like wildfire, confusing the population with misinformation. And the use of antibiotics to prevent the coronavirus could well be one of them."

X = cocaine

¿La cocaína es capaz de acabar con el coronavirus? [Is cocaine able to end the coronavirus?] February 14, 2020. <https://www.eldiariodechihuahua.mx/viral/la-cocaina-es-capaz-de-acabar-con-el-coronavirus-20200214-1627996.html>

“It was at the end of January that said information began to spread, accompanied by a photograph of a hand holding a bag with the aforementioned substance, which claimed that

¿La cocaína mata el coronavirus (COVID-19)? [Cocaine kills coronavirus (COVID-19)]. February 14, 2020. [https://twitter.com/Foro\\_TV/status/1228361125416357888](https://twitter.com/Foro_TV/status/1228361125416357888)

COUNTERCLAIM:

Los 17 mitos sobre el Coronavirus, desmentidos [The 17 myths about the Coronavirus, debunked]. (NO DATE). <https://medicoplus.com/medicina-general/mitos-coronavirus>

"Another one of the wildest hoaxes. Obviously, cocaine cannot kill the virus. It does not have any property that allows us to eliminate the virus from our body or prevent its spread. Surely this was a joke that has circulated on the Internet, although the WHO had to intervene so that it was not taken as true."

X = surgery

Los médicos caen mientras operan el coronavirus. La transmisión es inmediata [Doctors fall sick while operating on the coronavirus. Transmission is immediate]. Captured February 4, 2020. <https://perma.cc/5NKQ-L6A6?type=image>

COUNTERCLAIM:

Verdades y falsedades sobre las formas de transmisión del nuevo coronavirus [Truths and falsehoods about the forms of transmission of the new coronavirus]. February 27, 2020. <https://factual.afp.com/verdades-y-falsedades-sobre-las-formas-de-transmision-del-nuevo-coronavirus>

"Coronaviruses cannot be removed with surgeries," the WHO spokesman reported.

## Russian-Language Claims

X = plasma therapy

The website of the Moscow mayor's office says that transfusion of donor plasma is "one of the most effective methods of treating coronavirus in the absence of a vaccine." After the procedure, patients with coronavirus feel better, and they have no side effects. April 22, 2020. <https://www.bbc.com/russian/features-52383912>

Russian infectious agents believe that the use of plasma by Chinese doctors recovered from coronavirus patients can be effective. February 18, 2020. <https://iz.ru/977098/mariia-nediuk-anna-urmantceva-iaroslava-kostenko/plazmennyi-motor-virusologi-otcenili-novyj-metod-lecheniia-ot-covid-19>

COUNTERCLAIM:

Scientists: plasma therapy ineffective against COVID-19. November 25, 2020. <https://www.7kanal.co.il/News/News.aspx/224338>

A clinical trial in Argentina shows that one way to treat a coronavirus using plasma taken from people recovering from the disease is not as effective as previously thought. The study was published in the New England Journal of Medicine. The findings indicate that this technique has not led to a significant improvement in the health of patients or the chances of recovery. November 25, 2020. <https://www.7kanal.co.il/News/News.aspx/224338>

Plasma transfusion proved ineffective for severe FORM of COVID-19. November 26, 2020. <https://www.medikforum.ru/medicine/109656-perelivanie-plazmy-okazalos-neeftektivno-dlya-tyazhelov-formy-covid-19.html>

A recent study conducted at a hospital in Buenos Aires, Argentina, showed that plasma therapy for COVID-19 people is ineffective in severe disease and pneumonia. The researchers presented their findings in the New England Journal of Medicine. November 26, 2020.

<https://www.medikforum.ru/medicine/109656-perelivanie-plazmy-okazalos-neeftivno-dlya-tyazheloy-formy-covid-19.html>

X = pneumococcal vaccine

The pneumococcal vaccine will not specifically protect against coronavirus. But! The vaccine will make it easier to get over the disease... It is then that the immunity developed after pneumococcal vaccination comes into effect. (NO DATE). <https://asko-med.ru/blog/vaktsiny/kak-dopolnitelno-zashchititsya-ot-oslozhneniy-koronavirusa/>

## Characterizations of Coronavirus

### Characterizations of coronavirus [SARS-CoV-2 is X] (topic C311)

#### Origins of the Virus

##### English-Language Claims

X = man-made

The novel coronavirus was "man-made." May 15, 2020.

<https://www.politifact.com/factchecks/2020/may/21/kimberly-lightford/no-novel-coronavirus-was-not-man-made/>

Illinois Senate Majority Leader Kimberly Lightford said the novel coronavirus was "man-made." May 21, 2020. <https://www.politifact.com/factchecks/2020/may/21/kimberly-lightford/no-novel-coronavirus-was-not-man-made/>

"This man-made killer — whoever went in there and man-made it, perhaps they should be in there now trying to figure out how to turn this around," Illinois Senate Majority Leader Kimberly Lightford of Maywood said during a May 15 appearance on Fox 32. May 21, 2020.

<https://www.politifact.com/factchecks/2020/may/21/kimberly-lightford/no-novel-coronavirus-was-not-man-made/>

Conspiracy-mongers claim to have proven the pandemic of 2020 is man-made. September 9, 2020.

<https://leadstories.com/hoax-alert/2020/09/fact-check-there-is-not-a-clear-paper-trail-to-prove-covid19-was-made-in-a-lab.html>

One of the enduring conspiracy theories that has emerged since COVID-19 spread around the world is that the virus did not evolve naturally to enter human hosts, but that it was a product of purposeful laboratory design and/or an accidental release from a coronavirus research lab. May 18, 2020.

<https://www.treatmentactiongroup.org/covid-19/covid-19-myth-busters/was-sars-cov-2-invented-in-a-lab/>

Was SARS-CoV-2 invented in a lab? May 18, 2020. <https://www.treatmentactiongroup.org/covid-19/covid-19-myth-busters/was-sars-cov-2-invented-in-a-lab/>

3 in 10 Americans Believe Coronavirus Was Created in a Lab. April 8, 2020.

<https://www.usnews.com/news/national-news/articles/2020-04-08/survey-3-in-10-americans-believe-coronavirus-was-created-in-a-lab>

Despite no evidence, a Pew Research Center survey found that nearly one-third of Americans believe that the virus was made in a lab. April 8, 2020. <https://www.usnews.com/news/national-news/articles/2020-04-08/survey-3-in-10-americans-believe-coronavirus-was-created-in-a-lab>

Nearly three-in-ten Americans believe COVID-19 was made in a lab. April 8, 2020.

[https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2020/04/08/nearly-three-in-ten-americans-believe-covid-19-was-made-in-a-lab/?utm\\_content=buffer66bc&utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_source=twitter.com&utm\\_campaign=buffer](https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2020/04/08/nearly-three-in-ten-americans-believe-covid-19-was-made-in-a-lab/?utm_content=buffer66bc&utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter.com&utm_campaign=buffer)

Coronavirus is a man-made creation. April 28, 2020.

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/coronavirus-5g-conspiracy-theories-man-made-uk-poll-bleach-a9484066.html>

The COVID-19 virus is a manmade bioweapon. <https://www.newsguardtech.com/covid-19-myths/>

Coronavirus is a biological weapon. October 23, 2020.

[https://en.as.com/en/2020/10/23/latest\\_news/1603452972\\_180848.html](https://en.as.com/en/2020/10/23/latest_news/1603452972_180848.html)

#### COUNTERCLAIM:

Is there an "irrefutable paper trail" that shows COVID-19 was manufactured in a laboratory? No, that's not true. September 9, 2020. <https://leadstories.com/hoax-alert/2020/09/fact-check-there-is-not-a-clear-paper-trail-to-prove-covid19-was-made-in-a-lab.html>

In response to our inquiry, Lightford acknowledged she had no evidence to back up her statement. May 21, 2020. <https://www.politifact.com/factchecks/2020/may/21/kimberly-lightford/no-novel-coronavirus-was-not-man-made/>

Research shows the genetic features of the virus rule out the possibility it was created or manipulated in a lab. May 21, 2020.

<https://www.politifact.com/factchecks/2020/may/21/kimberly-lightford/no-novel-coronavirus-was-not-man-made/>

But to leading experts, the research is clear: the genetic structure of the virus shows it could not have been created in a lab — or be "man-made," as Lightford claimed. May 21, 2020.

<https://www.politifact.com/factchecks/2020/may/21/kimberly-lightford/no-novel-coronavirus-was-not-man-made/>

The virus itself is not the result of human tampering. May 21, 2020.

<https://www.politifact.com/factchecks/2020/may/21/kimberly-lightford/no-novel-coronavirus-was-not-man-made/>

"Our analyses clearly show that SARS-CoV-2 is not a laboratory construct or a purposefully manipulated virus". March 17, 2021. <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41591-020-0820-9>

No, the novel coronavirus was not 'man-made'. May 21, 2020.

<https://www.politifact.com/factchecks/2020/may/21/kimberly-lightford/no-novel-coronavirus-was-not-man-made/>

Fact check: Coronavirus not man-made or engineered but its origin remains unclear. April 21, 2020. <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/factcheck/2020/03/21/fact-check-did-coronavirus-originate-chinese-laboratory/2881150001/>

As for the general notion that the virus has been bioengineered, there's no evidence that's true. February 7, 2020. <https://www.factcheck.org/2020/02/baseless-conspiracy-theories-claim-new-coronavirus-was-bioengineered/>

MYTH: SARS-CoV-2 was invented in a lab. May 18, 2020.

<https://www.treatmentactiongroup.org/covid-19/covid-19-myth-busters/was-sars-cov-2-invented-in-a-lab/>

FACT: All available evidence indicates SARS-CoV-2 evolved naturally in animals before infecting humans. May 18, 2020. <https://www.treatmentactiongroup.org/covid-19/covid-19-myth-busters/was-sars-cov-2-invented-in-a-lab/>

A plurality of Americans (43%) says the new coronavirus most likely came about naturally. March 2020. [https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2020/04/08/nearly-three-in-ten-americans-believe-covid-19-was-made-in-a-lab/?utm\\_content=bufferee6bc&utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_source=twitter.com&utm\\_campaign=buffer](https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2020/04/08/nearly-three-in-ten-americans-believe-covid-19-was-made-in-a-lab/?utm_content=bufferee6bc&utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter.com&utm_campaign=buffer)

Myth: The virus was probably made in a lab. July 14, 2020.

<https://www.livescience.com/coronavirus-myths.html>

No evidence suggests that the virus is man-made. July 14, 2020.

<https://www.livescience.com/coronavirus-myths.html>

## Russian-Language Claims

X = man-made

COVID-19 has signs of biological weapons, April 24, 2020. <https://www.belvpo.com/112180.html/>

The coronavirus currently spreading in China is not of natural origin. January 28, 2020.

[http://zavtra.ru/events/razrabotku\\_koronavirusa\\_sponsiroval\\_fond\\_bill\\_i\\_melindi\\_geits](http://zavtra.ru/events/razrabotku_koronavirusa_sponsiroval_fond_bill_i_melindi_geits)

### COUNTERCLAIM:

Stanley Perlman: "There is no reason to believe that it was created artificially, or that it was mistakenly released from the laboratory. There is no evidence for these statements. " April 2, 2020. <https://www.golosameriki.com/a/margo-gontar-perlman-interview/5357236.html>

## **Immunity to the virus [Immunity against COVID-19 is X] (topic C312)**

Long-term immunity against COVID-19 is non-existent. September 9, 2020.

<https://www.express.co.uk/life-style/health/1333195/coronavirus-update-new-research-long-term-immunity-against-COVID-19-is-limited>

Immunity to COVID-19 is probably higher than tests have shown. August 18, 2020.

<https://news.ki.se/immunity-to-covid-19-is-probably-higher-than-tests-have-shown>

Public immunity to COVID-19 is probably significantly higher than antibody tests have suggested. August 18, 2020. <https://news.ki.se/immunity-to-covid-19-is-probably-higher-than-tests-have-shown>

Immunity will last a few months. July 14, 2020. <https://www.cnbc.com/2020/07/14/immunity-to-covid-19-uk-study.html> <https://health.ucdavis.edu/coronavirus/covid-19-information/coronavirus-mistakes.html>

## **Virus is losing its potency [The potency of SARS-CoV-2 is X] (topic C313)**

Global experts go head-to-head over claims the coronavirus 'no longer exists clinically'. June 2, 2020.

<https://www.cnbc.com/2020/06/02/claim-coronavirus-no-longer-exists-provokes-controversy.html>

## **Miscellaneous Characterizations**

### **English-Language Claims**

X = (an adjectival descriptor)

Coronavirus is not serious. May 13, 2020. <https://www.mtairynews.com/opinion/86909/reader-says-coronavirus-not-that-serious>

Coronavirus is serious. March 16, 2020. <https://www.statnews.com/2020/03/16/coronavirus-serious-threat-prepare-not-overreact/>

Coronavirus is real. December 16, 2020. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0\\_XMSRYNI1c](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0_XMSRYNI1c)

Coronavirus is dangerous. April 29, 2020. <https://www.ucihealth.org/blog/2020/04/why-is-covid19-so-dangerous>

The virus is fake. November 9, 2020. <https://www.reuters.com/article/uk-factcheck-icke/fact-check-covid-19-is-not-a-scam-being-used-to-destroy-the-global-economy-for-a-new-world-order-idUSKBN27P25X>

In some countries, people don't believe the pandemic is real. July 7, 2020. <https://www.yahoo.com/news/denial-mistrust-fight-prove-covid-185533709.html>

Coronavirus is infectious before symptoms show. August 9, 2021. <https://www.health.harvard.edu/diseases-and-conditions/if-youve-been-exposed-to-the-coronavirus>

Coronavirus is worse than normal flu. April 15, 2020. <https://wexnermedical.osu.edu/blog/how-covid-19-is-different-and-worse-than-the-flu>

Covid-19 is much less severe than the average annual flu. September 12, 2020. <https://www.irishexaminer.com/news/arid-40047653.html>



Coronavirus is less deadly than the flu. July 14, 2020. <https://www.livescience.com/coronavirus-myths.html>

Covid-19 is the deadliest virus known to humans. January 19, 2021. <https://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/coronavirus-myths-explored>

Coronavirus is same as the common cold. January 19, 2021. <https://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/coronavirus-myths-explored>

X = (a nominal descriptor)

Coronavirus is a mutated form of the common cold virus. January 19, 2021. <https://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/coronavirus-myths-explored>

The novel coronavirus outbreak is a public health emergency. January-February 2020. <https://www.hsph.harvard.edu/news/hsph-in-the-news/coronavirus-news-january-and-february-2020/>

The government has now declared that coronavirus is a “serious and imminent threat”. February 14, 2020. <https://pressfrom.info/uk/news/uk-news/-384546-what-is-the-coronavirus-and-how-dangerous-is-it.html>

The OECD said the coronavirus is the “gravest threat” to the global economy since the 2008 financial crisis. April 3, 2020. <https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202003/04/WS5e5f04aea31012821727c1ef.html>

Covid-19 is just an excuse for poor service from the insurance industry. September 4, 2020. <https://www.insurancetimes.co.uk/news/covid-19-is-just-an-excuse-for-poor-service-from-the-insurance-industry-says-broker-md/1434380.article>

The coronavirus crisis is a hoax. August 20, 2020. <https://www.reuters.com/article/uk-factcheck-hoax/fact-check-the-coronavirus-pandemic-is-not-a-hoax-or-a-conspiracy-to-control-the-general-public-idUSKBN25G2KM>

Covid-19 is a scam. November 9, 2020. <https://www.reuters.com/article/uk-factcheck-icke/fact-check-covid-19-is-not-a-scam-being-used-to-destroy-the-global-economy-for-a-new-world-order-idUSKBN27P25X>

The virus is neither a scam nor fake. November 9, 2020. <https://www.reuters.com/article/uk-factcheck-icke/fact-check-covid-19-is-not-a-scam-being-used-to-destroy-the-global-economy-for-a-new-world-order-idUSKBN27P25X>

Covid-19 is most likely an outbreak of mental illness. September 3, 2020. <https://metro.co.uk/2020/09/03/tory-ministers-husband-thinks-coronavirus-is-most-likely-a-mental-illness-13219045/>

Coronavirus is a lie. May 5, 2020. <https://mexiconewsdaily.com/news/coronavirus/mob-attempts-to-rescue-patient-from-chiapas-hospital/>

## Spanish-Language Claims

X = not real

COVID: 10 principales teorías de conspiración [COVID: Top 10 Conspiracy Theories]. May 26, 2020.  
<https://allianceforscience.cornell.edu/blog/2020/05/covid-10-principales-teorias-de-conspiracion/>

"...COVID-19 doesn't really exist, but rather is a plot by the global elite to take away our freedom."

El coronavirus no existe y no hay que aislarse: llega el negacionismo del Covid-19 [The coronavirus does not exist and you do not have to isolate yourself: the denial of Covid-19 arrives]. April 13, 2020.  
[https://www.elespanol.com/ciencia/salud/20200413/coronavirus-no-existe-aislarse-llega-negacionismo-covid-19/481452647\\_0.html](https://www.elespanol.com/ciencia/salud/20200413/coronavirus-no-existe-aislarse-llega-negacionismo-covid-19/481452647_0.html)

Examples of Graffiti throughout the world:

Graffiti en Madrid (España) con la frase «Covid excusa crash bursátil», en referencia a que es una excusa intencionada para desplomar la economía real [Graffiti in Madrid (Spain) with the phrase "Covid excuses stock market crash", referring to the fact that it is an intentional excuse to collapse the real economy.] [https://www.elespanol.com/ciencia/salud/20200413/coronavirus-no-existe-aislarse-llega-negacionismo-covid-19/481452647\\_0.html](https://www.elespanol.com/ciencia/salud/20200413/coronavirus-no-existe-aislarse-llega-negacionismo-covid-19/481452647_0.html)

"COVID ES UNA ESTAFA DEL CAPITAL (A)", graffiti anarquista ("COVID IS A CAPITAL SCAM (A)", anarchist graffiti). [https://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Negacionismo\\_de\\_la\\_COVID-19#/media/Archivo:2020-07-28\\_COVID\\_estafa.jpg](https://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Negacionismo_de_la_COVID-19#/media/Archivo:2020-07-28_COVID_estafa.jpg)

Pintada negacionista en Londres: "no (existe el) virus, lucha contra las mentiras". [Denialist graffiti in London: "no (there is) virus, fight lies".] [https://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Negacionismo\\_de\\_la\\_COVID-19#/media/Archivo:Erm,\\_I\\_think\\_you'll\\_find...\\_\(50011633191\).jpg](https://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Negacionismo_de_la_COVID-19#/media/Archivo:Erm,_I_think_you'll_find..._(50011633191).jpg)

Teoría conspirativa que vincula a Bill Gates con la tecnología 5G. [Conspiracy theory linking Bill Gates to 5G technology.] "You Aware Bill Gates Covid Hoax + 5G."  
[https://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Negacionismo\\_de\\_la\\_COVID-19#/media/Archivo:Covid-19\\_Conspiracy\\_Theory\\_Graffiti\\_in\\_Dartford\\_Marshes.jpg](https://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Negacionismo_de_la_COVID-19#/media/Archivo:Covid-19_Conspiracy_Theory_Graffiti_in_Dartford_Marshes.jpg)

## Non-Pharmaceutical Interventions (NPIs)

### Mask Recommendations/Regulations/Necessity

This subtopic focuses on guidance and regulations about using masks in given locations in order to prevent contracting or spreading COVID-19. There are other kinds of NPIs such as hand hygiene and social distancing which are not covered here.

#### NPI Regulations [NPI-X is required]

Masks [Wearing masks is required in location/GPE/facility-x] (topic C314)

Face masks are compulsory in shops and on public transport in England. July 14, 2021.  
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-london-57826331>

#### NPI Recommendations [NPI-X is recommended]

Masks [Wearing masks is recommended in location/GPE/facility-x] (topic C315)

While protecting yourself from coronavirus is key to helping slow its spread, face masks are not recommended for healthy members of the general public. March 24, 2020.  
<https://www.abc.net.au/news/health/2020-03-25/coronavirus-covid-19-face-mask-surgical-mask-protection/12088314>

"If you are healthy, you only need to wear a mask if you are taking care of a person with COVID-19," the WHO guidelines read. May 29, 2020. <https://abcnews.go.com/Health/cdc-offer-conflicting-advice-masks-expert-tells-us/story?id=70958380>

The World Health Organization's guidance about when to wear a face mask may seem confusing to Americans, who have been advised by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to wear cloth face masks in public to help slow the spread of COVID-19. May 29, 2020. <https://abcnews.go.com/Health/cdc-offer-conflicting-advice-masks-expert-tells-us/story?id=70958380>

CDC recommends that you wear masks in public settings around people who don't live in your household and when you can't stay 6 feet away from others. Updated August 13, 2021. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/about-face-coverings.html>

### **NPI Necessity [NPI-X is necessary]**

#### **Masks [Wearing masks is necessary in location/GPE/facility-x] (topic C317)**

The advice of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is unequivocal: Healthy people who do not work in the health sector and are not caring for an infected person at home do not need to wear a mask. March 24, 2020 (accessed January 19, 2021). <https://www.latimes.com/science/story/2020-03-24/to-wear-a-mask-or-not-experts-weigh-in-on-coronavirus-protection-questions>

If you're not sick, you don't need a mask. September 8, 2020. <https://www.yahoo.com/lifestyle/4-covid-mask-myths-debunked-110000160.html>

#### **COUNTERCLAIM:**

Starting on April 3, the CDC began recommending that everyone wear cloth face masks in public settings where social distancing is difficult to maintain, such as grocery stores, pharmacies and gas stations. May 27, 2020. <https://apnews.com/article/8937511824>

CDC recommends that people wear masks in public settings, like on public and mass transportation, at events and gatherings, and anywhere they will be around other people. Updated January 13, 2021. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/about-face-coverings.html>

### **Spanish-Language Claims**

People who are not health care workers do not need to wear masks

¿Usar cubrebocas o no? Los expertos responden a las preguntas de protección contra el coronavirus [To wear a mask or not? Experts Answer Coronavirus Protection Questions]. March 25, 2020. <https://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/en-espanol/vida-latina/bienestar/articulo/2020-03-25/usar-cubrebocas-o-no-los-expertos-responden-a-las-preguntas-de-proteccion-contra-el-coronavirus>.

Usar cubrebocas y mascarillas N95 no tiene sentido si no estás contagiado de coronavirus, según la ciencia [Using face masks and N95 masks does not make sense if you are not infected with coronavirus, according to science]. February 2020. <https://www.xataka.com.mx/medicina-y-salud/usar-cubrebocas-mascarillas-n95-no-tiene-sentido-no-estas-contagiado-coronavirus-ciencia>

"The advice of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is unequivocal: Healthy people who do not work in the health sector and are not caring for an infected person at home do not need to wear a mask."

COUNTERCLAIM:

Everyone should wear mask when leaving home

Usar Mascarillas en Público: Lo Que Debe Saber [Wearing Masks in Public: What You Need to Know]. April 2020. <https://www.kqed.org/news/11812111/se-debe-o-no-usar-una-mascarilla-al-salir-de-la-casa-lea-esto-primero>

"A new guide from the state of California and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention now suggests that the population should actually wear some type of mask when leaving their homes to perform essential jobs or tasks, such as grocery shopping."

## **NPI Harmfulness [NPI-X is harmful]**

### **Masks [Wearing masks has X negative effect] (topic C318)**

X = causes Legionnaires' disease

Wearing masks causes Legionnaires' disease. September 8, 2020. <https://www.yahoo.com/lifestyle/4-covid-mask-myths-debunked-110000160.html>

X = infects the brain with COVID-19

Wearing a face mask will push the COVID-19 virus into your brain. Updated June 2020. <https://www.newsguardtech.com/covid-19-myths/>

X = interferes with a child's lung development

Masks interfere with a child's lung development. (NO DATE). <https://www.healthychildren.org/English/health-issues/conditions/COVID-19/Pages/Mask-Mythbusters.aspx>

COUNTERCLAIM:

No, wearing a face mask will not affect your child's lungs from developing normally. This is because oxygen flows through and around the mask, while blocking the spray of spit and respiratory droplets that may contain the virus. (NO DATE).

<https://www.healthychildren.org/English/health-issues/conditions/COVID-19/Pages/Mask-Mythbusters.aspx>

X = causes inhalation of toxins

Wearing a face mask will increase the wearer's risk of inhaling toxins. June 16, 2020. <https://www.ctvnews.ca/health/coronavirus/frightening-doctor-debunks-claims-that-wearing-a-face-mask-is-more-harmful-than-covid-19-1.4986734>

COUNTERCLAIM:

"...the suggestion that toxins released from the body are then re-inhaled because of the mask, Gorfinkel said that wouldn't happen because there is enough airflow around the masks, which allows the user to breathe in the first place."

In conclusion, because there is no risk of decreased oxygen levels and increased inhalation of carbon dioxide or toxins, mask-wearers' immune systems will not "shut down" as a result." June 16, 2020. <https://www.ctvnews.ca/health/coronavirus/frightening-doctor-debunks-claims-that-wearing-a-face-mask-is-more-harmful-than-covid-19-1.4986734>

X = harms or suppresses the immune system

Masks could "suppress" the body's immune system, leaving it open to infection. July 24, 2020. <https://www.bbc.com/news/53108405>

Claim: Masks harm the immune system. Verdict: No evidence to support this claim. July 24, 2020. <https://www.bbc.com/news/53108405>

COUNTERCLAIM:

There is absolutely no scientific evidence that mask wearing or physical distancing weakens the immune system. June 18, 2020. <https://www.lung.org/blog/covid-masks>

In conclusion, because there is no risk of decreased oxygen levels and increased inhalation of carbon dioxide or toxins, mask-wearers' immune systems will not "shut down" as a result." June 16, 2020. <https://www.ctvnews.ca/health/coronavirus/frightening-doctor-debunks-claims-that-wearing-a-face-mask-is-more-harmful-than-covid-19-1.4986734>

X = restricts breathing

Masks are dangerous for people with certain health conditions (COPD, asthma), as they may restrict breathing.

It is important to note that wearing a mask all day is safe and will not affect you child's ability to breath. August 14, 2020. <https://www.dcmedical.org/blog/august-2020/back-to-school-2020-covid19-health-considerations>

X = causes hypercapnia (increased carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) in the bloodstream)

Wearing a face mask can cause hypercapnia, a condition of too much carbon dioxide. Updated June 2020. <https://www.newsguardtech.com/covid-19-myths/>

CDC guideline claims cloth masks trap carbon dioxide, posing a health risk to the wearer. July 27, 2020. <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/factcheck/2020/07/27/fact-check-cdc-document-claiming-show-guidance-masks-fake/5486229002/>

Wearing a mask leads to "re-breathing your exhaled CO<sub>2</sub>". July 24, 2020. <https://www.bbc.com/news/53108405>

"It's not healthy to breathe in your own CO<sub>2</sub> all the time". July 24, 2020. <https://www.bbc.com/news/53108405>

There is some evidence, however, that prolonged use of N-95 masks in patients with preexisting lung disease could cause some build-up of carbon dioxide levels in the body. June 18, 2020. <https://www.lung.org/blog/covid-masks>

COUNTERCLAIM:

Claim: Masks can cause carbon dioxide poisoning Verdict: No evidence to support this claim. July 24, 2020. <https://www.bbc.com/news/53108405>

We've seen lots of posts alerting people to something called hypercapnia - where there's too much carbon dioxide in the blood. "This simply won't happen unless there is an air-tight fit and you rebreathe your air," says Prof Neal. July 24, 2020. <https://www.bbc.com/news/53108405>

The prolonged use of medical masks when properly worn, does not cause CO2 intoxication nor oxygen deficiency. July 24, 2020. <https://www.bbc.com/news/53108405>

X = causes hypoxia (low oxygen)

COUNTERCLAIM:

Do Masks Cause Low Oxygen Levels? Absolutely not. June 18, 2020. <https://www.lung.org/blog/covid-masks>

Claim: Masks deprive your body of oxygen Verdict: False claim. July 24, 2020. <https://www.bbc.com/news/53108405>

Thin paper or cloth masks will not lead to hypoxia. July 24, 2020. <https://www.bbc.com/news/53108405>

The prolonged use of medical masks when properly worn, does not cause CO2 intoxication nor oxygen deficiency. July 24, 2020. <https://www.bbc.com/news/53108405>

## Spanish-Language Claims

X = causes headaches

<https://headachejournal.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/head.13811>

<https://factual.afp.com/mascarillas-expertos-senalan-cuando-usarlas-y-por-que-no-son-un-peligro-para-la-salud>

COUNTERCLAIM:

Medical masks do not cause headaches (headaches are a result of the prolonged contact and pressure to areas of the face)

Mascarillas: expertos señalan cuándo usarlas y por qué no son un peligro para la salud [Masks: experts point out when to use them and why they are not a health hazard]. Updated September 21, 2021.

<https://factual.afp.com/mascarillas-expertos-senalan-cuando-usarlas-y-por-que-no-son-un-peligro-para-la-salud>

X = harms or suppresses the immune system

<https://perma.cc/H3W8-9B46?type=image>

Usar cubrebocas no representa un riesgo para la salud[Wearing a mask does not pose a health risk]. July 6, 2020.

<https://www.dallasnews.com/espanol/al-dia/dallas-fort-worth/2020/07/06/usar-cubrebocas-no-representa-un-riesgo-para-la-salud/>

“Face masks can lower your natural immunity because they cause your body to produce cortisol in response to stress due to reduced air flow and oxygen”

COUNTERCLAIM:

Mas wearing does not lower the immune system.

El estrés puede debilitar el sistema inmunológico, pero expertos descartan una relación con el uso de mascarillas [Stress can weaken the immune system, but experts rule out a link with the use of masks]. May 12, 2020. <https://factual.afp.com/el-estres-puede-debilitar-el-sistema-inmunologico-pero-expertos-descartan-una-relacion-con-el-uso-de>

Usar cubrebocas no representa un riesgo para la salud [Wearing a mask does not pose a health risk]. July 6, 2020. <https://www.dallasnews.com/espanol/al-dia/dallas-fort-worth/2020/07/06/usar-cubrebocas-no-representa-un-riesgo-para-la-salud/>

X = causes breathing problems

The elderly, patients with cancer and respiratory disease are at risk with masks

<https://perma.cc/Q8DP-MVGF?type=image>

COUNTERCLAIM:

Masks are not a risk to the elderly, cancer patients or people with respiratory disease (patients whose immune system is compromised should wear mask in public anyway).

Mascarillas: expertos señalan cuándo usarlas y por qué no son un peligro para la salud [Masks: experts point out when to use them and why they are not a health hazard]. Updated September 21, 2021.

<https://factual.afp.com/mascarillas-expertos-senalan-cuando-usarlas-y-por-que-no-son-un-peligro-para-la-salud>

X = causes hypercapnia (increased carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) in the bloodstream) and causes hypoxia (low oxygen)

People not infected with COVID-19 should not wear masks because of risk of hypoxia and hypercapnia

<https://perma.cc/Q8DP-MVGF?type=image>

<https://perma.cc/TEY6-C3KQ>

<https://perma.cc/S46E-ZBF9>

<https://maldita.es/malditaciencia/2020/11/10/mascarilla-respirar-co2-dioxido-carbono/>

““Several studies have found significant problems with the use of such a mask. This can range from headaches, to increased resistance of the respiratory tract, accumulation of carbon dioxide, to hypoxia ”

"While most agree that the N95 mask can cause significant hypoxia and hypercapnia, another study of surgical masks also found significant reductions in oxygen in the blood."

COUNTERCLAIM:

Mask wearing does not cause hypoxia or hypercapnia

Usar mascarillas no provoca falta de oxígeno [Wearing masks does not cause oxygen deprivation]. Updated March 30, 2021. <https://factual.afp.com/usar-mascarillas-no-provoca-falta-de-oxigeno>

Usar cubrebocas no representa un riesgo para la salud [Wearing a mask does not pose a health risk]. July 6, 2020. <https://www.dallasnews.com/espanol/al-dia/dallas-fort-worth/2020/07/06/usar-cubrebocas-no-representa-un-riesgo-para-la-salud/>

X = increases probability of a positive PCR test result

<https://perma.cc/48NU-8HAV?type=image>

COUNTERCLAIM:

Greater use of mask does not increase the probability of a positive PCR test result.

Por qué llevar mascarilla no aumenta la probabilidad de dar positivo en una prueba PCR [Why Wearing a Mask Doesn't Increase the Chance of a Positive PCR Test]. February 18, 2021.

<https://maldita.es/malditaciencia/2020/08/21/mascarilla-no-aumenta-probabilidad-dar-positivo-prueba-pcr/>

X = increases risk of cancer (because surgical masks are sterilized with Teflon)

Las afirmaciones falsas de la imagen viral que dice que las mascarillas quirúrgicas usan productos como el teflón que provocan cáncer [False Viral Image Claims That Surgical Masks Use Products Like Teflon That Cause Cancer]. May 14, 2021. <https://maldita.es/malditaciencia/2020/11/12/mascarillas-quirurgicas-cancer-teflon-oxido-etileno-ptfe/>

COUNTERCLAIM:

Las afirmaciones falsas de la imagen viral que dice que las mascarillas quirúrgicas usan productos como el teflón que provocan cáncer [False Viral Image Claims That Surgical Masks Use Products Like Teflon That Cause Cancer]. May 14, 2021.

<https://maldita.es/malditaciencia/2020/11/12/mascarillas-quirurgicas-cancer-teflon-oxido-etileno-ptfe/>

## Russian-Language Claims

X = causes hypercapnia (increased carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) in the bloodstream) and causes hypoxia (low oxygen)

Bigtree claims that masks are toxic to children, as large amounts of carbon dioxide accumulate underneath. July 20, 2020. <https://factcheck.kz/v-mire/feik-maski-vzyvayut-otravlenie-detej-so2/>

COUNTERCLAIM:

Fake: Masks cause CO<sub>2</sub> poisoning in children. July 20, 2020. <https://factcheck.kz/v-mire/feik-maski-vzyvayut-otravlenie-detej-so2/>

StopFake.org, citing a foreign exposure, explained that the video is manipulative, and the statement about the dangers of masks is fake. July 20, 2020. <https://factcheck.kz/v-mire/feik-maski-vzyvayut-otravlenie-detej-so2/>

Wearing masks does not lead to CO<sub>2</sub> intoxication and oxygen deficiency. July 17, 2020.

<https://www.stopfake.org/ru/feik-maski-vzyvayut-otravlenie-so2-i-vavlyayutsya-toksichnymi-dlya-detej/>



## Origin of the Virus

### Animals associated with the origin of the virus [Animal-X is associated/involved with the origin of COVID-19]

This topic is about animals identified with COVID-19 origin and/or related to its spread to the human population.

#### English-Language Claims

X = animals

COVID-19 might have jumped from animals to humans. Updated June 2020.

<https://www.newsguardtech.com/covid-19-myths/>

X = pangolins

Missing link in coronavirus jump from bats to humans could be pangolins, not snakes. March 26, 2020. <https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2020/03/200326144342.htm>

scaly, anteater-like animals called pangolins are the missing link for SARS-CoV-2 transmission between bats and humans. March 26, 2020. <https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2020/03/200326144342.htm>

X = bats

A bat-infected animal -- perhaps a pangolin -- infected the first human. April 6, 2020.

<https://www.cnn.com/2020/04/06/us/coronavirus-scientists-debate-origin-theories-invs/index.html>

Video of woman eating whole bat emerges as scientists link coronavirus to the flying mammals. January 25, 2020. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oZsFHU-AaGQ>

No, Coronavirus Was Not Caused by 'Bat Soup'. June 26, 2020. <https://www.health.com/condition/infectious-diseases/coronavirus-bat-soup>

X = snakes

some scientists suspect snakes may be the source of the outbreak. <https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/covid-19/background.html>

X = dogs

New study suggests COVID-19 hopped from dogs to humans. April 14, 2020.

<https://www.livescience.com/did-coronavirus-evolve-in-dogs-after-bats.html>

X = bats and dogs

The novel coronavirus likely originated in bats, but the pathogen may have then hopped into dogs before infecting humans, a new study suggests. April 14, 2020. <https://www.livescience.com/did-coronavirus-evolve-in-dogs-after-bats.html>

X = fish, shellfish, wildlife, snakes, birds and several different types of meat and carcasses sold at the Huanan Seafood market

A third – 66% of the cases – had direct exposure to the Huanan Seafood market. Fish, shellfish, wildlife, snakes, birds and several different types of meat and carcasses were sold at this market. ...The strongest speculation has been that the virus is somehow linked to the market given two thirds of the first batch of people infected had had ties with it. March 12, 2020. <https://theconversation.com/scientists-are-still-searching-for-the-source-of-covid-19-why-it-matters-133467>

### **Russian-Language Claims**

X = pangolins

It is very similar to the coronaviruses from Southeast Asia and the virus we found in pangolins in China. April 2, 2020. <https://www.golos-ameriki.ru/a/margo-gontar-perlman-interview/5357236.html>

X = snakes

The snakes are to blame: the source of the Chinese coronavirus found. January 23, 2020. [https://www.gazeta.ru/science/2020/01/23\\_a\\_12923420.shtml](https://www.gazeta.ru/science/2020/01/23_a_12923420.shtml)

X = bats and snakes

A new type of coronavirus from China, which has stirred up the global community in recent weeks, could be transmitted to humans from a snake that ate an infected bat. January 17, 2020. <https://naked-science.ru/article/sci/uchenye-opredelili-vozmozhnyj-pervoistochnik-koronavirusa-2019-ncov>

X = dogs

SARS-COV-2 may have evolved in dogs prior to transmission to humans. April 16, 2020. <https://scinquisitor.livejournal.com/174724.html>

### **Where the virus originated [SARS-CoV-2 originated in place-X] (topic C324)**

*This template is intentionally vague, to cover ambiguous claims where it's not clear if the agent is the creator, the first location the virus occurred, or the spreader/initiator of the outbreak, or some combination of those.*

### **English-Language Claims**

X = USA

The People's Daily published a report Feb. 23 quoting a Japanese press report that said the virus originated in the United States and spread in Wuhan during the military world games held in Wuhan last October. That triggered social media posts in China suggesting the virus was a CIA bioweapon. March 5, 2020. <https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2020/mar/4/cia-targeted-in-virus-disinformation-campaign/>

“Many in China believe and spread the rumor that the U.S. launched the virus as a biological bomb through the Military World Games, which were held in Wuhan on Oct. 18 to 27,” Mr. Yang said in a public letter to Vice President Mike Pence. March 5, 2020. <https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2020/mar/4/cia-targeted-in-virus-disinformation-campaign/>

The Washington Times first reported in late January that China's tightly controlled social media was floating rumors that the Wuhan virus was a U.S. biological weapon. March 5, 2020.

<https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2020/mar/4/cia-targeted-in-virus-disinformation-campaign/>

COUNTERCLAIM:

Chinese state-run media outlets are increasingly been promoting a new disinformation theory that the virus originated in the U.S., reports that have prompted rumors spreading throughout China and Asia that the CIA was behind the outbreak. March 5, 2020.

<https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2020/mar/4/cia-targeted-in-virus-disinformation-campaign/>

Chinese dissident Yang Jianli, president of Citizen Power Initiatives for China, said Chinese government is behind the disinformation campaign about the U.S. origin of the pandemic.

March 5, 2020. <https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2020/mar/4/cia-targeted-in-virus-disinformation-campaign/>

The Trump administration also has uncovered Russian disinformation being spread on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram linking the virus to the United States. March 5, 2020.

<https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2020/mar/4/cia-targeted-in-virus-disinformation-campaign/>

Image for X = USA



Tweet from Lijian Zhao

(<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-52224331>)

## Russian-Language Claims

X = U.S.

The first false theory was that U.S. military personnel brought the coronavirus to Wuhan during the World War Games October 8-27, 2019. April 8, 2020. <https://communalnews.com/ru/фальшивые-новости-предупреждают%2C-что-в-новой-пропагандистской-кампании-в-России-и-Китае-обвиняют-Великобританию-в-разработке-корон%D0/>

(EN: <https://communalnews.com/fake-news-alert-new-russia-and-china-propaganda-campaign-blaming-uk-for-coronavirus-design/>)

Since March 16, Russian Channel 1 has been actively spreading the false narrative of the coronavirus being brought to China by the US. March 18, 2020. <https://communalnews.com/ru/fake-news-how-the-kremlin-aids->

[china-in-spreading-false-narrative-about-us-bringing-coronavirus-to-china/](https://communalnews.com/fake-news-how-the-kremlin-aids-china-in-spreading-false-narrative-about-us-bringing-coronavirus-to-china/) (EN: <https://communalnews.com/fake-news-how-the-kremlin-aids-china-in-spreading-false-narrative-about-us-bringing-coronavirus-to-china/>)

Russia even aided in creating a time frame of how COVID-19 was brought to China by the US. March 18, 2020. <https://communalnews.com/ru/fake-news-how-the-kremlin-aids-china-in-spreading-false-narrative-about-us-bringing-coronavirus-to-china/> (EN: <https://communalnews.com/fake-news-how-the-kremlin-aids-china-in-spreading-false-narrative-about-us-bringing-coronavirus-to-china/>)

September 2019: US is hit with the wave of pneumonia, which resulted in death. According to US specialists the cause was vaping. Nevertheless, Taiwanese doctors claim the cause is coronavirus. March 18, 2020. <https://communalnews.com/ru/fake-news-how-the-kremlin-aids-china-in-spreading-false-narrative-about-us-bringing-coronavirus-to-china/> (EN: <https://communalnews.com/fake-news-how-the-kremlin-aids-china-in-spreading-false-narrative-about-us-bringing-coronavirus-to-china/>)

## **Where the virus first occurred [The first case of COVID-19 occurred in location-X] (topic C326)**

*This template would accommodate natural origins and capture claims that conflict on the location facet.*

X = Wuhan

the most likely culprit: a so-called wet market in Wuhan. April 6, 2020.  
<https://www.cnn.com/2020/04/06/us/coronavirus-scientists-debate-origin-theories-invs/index.html>

X = Hawaii

There was a case in September 2019 when a group of Japanese went to Hawaii. They returned home infected [with the coronavirus]. They have never been to China. March 14, 2020.  
<https://euvsdisinfo.eu/report/americans-were-ill-with-coronavirus-in-september-2019-and-hid-it/>

## **When the outbreak originated [the first case of the outbreak occurred on date-X] (topic C327)**

### **English-Language Claims**

X = September 2019

There was a case in September 2019 when a group of Japanese went to Hawaii. They returned home infected [with the coronavirus]. They have never been to China. March 14, 2020.  
<https://euvsdisinfo.eu/report/americans-were-ill-with-coronavirus-in-september-2019-and-hid-it/>

The novel coronavirus was circulating in Italy as early as September 2019.. That means the coronavirus may have spread beyond China months earlier than scientists originally believed. Nov 16, 2020. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-italy-timing/coronavirus-emerged-in-italy-earlier-than-thought-italian-study-shows-idUSKBN27VOKF>

X = September 18, 2019

One group put the origin of the outbreak as early as 18 September 2019. January 31, 2020.  
<https://science.sciencemag.org/content/367/6477/492.full>

X = mid-November 2019

the virus began to spread around mid-November 2019. January 31, 2020.

<https://science.sciencemag.org/content/367/6477/492.full>

X = December 2019

SARS-CoV-2 infections may have been present in the U.S. in December 2019, earlier than previously recognized. November 30, 2020. <https://academic.oup.com/cid/advance-article/doi/10.1093/cid/ciaa1785/6012472>

X = December 12, 2019

Here we report the identification and characterization of a new coronavirus (2019-nCoV), which caused an epidemic of acute respiratory syndrome in humans in Wuhan, China. The epidemic, which started on 12 December 2019. February 3, 2020. <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41586-020-2012-7>

## Russian-Language Claims

X = September 2019

September 2019: US is hit with the wave of pneumonia, which resulted in death. According to US specialists the cause was vaping. Nevertheless, Taiwanese doctors claim the cause is coronavirus. March 18, 2020. <https://communalnews.com/ru/fake-news-how-the-kremlin-aids-china-in-spreading-false-narrative-about-us-bringing-coronavirus-to-china/> (EN: <https://communalnews.com/fake-news-how-the-kremlin-aids-china-in-spreading-false-narrative-about-us-bringing-coronavirus-to-china/> )

X = before October 8, 2019

The first false theory was that U.S. military personnel brought the coronavirus to Wuhan during the World War Games October 8-27, 2019. April 8, 2020. <https://communalnews.com/ru/фальшивые-новости-предупреждают%2C-что-в-новой-пропагандистской-кампании-в-России-и-Китае-обвиняют-Великобританию-в-разработке-корон%D0/> (EN: <https://communalnews.com/fake-news-alert-new-russia-and-china-propaganda-campaign-blaming-uk-for-coronavirus-design/>)

X = November 2019

There is evidence that one of the American doctors contracted the coronavirus back in November 2019. April 12, 2020. <https://www.business-gazeta.ru/article/464732>

## Virus Creation

This topic presupposes that the virus was engineered. Some people counter claims about who engineered it by asserting that the virus was not engineered. For the core claim that the virus was engineered, see the above section, **Origins of the Virus**.

For other closely related claim templates see the following sections:

- **Who funded the creation of the virus** [X funded SARS-CoV-2 development]
- **Where the virus originated** [SARS-CoV-2 originated in place-X]
- **Where the virus was engineered/created** [SARS-CoV-2 was created in location/GPE/org/facility-X]

## Who created the virus [X created SARS-CoV-2] (topic C322)

### English-Language Claims

X = French Pasteur Institute

The French Pasteur Institute patented the virus. Updated June 2020. <https://www.newsguardtech.com/covid-19-myths/#pasteur>

#### COUNTERCLAIM:

MYTH: The French Pasteur Institute patented the virus. Updated June 2020.

<https://www.newsguardtech.com/covid-19-myths/#pasteur>

The Pasteur Institute, a French research foundation, did not invent or patent the COVID-19 virus. Updated June 2020. <https://www.newsguardtech.com/covid-19-myths/#pasteur>

NO, the Institut Pasteur did not create the SARS-CoV-2 virus and release it in the city of Wuhan to cause the pandemic and implicate the Chinese authorities. October 22, 2020.

<https://www.pasteur.fr/en/home/research-journal/news/coronavirus-institut-pasteur-warns-against-false-information-circulating-social-media>

The Institut Pasteur did not invent Covid-19 or the virus responsible for it, SARS-CoV-2! October 22, 2020. <https://www.pasteur.fr/en/home/research-journal/news/coronavirus-institut-pasteur-warns-against-false-information-circulating-social-media>

Based on a misinterpretation of a patent, several videos accuse the Institut Pasteur of creating the #Coronavirus. October 22, 2020. <https://www.pasteur.fr/en/home/research-journal/news/coronavirus-institut-pasteur-warns-against-false-information-circulating-social-media>

X = University of North Carolina (or a scientist at UNC)

The COVID-19 virus was engineered in a laboratory at the University of North Carolina. February 22, 2020. <https://www.newsguardtech.com/covid-19-myths/#carolina>

Radio host Olson reported on his site that he was “First to reveal the links to the ‘gain of function’ coronavirus study by Dr. Ralph Baric at the University of North Carolina.” Updated June 2020.

<https://www.newsguardtech.com/covid-19-myths/#carolina>

COVID-19: Born in North Carolina, Sold to Wuhan Lab, Optimized for Pandemic Spread. January 13, 2020. <http://www.shadolsonshow.com/2020/02/22/covid-19-born-in-north-carolina-sold-to-wuhan-lab-optimized-for-pandemic-spread/>

Emerging evidence strongly suggests a research collaboration between a North Carolina scientist and two Wuhan, Chinese microbiologists is the smoking gun in the creation and release of the COVID-19 superbug. January 13, 2020. <http://www.shadolsonshow.com/2020/02/22/covid-19-born-in-north-carolina-sold-to-wuhan-lab-optimized-for-pandemic-spread/>

#### COUNTERCLAIM:

MYTH: The COVID-19 virus was engineered in a laboratory at the University of North Carolina.

Updated June 2020. <https://www.newsguardtech.com/covid-19-myths/#carolina>

X = CIA

*Note: For vague claims about the United States being “the origin” of the virus (which could mean the US is the creator or where the virus first emerged), see the section, Where the virus originated [SARS-CoV-2 originated in place-X]*

Some accounts have falsely claimed the US is waging “economic war on China” and that the virus is a biological weapon manufactured by the CIA.<sup>13</sup> February 22, 2020.

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/feb/22/coronavirus-russia-disinformation-campaign-us-officials>

On 22 February, US officials alleged that Russia is behind an ongoing disinformation campaign, using thousands of social media accounts on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram to deliberately promote unfounded conspiracy theories, claiming the virus is a biological weapon manufactured by the CIA and the US is waging economic war on China using the virus. <https://protectioncivile-paris17.org/b9yik/laboratoire-covid-78-74de78>

That triggered social media posts in China suggesting the virus was a CIA bioweapon. March 4, 2020.

<https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2020/mar/4/cia-targeted-in-virus-disinformation-campaign/>

According to London-based The Economist, plenty of conspiracy theories exist on China's internet about COVID-19 being the CIA's creation to keep China down.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Misinformation\\_related\\_to\\_the\\_COVID-19\\_pandemic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Misinformation_related_to_the_COVID-19_pandemic)

COUNTERCLAIM:

The agency vehemently denies the charge. March 4, 2020.

<https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2020/mar/4/cia-targeted-in-virus-disinformation-campaign/>

“The CIA does not comment on such outlandish and offensive misinformation,” said CIA Press Secretary Timothy L. Barrett. March 4, 2020.

<https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2020/mar/4/cia-targeted-in-virus-disinformation-campaign/>

X = Porton Down laboratory, UK

In UK the Porton Down laboratory, a quite well known organisation which has been dealing with chemical and biological weapons for a long time has said they already have the vaccine. According to media, they have patented it already one year ago!...Probably they put something also over the city of Wuhan, Hubei province, for example, on the door handle of the subway. February 10, 2020.

<https://euvsdisinfo.eu/report/coronavirus-was-created-on-purpose-probably-by-the-same-lab-which-poisoned-the-skrripals>

COUNTERCLAIM:

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<sup>13</sup> In this document, claims that the CIA was “behind” the outbreak are not being grouped with claims that they are the creator of the virus, e.g., “But Chinese state-run media outlets are increasingly been promoting a new disinformation theory that the virus originated in the U.S., reports that have prompted rumors spreading throughout China and Asia that the CIA was behind the outbreak.”

<https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2020/mar/4/cia-targeted-in-virus-disinformation-campaign/>

The statement has no supporting evidence and is another example of conspiracy narratives on a plot against China, profitable to the US; on the UK which invented coronavirus. February 10, 2020. <https://euvsdisinfo.eu/report/coronavirus-was-created-on-purpose-probably-by-the-same-lab-which-poisoned-the-skrripals>

X = China

Coronavirus may have originated in lab linked to China's biowarfare program. January 26, 2020. <https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2020/jan/26/coronavirus-link-to-china-biowarfare-program-poss/>

The deadly animal-borne coronavirus spreading globally may have originated in a laboratory in the city of Wuhan linked to China's covert biological weapons program, said an Israeli biological warfare analyst. January 26, 2020. <https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2020/jan/26/coronavirus-link-to-china-biowarfare-program-poss/>

COUNTERCLAIM:

China has denied having any offensive biological weapons, but a State Department report last year revealed suspicions of covert biological warfare work. January 26, 2020. <https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2020/jan/26/coronavirus-link-to-china-biowarfare-program-poss/>

The Chinese government and major Western publications have dismissed theories that the virus could be linked to the Wuhan center. March 5, 2020. <https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2020/mar/4/cia-targeted-in-virus-disinformation-campaign/>

Chinese authorities said they do not know the origin of the coronavirus, which has killed at least 80 and infected thousands. January 26, 2020. <https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2020/jan/26/coronavirus-link-to-china-biowarfare-program-poss/>

Experts debunk fringe theory linking China's coronavirus to weapons research. January 29, 2020. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2020/01/29/experts-debunk-fringe-theory-linking-chinas-coronavirus-weapons-research/>

X = {Bill Gates Foundation, Bill Gates}

BILL GATES FOUNDATION MANUFACTURED WUHAN CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK. February 4, 2020. <https://euvsdisinfo.eu/report/bill-gates-foundation-manufacture-wuhan-coronavirus-outbreak-by-funding-both-the-creation-of-the-virus-and-the-vaccine/>

COUNTERCLAIM:

DISINFO: BILL GATES FOUNDATION MANUFACTURED WUHAN CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK. February 4, 2020. <https://euvsdisinfo.eu/report/bill-gates-foundation-manufacture-wuhan-coronavirus-outbreak-by-funding-both-the-creation-of-the-virus-and-the-vaccine/>



Recurring disinfo narrative claiming that the virus COVID 19 is a human creation, and accusing the Bill Gates Foundation of sponsoring it. February 4, 2020. <https://euvsdisinfo.eu/report/bill-gates-foundation-manufacture-wuhan-coronavirus-outbreak-by-funding-both-the-creation-of-the-virus-and-the-vaccine/>

False: The coronavirus is not designed, Bill Gates did not patent COVID-19 and there is still no vaccine. [This used to be the headline at <https://www.reuters.com/article/uk-factcheck-gates/fact-check-bill-gates-is-not-responsible-for-covid-19-idUSKBN2613CK> . It has since changed, presumably because now there is a vaccine.]

Fact check: Bill Gates is not responsible for COVID-19. September 10, 2020. <https://www.reuters.com/article/uk-factcheck-gates/fact-check-bill-gates-is-not-responsible-for-covid-19-idUSKBN2613CK>

Another conspiracy theory falsely accuses Gates and his foundation of assisting in the design of a coronavirus. September 10, 2020. <https://www.reuters.com/article/uk-factcheck-gates/fact-check-bill-gates-is-not-responsible-for-covid-19-idUSKBN2613CK>

False. There is no evidence that the COVID-19 pandemic was deliberately planned or that Bill Gates has any links with such a plan. September 10, 2020. <https://www.reuters.com/article/uk-factcheck-gates/fact-check-bill-gates-is-not-responsible-for-covid-19-idUSKBN2613CK>

Image for X = {Bill Gates Foundation, Bill Gates}



Image appearing in fact checking article from Reuters (<https://www.reuters.com/article/uk-factcheck-gates/fact-check-bill-gates-is-not-responsible-for-covid-19-idUSKBN2613CK>)

X = Bill Gates and George Soros

BILL GATES AND GEORGE SOROS ARE TO BLAME FOR THE ARTIFICIALLY CREATED CORONAVIRUS. March 24, 2020. <https://euvsdisinfo.eu/report/bill-gates-and-george-soros-are-to-blame-for-the-artificially-created-coronavirus/>

COUNTERCLAIM:

DISINFO: BILL GATES AND GEORGE SOROS ARE TO BLAME FOR THE ARTIFICIALLY CREATED CORONAVIRUS. March 24, 2020. <https://euvsdisinfo.eu/report/bill-gates-and-george-soros-are-to-blame-for-the-artificially-created-coronavirus/>

X = Bill Gates and George Soros and the Deep State

DISINFO: COVID-19 IS A BIOLOGICAL WEAPON CREATED BY BILL GATES, GEORGE SOROS AND THE “DEEP STATE”. April 13, 2020. <https://euvsdisinfo.eu/report/covid-19-is-a-biological-weapon-of-artificial-origin-created-by-bill-gates-george-soros-and-the-deep-state/>

COVID-19 is, of course, a biological weapon. It has an artificial origin, like this information wave raised around it. And the creators are supposedly the former head of Microsoft, one of the richest people on the planet, Bill Gates, and the so-called benefactor George Soros. In addition, the “Deep state”, with its centre in London is closely connected with these two. The “headquarter” of this game is located in the British Salisbury. April 13, 2020. <https://euvsdisinfo.eu/report/covid-19-is-a-biological-weapon-of-artificial-origin-created-by-bill-gates-george-soros-and-the-deep-state/>

X = Bill Gates, George Soros, and Rockefeller

A Peruvian criminal court recently issued an order accusing Bill Gates, George Soros and the Rockefeller family of creating the COVID-19 virus. January 28, 2021.

<https://latinoamerica21.com/en/conspiracy-theories-in-latin-america/>

Peruvian court rules that Bill Gates, George Soros and Rockefeller family “created” coronavirus pandemic. January 29, 2021. <https://www.naturalnews.com/2021-01-29-bill-gates-george-soros-rockefeller-family-coronavirus.html>

COUNTERCLAIM:

Fact Check: Despite Peruvian Court Declaration, There Is NO Evidence Soros, Gates and Rockefeller Created COVID-19. <https://leadstories.com/hoax-alert/2021/01/fact-check-despite-peruvian-court-ruling-there-is-no-evidence-soros-gates-and-rockefeller-created-covid-19.html>

X = Bill Gates Foundation, Rothschild Vanguard & Blackrock ChiCom

Bill Gates Foundation, Rothschild Vanguard & Blackrock ChiCom manufactured the Wuhan Coronavirus outbreak by funding both the creation of the virus and the vaccine. February 4, 2020. <https://euvsdisinfo.eu/report/bill-gates-foundation-manufacture-wuhan-coronavirus-outbreak-by-funding-both-the-creation-of-the-virus-and-the-vaccine/>

COUNTERCLAIM:

DISINFO: BILL GATES FOUNDATION MANUFACTURED WUHAN CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK.

February 4, 2020. <https://euvsdisinfo.eu/report/bill-gates-foundation-manufacture-wuhan-coronavirus-outbreak-by-funding-both-the-creation-of-the-virus-and-the-vaccine/>

### Spanish-Language Claims

X = French Pasteur Institute

<https://twitter.com/afpfactual/status/1241076111485870084?lang=en>

“The coronavirus was created by the Pasteur Institute?”

COUNTERCLAIM:

El nuevo coronavirus no fue patentado por el Instituto Pasteur [The new coronavirus was not patented by the Pasteur Institute]. March 20, 2020.

[https://factual.afp.com/el-nuevo-coronavirus-no-fue-patentado-por-el-instituto-pasteur?fbclid=IwAR093WVG7QbdSJJZ5JwQZs\\_SDQXYL5e7RSv0TRJknu3B0d5DMYBH0znMZc5g](https://factual.afp.com/el-nuevo-coronavirus-no-fue-patentado-por-el-instituto-pasteur?fbclid=IwAR093WVG7QbdSJJZ5JwQZs_SDQXYL5e7RSv0TRJknu3B0d5DMYBH0znMZc5g)

“In this post I give you information and the sources of the origin of COVID-19, which has existed since 2003, an international legal patent that proves that it was created by people with knowledge of chemical weapons. The document in question contains 300 pages, since it is all a scientific work carried out and it even has its vaccine at the Pasteur Institute in France.”

X = United States

Teóricos de la conspiración sobre el Coronavirus SARS – CoV-2 [Conspiracy Theorists About Coronavirus SARS - CoV-2]. May 23, 2020. <https://www.radiotemblor.org/teoricos-de-la-conspiracion-sobre-el-coronavirus-sars-cov-2/>

“The journalist Patricio Montesino (Spanish), developed the theory that SARS-CoV-2 could have been created by the United States as a “bacteriological weapon, from the trade war unleashed by Washington against China.”

X = University of North Carolina (or a scientist at UNC)

¿Ha sido el coronavirus creado en un laboratorio? La respuesta corta es no [Was the coronavirus created in a laboratory? The short answer is no]. March 10, 2020.

[https://www.elconfidencial.com/tecnologia/ciencia/2020-03-10/coronavirus-conspiraciones-creado-laboratorio\\_2485751/](https://www.elconfidencial.com/tecnologia/ciencia/2020-03-10/coronavirus-conspiraciones-creado-laboratorio_2485751/)

“...researchers at the University of North Carolina (USA) created a chimeric coronavirus by mixing the bat SHC014 gene with the base of a SARS adapted to infect mice.”

Verdades, rumores y mentiras sobre el origen del coronavirus: lo que sabe la ciencia [Truths, rumors and lies about the origin of the coronavirus: what science knows]. April 1, 2020.

<https://www.bbvaopenmind.com/ciencia/investigacion/verdades-rumores-mentiras-origen-del-coronavirus-que-sabe-la-ciencia/>

“Conspiracy theories about the coronavirus revolve around a 2015 study. A team of researchers led by the University of North Carolina published in Nature Medicine the modification of a

Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) coronavirus adapted to mice whose Spike (S) protein, the key the virus uses to infect cells, had been replaced by its equivalent of a Chinese bat coronavirus called SHC014. The resulting chimeric virus had pathogenic potential for humans, which is why the study received serious criticism. Scientists from the Wuhan Institute of Virology, one of the two centers in this city that work with bat coronavirus, participated in the project.”

ORIGEN DEL CORONAVIRUS: ¿MURCIÉLAGO O ERRO DE LABORATÓRIO? [ORIGIN OF THE CORONAVIRUS: BAT OR LAB MISTAKE?]. (NO DATE). <https://www.cromtek.cl/2020/08/26/origen-del-coronavirus-murcielago-o-error-de-laboratorio/>

“The Australian media “Saturday Telegraph” has also refuted the theory that this was a secret project in China, reporting how Shi Zhengli, director of the Wuhan Virology Center, has been working on coronaviruses from bats for 15 years and that in this project they collaborated with the animal health laboratory of the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization CSIRO, in Australia, and with the University of North Carolina, in the United States.”

X = Bill Gates, George Soros, and Rockefeller

Bill Gates responde a las teorías conspirativas que lo acusan de la propagación del coronavirus [Bill Gates responds to conspiracy theories accusing him of the spread of the coronavirus]. July 24, 2020. <https://actualidad.rt.com/actualidad/360956-bill-gates-responde-personas-teorias-conspirativas>

Un tribunal peruano acusa a Bill Gates, Soros y Rockefeller de crear la COVID-19 [A Peruvian court accuses Bill Gates, Soros and Rockefeller of creating COVID-19]. January 12, 2021. <https://www.20minutos.es/noticia/4539664/0/un-tribunal-peruano-acusa-a-bill-gates-soros-y-rockefeller-de-crear-la-covid-19/>

X = Chinese Communist Party

Las mentiras de la viróloga china sobre el origen del coronavirus [The lies of the Chinese virologist about the origin of the coronavirus]. August 19, 2020. <https://www.semana.com/vida-moderna/multimedia/las-mentiras-de-la-virologa-china-sobre-el-origen-del-coronavirus/695436/>

"There are those who point out that it is a human creation for military purpose, such as the Hong Kong virologist Li Meng Yan, who fled to the United States after denouncing that the coronavirus was prepared by the Chinese Communist Party and that “the Wuhan market is only a costume”."

X = Raúl Rodolfo Abhduz Khan

Teóricos de la conspiración sobre el Coronavirus SARS – CoV-2 [Conspiracy Theorists About Coronavirus SARS - CoV-2]. May 23, 2020. <https://www.radiotemblor.org/teoricos-de-la-conspiracion-sobre-el-coronavirus-sars-cov-2/>

“The name of the “creator of the coronavirus” is Raúl Rodolfo Abhduz Khan, who is supposedly a “biochemical engineer at Karmalah Laboratories.” The person who appears in the publication is the Spanish YouTuber Raúl Álvarez, better known as AuronPlay.”

No, Raúl Rodolfo Abhuz Khan no creó el coronavirus [No, Raúl Rodolfo Abhuz Khan did not create the coronavirus]. February 11, 2020. <https://colombiacheck.com/chequeos/no-raul-rodolfo-abhuz-khan-no-creo-el-coronavirus>

"The image of youtuber Auronplay was used in a screenshot that is being used in misinformation to "denounce" the "multimillion dollar pharmaceutical business" behind the coronavirus."

La persona en la foto es el youtuber español AuronPlay y no "creó" el nuevo coronavirus [The person in the photo is the Spanish youtuber AuronPlay and did not "create" the new coronavirus]. February 4, 2020. <https://factual.afp.com/la-persona-en-la-foto-es-el-youtuber-espanol-auronplay-y-no-creo-el-nuevo-coronavirus>

"An apparent screenshot with the photo of a man and the logo of the US news network CNN began to circulate since last January 27 stating that it is the "creator of the coronavirus." The claim is false: it is the Spanish youtuber known as AuronPlay, who has already been the target of other misinformation. The AFP also found no records of the biochemist "Raúl Rodolfo Abhuz Khan.""

### Russian-Language Claims

X = Zionists

Zionists created the coronavirus in order to start a war against Iran. March 10, 2020. <https://grimnir74.livejournal.com/12470494.html>

X = United States

Amaryan recalled that there is every reason to consider the suspicions of the Chinese, who accused the United States of developing the pathogen of COVID-19, as justified. He noted that many experts already testify that the Americans not only developed COVID-19, but also officially patented the new virus in 2015. April 10, 2020. <https://rossaprimavera.ru/news/337eae8>

X = Putin

Putin wants to annex Italy, which is why he created coronavirus. March 23, 2020. <https://twitter.com/probudnist/status/1242032238595846144>

X = UK

Fake News Alert - New Russia and China propaganda campaign accuses UK of developing coronavirus. April 8, 2020. <https://communalnews.com/ru/фальшивые-новости-предупреждают%2C-что-в-новой-пропагандистской-кампании-в-России-и-Китае-обвиняют-Великобританию-в-разработке-корон%D0/> (EN: <https://communalnews.com/fake-news-alert-new-russia-and-china-propaganda-campaign-blaming-uk-for-coronavirus-design/> )

X = Pirbright Institute

On June 19, the British government-funded Pirbright Institute filed a patent for the coronavirus, which was approved on November 20, 2018 by the European Patent Office under the number EP3172319A1. The Institute is co-sponsored by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. January 28, 2020. [http://zavtra.ru/events/razrabotku\\_koronavirusa\\_sponiroval\\_fond\\_bill\\_i\\_melindi\\_gejts](http://zavtra.ru/events/razrabotku_koronavirusa_sponiroval_fond_bill_i_melindi_gejts)

## Who funded the creation of the virus [X funded SARS-CoV-2 development]

### English-Language Claims

X = Bill Gates

A group funded by Bill Gates patented the COVID-19 virus. Updated 2020.

<https://www.newsguardtech.com/covid-19-myths/>

X = George Soros

George Soros owns a lab in Wuhan where the coronavirus was created. Updated 2020.

<https://www.newsguardtech.com/covid-19-myths/>

### Russian-Language Claims

X = Bill Gates, Australia and Canada

experiments to test a new bio-weapon were conducted in the UK (including at Cambridge University), where they were funded by the Bill Gates Foundation, as well as in Australia and Canada. <https://www.business-gazeta.ru/article/464732>

X = Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Sponsored Coronavirus Development. January 28, 2020.

[http://zavtra.ru/events/razrabotku\\_koronavirusa\\_sponsiroval\\_fond\\_bill\\_i\\_melindi\\_geits](http://zavtra.ru/events/razrabotku_koronavirusa_sponsiroval_fond_bill_i_melindi_geits)

The coronavirus currently spreading in China is not of natural origin. The development of such a virus was funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, writes publicist Ernst Fleischman for the Anonymous News portal. January 28, 2020.

[http://zavtra.ru/events/razrabotku\\_koronavirusa\\_sponsiroval\\_fond\\_bill\\_i\\_melindi\\_geits](http://zavtra.ru/events/razrabotku_koronavirusa_sponsiroval_fond_bill_i_melindi_geits)

On June 19, the British government-funded Pirbright Institute filed a patent for the coronavirus, which was approved on November 20, 2018 by the European Patent Office under the number EP3172319A1. The Institute is co-sponsored by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. January 28, 2020. [http://zavtra.ru/events/razrabotku\\_koronavirusa\\_sponsiroval\\_fond\\_bill\\_i\\_melindi\\_geits](http://zavtra.ru/events/razrabotku_koronavirusa_sponsiroval_fond_bill_i_melindi_geits)

## Where the virus was engineered/created [SARS-CoV-2 was created in location/GPE/org/facility-X] (topic C325)

### English-Language Claims

X = laboratory at the University of North Carolina

The COVID-19 virus was engineered in a laboratory at the University of North Carolina. February 22, 2020. <https://www.newsguardtech.com/covid-19-myths/#carolina>

COVID-19: Born in North Carolina, Sold to Wuhan Lab, Optimized for Pandemic Spread. January 13, 2020. <http://www.shadolsonshow.com/2020/02/22/covid-19-born-in-north-carolina-sold-to-wuhan-lab-optimized-for-pandemic-spread/>

### COUNTERCLAIM:

MYTH: The COVID-19 virus was engineered in a laboratory at the University of North Carolina. Updated June 2020. <https://www.newsguardtech.com/covid-19-myths/#carolina>

X = {China's biowarfare lab , China's P4 Lab , Wuhan Institute of Virology (WIV) }

Coronavirus may have originated in lab linked to China's biowarfare program. January 26, 2020. <https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2020/jan/26/coronavirus-link-to-china-biowarfare-program-poss/>

The deadly animal-borne coronavirus spreading globally may have originated in a laboratory in the city of Wuhan linked to China's covert biological weapons program, said an Israeli biological warfare analyst. January 26, 2020. <https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2020/jan/26/coronavirus-link-to-china-biowarfare-program-poss/>

a lab leak has not been ruled out, and many are calling for a deeper investigation into the hypothesis that the virus emerged from the Wuhan Institute of Virology (WIV), located in the Chinese city where the first COVID-19 cases were reported. June 8, 2021. <https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-021-01529-3>

#### COUNTERCLAIM:

Since this story ran, scientists outside of China have had a chance to study the SARS-CoV-2 virus. They concluded it does not show signs of having been manufactured or purposefully manipulated in a lab, though the exact origin remains murky and experts debate whether it may have leaked from a Chinese lab that was studying it. March 25, 2020. <https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2020/jan/26/coronavirus-link-to-china-biowarfare-program-poss/>

The theory COVID-19 originated in a laboratory in Wuhan, China — and not naturally in wildlife — has emerged as an explosive claim... May 24, 2020. <https://www.forbes.com/sites/jackbrewster/2020/05/10/a-timeline-of-the-covid-19-wuhan-lab-origin-theory/>

The Chinese government and major Western publications have dismissed theories that the virus could be linked to the Wuhan center. March 5, 2020. <https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2020/mar/4/cia-targeted-in-virus-disinformation-campaign/>

Misleading: Coronavirus may have originated in a lab linked to China's biowarfare program. January 27, 2020. Kazakhstan, Russia . [https://www.poynter.org/?ifcn\\_misinformation=coronavirus-may-have-originated-in-a-lab-linked-to-chinas-biowarfare-program](https://www.poynter.org/?ifcn_misinformation=coronavirus-may-have-originated-in-a-lab-linked-to-chinas-biowarfare-program)

Wuhan Lab Denies Any Link to First Coronavirus Outbreak. April 20, 2020. <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2020-04-20/wuhan-virus-lab-denies-any-link-to-first-coronavirus-outbreak> [article includes a video]

A top Wuhan laboratory official has denied any role in spreading the new coronavirus. April 20, 2020. <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2020-04-20/wuhan-virus-lab-denies-any-link-to-first-coronavirus-outbreak>

“There is absolutely no way that the virus originated from our institute,” Yuan said in an interview Saturday with the state-run China Global Television Network. April 20, 2020.  
<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2020-04-20/wuhan-virus-lab-denies-any-link-to-first-coronavirus-outbreak>

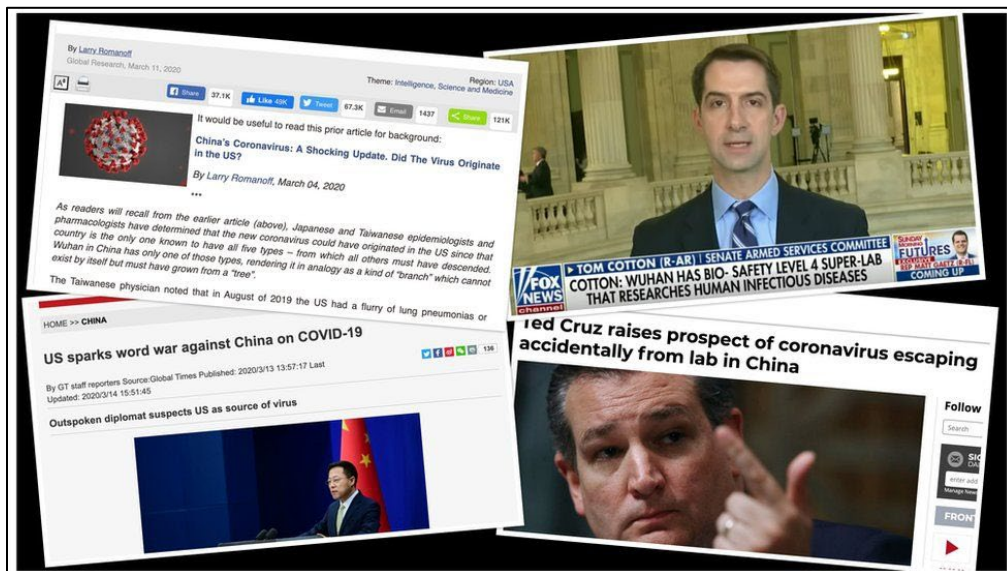
We rate the claim that COVID-19 may have originated in a Chinese lab as PARTLY FALSE. Suggestions that the novel coronavirus was manmade or has been engineered for use in bioweapons in a high-security biomedical laboratory in Wuhan, China, are untrue, based on scientific research since the virus began its global spread. April 21, 2020.  
<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/factcheck/2020/03/21/fact-check-did-coronavirus-originate-chinese-laboratory/2881150001/>

Images for X = {China’s biowarfare lab , China’s P4 Lab , Wuhan Institute of Virology (WIV) }



Photo of Wuhan P4 Lab

(<https://www.forbes.com/sites/jackbrewster/2020/05/10/a-timeline-of-the-covid-19-wuhan-lab-origin-theory/>)





Conspiracy Theory Photo Collage  
(<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-52224331>)



Disinformation Debunking Article from Politifact

(<https://www.politifact.com/factchecks/2020/jan/28/blog-posting/no-evidence-chinese-officials-will-say-coronavirus/> )

X = Lugar Lab facility

It can be beneficial for American corporations that are developing these kinds of new diseases just for profit. Or maybe for the Americans themselves, because America is the only country that has 400 military biological laboratories around the world, not only around Russia, but also around China, in Malaysia, in Indonesia, in the Philippines — the US military is everywhere working," he said. The interviewer then pointed to the Lugar Lab facility as a possible source. March 19, 2020.

(<https://www.businessinsider.com/russian-conspiracy-theories-tbilisi-lugar-lab-coronavirus-test-2020-3>)

Spanish-Language Claims

X = laboratories in the United States

Coronavirus, ¿otra acción de terrorismo biológico? [Coronavirus, another action of biological terrorism?]. February 7, 2020. <http://www.granma.cu/cuba-covid-19/2020-02-07/coronavirus-otra-accion-de-terrorismo-biologico-07-02-2020-23-02-34>

“An article published on his personal blog by Spanish journalist Patricio Montesinos handles the theory that the coronavirus could be a germ created in laboratories in the United States, as a bacteriological weapon in the trade war unleashed by Washington against China.”

X = China’s biowarfare lab

Los bulos sobre el origen del Covid-19: historias de espías, intereses de los laboratorios y el complot de la industria de armas [Hoaxes on the origin of Covid-19: stories of spies, interests of laboratories and the plot of the arms industry]. February 12, 2020. <https://diario16.com/los-bulos-sobre-el-origen-del-covid-19-historias-de-espias-intereses-de-los-laboratorios-y-el-complot-de-la-industria-de-armas/> English-language source: <https://www.dailystar.co.uk/news/world-news/coronavirus-outbreak-started-secret-lab-21343995>

"...The Daily Star newspaper published a recent article last week alleging that the virus could "have started in a secret laboratory."

### Russian-Language Claims

X = secret laboratories based in North Carolina, Harvard, and Arkansas

Moreover, this portal provides documents that the development of COVID-19 was completed in 2015. One of the centers where the secret laboratories were located was based in North Carolina, another was at Harvard, and the third was in Arkansas. April 12, 2020. <https://www.business-gazeta.ru/article/464732>

X = Porton Down laboratory

A new fake news theory claims the coronavirus did not originate in Wuhan, China, but actually from the Salisbury Porton Down laboratory in the United Kingdom. April 8, 2020. <https://communalnews.com/ru/фальшивые-новости-предупреждают%2C-что-в-новой-пропагандистской-кампании-в-России-и-Китае-обвиняют-Великобританию-в-разработке-корон%D0/> (EN: <https://communalnews.com/fake-news-alert-new-russia-and-china-propaganda-campaign-blaming-uk-for-coronavirus-design/>)



Sign for Porton Down Laboratory, UK ([Source URL](#))

## When the virus was created [SARS-CoV-2 was created on date-X] (topic C328)

### English-Language Claims

X = 2003

the virus is French-made (made in 2003 with its disease) and was transferred to a Chinese-French joint laboratory that opened in 2017 in the city of Wuhan. Bats were experimented on, but one of the bats escaped from the laboratory and the epidemic occurred. March 20, 2020.

<https://euvsdisinfo.eu/report/covid-19-is-a-france-made-virus-transferred-by-the-americans/>

X = 2015

US CREATED THE CORONAVIRUS IN 2015 AND NAMED IT SHC014 ...A report published by the American magazine "Nature", known for its seriousness, adds "insult to injury" regarding the COVID-19 Coronavirus. The report published on the 12th of November 2015 states that US scientists created a hybrid version of a coronavirus for bats related with a virus that causes SARS, called "SHC014" in a laboratory. March 22, 2020. <https://euvsdisinfo.eu/report/us-created-the-coronavirus-in-2015-and-named-it-shc014/> [nb: interpretation is open as to whether this is about COVID-19 or another coronavirus, and if the claimer understood the difference.]

"The coronavirus 2019-nCoV is a biological weapon developed by the British, even if they pursued scientific goals. On June 23, 2015, the U.S. Department of Justice granted scientists at the Pirbright Institute (formerly Animal Health Institute, England) the patent No. 10.130.701 for the invention of a "live attenuated coronavirus". So, molecular biologists saw structural details similar to the 2019-nCoV on the electron microscope image of the "British invention"." January 28, 2020.

<https://euvsdisinfo.eu/report/the-coronavirus-is-a-biological-weapon-created-by-the-uk/>

### Russian-Language Claims

X = 2015

Moreover, this portal provides documents that the development of COVID-19 was completed in 2015. One of the centers where the secret laboratories were located was based in North Carolina, another was at Harvard, and the third was in Arkansas. April 12, 2020. <https://www.business-gazeta.ru/article/464732>

November 2015: Scientists created a virus using SHC014 and SARS. March 18, 2020.

<https://communalnews.com/ru/fake-news-how-the-kremlin-aids-china-in-spreading-false-narrative-about-us-bringing-coronavirus-to-china/> (EN: <https://communalnews.com/fake-news-how-the-kremlin-aids-china-in-spreading-false-narrative-about-us-bringing-coronavirus-to-china/> )

## Who/what was the target of the virus [X was the target of COVID-19] (topic C329)

This topic also presupposes that the virus was engineered, but it is about the purpose of that engineering, specifically, what populations were targeted.

### English-Language Claims

X = China

the United States created COVID-19 to strike an economic blow against China. March 16, 2020. <https://euvsdisinfo.eu/report/coronavirus-is-a-biological-weapon-created-artificially/>

It is entirely possible that the coronavirus is man-made and tailored to the DNA of the Chinese nation. January 30, 2020. <https://euvsdisinfo.eu/report/the-coronavirus-is-man-made-and-tailored-to-chinese-dna/>

X = China and Iran

The Coronavirus may be caused by a US biological attack that targeted China first and then Iran....The US has 25 dangerous laboratories surrounding China, Russia and Iran. March 5, 2020. <https://euvsdisinfo.eu/report/coronavirus-is-another-biological-war-against-china-and-iran/>

X = Iran

coronavirus as a “biological ethnic weapon” specifically created by the “Americans and Zionist regime” to target Iranian DNA -- which, in Karami’s view, also explains the high coronavirus mortality rate in Iran. March 19, 2020. <https://foreignpolicy.com/2020/03/19/iran-irgc-coronavirus-propaganda-blames-america-israel/>

X = Russia and China

The coronavirus is part of the American biological war against Russia and China. Washington would benefit from “sick” and economically weakened competitors. The US is conducting operations as part of a biological warfare against the entire planet. January 29, 2020. <https://euvsdisinfo.eu/report/the-coronavirus-is-part-of-a-us-war-against-russia-and-china/>

X = the world’s population

The whole mess stinks of a genetically engineered, secret germ warfare 007 placed super-virus designed to let those with money take over what’s left of the world. Maybe the reshaping of the world is the crescendo of Donald Trump’s purpose in the first place? March 16, 2020. <https://euvsdisinfo.eu/report/the-covid-19-outbreak-stinks-of-a-secret-germ-warfare-007-super-virus/>

Coronavirus Is a Biological Weapon Used by Global Government to Reduce the World's Population by 90%. February 27, 2020. <https://www.memri.org/tv/russian-biologist-igor-nikulin-coronavirus-conspiracy-global-government-decimate-population>

The coronavirus is a pretext for the global elites’ ambitions to reduce world population. March 13, 2020. <https://euvsdisinfo.eu/report/the-coronavirus-is-a-pretext-for-the-global-elites-ambitions-to-reduce-world-population/>

X = economic sectors

this manifestation of the US hybrid warfare against the economic sectors they do not control is perfectly understandable and logical. March 13, 2020. <https://euvsdisinfo.eu/report/the-coronavirus-is-a-pretext-for-the-global-elites-ambitions-to-reduce-world-population/>

X = { “Mongoloid race”, “yellow race” China, Korea, Japan }

The coronavirus affects only the representatives of the Mongoloid race, which is very suspicious and raises questions. <https://euvsdisinfo.eu/report/coronavirus-a-wuhan-laboratory-sponsored-by-soros-has-the-signs-of-apocalypse/>

“Primitive Malthusian ideas still prevail there, one can constantly hear that there are too many humanity, that the planet, they say, cannot survive so many people, and so on. Therefore, they die

today, you look, mostly people of the yellow race, so to speak. This is China, Korea, Japan. March 13, 2020. <https://www.geopolitica.ru/en/news/former-putins-aide-coronavirus-us-biological-weapon>

### Spanish-Language Claims

X = China

Coronavirus, ¿otra acción de terrorismo biológico? [Coronavirus, another action of biological terrorism?]. February 7, 2020. <http://www.granma.cu/cuba-covid-19/2020-02-07/coronavirus-otra-accion-de-terrorismo-biologico-07-02-2020-23-02-34>

“An article published on his personal blog by Spanish journalist Patricio Montesinos handles the theory that the coronavirus could be a germ created in laboratories in the United States, as a bacteriological weapon in the trade war unleashed by Washington against China.”

### Russian-Language Claims

X = Putin

Igor Panarin: "Operation COVID-19 is a game to overthrow Putin, Trump and Xi Jinping". April 12, 2020. <https://www.business-gazeta.ru/article/464732>

There is evidence that the appearance of this virus is associated with the development and, possibly, biological weapons...it cannot be ruled out that “an unidentified group of persons carried out the development, production and use or careless storage of biological weapons or agents, which resulted in pollution of the atmosphere and biosphere of the Russian Federation with a previously unknown type of coronavirus. March 15, 2020. <https://regnum.ru/news/polit/2884609.html>

## Government Actions Related to the Virus

### Population restrictions related to the virus [Government-X enacted population restrictions related to COVID-19] (topic C331)

The Italian Government is preventing migrants from being tested for COVID-19. Updated June 2020. <https://www.newsguardtech.com/covid-19-myths/>

Canada is not allowing most foreign nationals to travel to Canada. Updated September 27, 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/coronavirus-covid19/travel-restrictions-exemptions.html>

DHS is planning a national lockdown . THIS IS NOT TRUE. March 20, 2020. Tweet pictured in <https://www.npr.org/2020/03/24/820141429/femas-fight-against-disinformation-from-national-lockdown-rumors-to-stockpiling>

Lockdowns, he adds, have been introduced to countries around the world to “destroy the global economy” to ensure local businesses are ruined, and to make way for governments to prop citizens up with a guaranteed income. November 9, 2020. <https://www.reuters.com/article/uk-factcheck-icke/fact-check-covid-19-is-not-a-scam-being-used-to-destroy-the-global-economy-for-a-new-world-order-idUSKBN27P25X>

## Contact tracing related to the virus [Government-X enacted contact tracing related to COVID-19] (topic C332)

In Europe, Contact tracing apps were automatically installed on people's smartphones without their consent. Updated June 2020. <https://www.newsguardtech.com/covid-19-myths/>

Washington, Rhode Island, West Virginia, and Iowa activated the National Guard for contact tracing work. May 8, 2020. <https://unitedstatesofcare.org/covid-19/covid-19-contact-tracing/>

## Patient containment actions related to the virus [Government-X enacted patient containment actions related to COVID-19] (C333)

X = French government

The French government authorized euthanasia in the middle of the crisis. Updated June 2020. <https://www.newsguardtech.com/covid-19-myths/>

X = Chinese government

China is going to exterminate its COVID-19 patients. February 6, 2020. <https://www.snopes.com/fact-check/china-kill-coronavirus-patients/>

rising sulfur dioxide rates in Wuhan....about allegedly secret crematoriums. April 2020. [https://public-assets.graphika.com/reports/Graphika\\_Report\\_Covid19\\_Infodemic.pdf](https://public-assets.graphika.com/reports/Graphika_Report_Covid19_Infodemic.pdf)

a rise in SO2 above Wuhan, China was caused by crematorium pollution. April 2020. [https://public-assets.graphika.com/reports/Graphika\\_Report\\_Covid19\\_Infodemic.pdf](https://public-assets.graphika.com/reports/Graphika_Report_Covid19_Infodemic.pdf)

Update: Rise in sulfur dioxide could be sign of mass cremations in Wuhan. February 15, 2020. <https://www.taiwannews.com.tw/en/news/3874013>

Windy map shows spike in SO2 emissions from Wuhan, possibly signaling increased cremations. February 15, 2020. <https://www.taiwannews.com.tw/en/news/3874013>

Satellite images showing high levels of sulphur dioxide above China are possible evidence of mass cremations of people who have died from coronavirus. February 13, 2020. <https://fullfact.org/health/satellites-wuhan-sulphur-dioxide-coronavirus/>

### COUNTERCLAIM:

False. The maps are not satellite images, and do not show actual levels of sulphur dioxide. They are simply forecasts based on historical data and weather patterns. February 13, 2020. <https://fullfact.org/health/satellites-wuhan-sulphur-dioxide-coronavirus/>

Debunked: This image doesn't show 'extent of corpse burning in Wuhan'. February 13, 2020. <https://www.euronews.com/2020/02/13/debunked-this-images-doesn-t-show-extent-of-corpse-burning-in-wuhan>

## **Government Cover-Ups about Cures [Government-X is withholding cures for COVID-19] (topic C335)**

Raoult was correct about chloroquine and that the government terminated his position on the council because they do not want the crisis to be resolved. April 2020. [https://public-assets.graphika.com/reports/Graphika\\_Report\\_Covid19\\_Infodemic.pdf](https://public-assets.graphika.com/reports/Graphika_Report_Covid19_Infodemic.pdf)

One-third of Americans think government hiding virus cure despite no evidence. April 25, 2020. <https://www.the-sun.com/news/738497/one-third-americans-think-government-hiding-coronavirus-cure/>

a vaccine preventing coronavirus infection exists, but was being withheld from the public. April 25, 2020. <https://www.the-sun.com/news/738497/one-third-americans-think-government-hiding-coronavirus-cure/>

cures to beat Covid-19 infections exist but are also not being shared with patients. April 25, 2020. <https://www.the-sun.com/news/738497/one-third-americans-think-government-hiding-coronavirus-cure/>

## **Treatment Effectiveness**

The examples in this section illustrate more medically sophisticated claims about specific treatments, often discussed in the context of study results, design, and validity. Documents in the practice data corpus contain a broad selection of claims with different levels of complexity.

The claim templates used below will allow for multiple non-conflicting parallel statements. That is, there will be many true or plausible values of X in these templates that do not conflict but merely represent possible truths about additional treatments, populations, etc. The main source of informational conflict will be in the negated claims, and in the claims about the validity of the research.

## **Effective treatments for COVID-19 [X is an effective treatment for COVID-19] (topic C343)**

### **Hydroxychloroquine + Azithromycin**

Some doctors were using a combination of hydroxychloroquine and azithromycin with some positive effects. August 24, 2020. <https://www.health.harvard.edu/diseases-and-conditions/treatments-for-covid-19>

The jury is still out regarding whether these drugs [hydroxychloroquine and azithromycin], alone or in combination, can treat COVID-19 viral infection. While recent human studies suggest no benefit and possibly a higher risk of death due to lethal heart rhythm abnormalities, two studies supporting these conclusions have been retracted by the authors because of irregularities in how results were collected and analyzed. August 24, 2020. <https://www.health.harvard.edu/diseases-and-conditions/treatments-for-covid-19>

### **Dexamethasone (corticosteroid)**

But we will need more studies beyond this most current report to confirm the drug [dexamethasone]'s effectiveness. August 24, 2020. <https://www.health.harvard.edu/diseases-and-conditions/treatments-for-covid-19>

### **Corticosteroids (as a class)**

Many doctors, including those in the United States, have been treating very ill COVID-19 patients with corticosteroids since the pandemic began. It makes biologic sense for those patients who have

developed a hyper-immune response (a cytokine storm) to the viral infection. [nb: reading “makes biologic sense” as “may be effective”] August 24, 2020. <https://www.health.harvard.edu/diseases-and-conditions/treatments-for-covid-19>

## Remdesivir

Remdesivir was less effective in sicker COVID-19 patients, including those on a ventilator or on a heart-lung machine. August 24, 2020. <https://www.health.harvard.edu/diseases-and-conditions/treatments-for-covid-19>

Remdesivir use led to no material clinical improvement. June 29, 2020. <https://www.trialsitenews.com/the-remdesivir-ride-what-you-see-is-what-you-get/>

New data on Gilead’s remdesivir, released by accident, show no benefit for coronavirus patients. April 23, 2020. <https://www.statnews.com/2020/04/23/data-on-gileads-remdesivir-released-by-accident-show-no-benefit-for-coronavirus-patients/>

The only [clinical trial of Remdesivir] that has been published is a clinical trial in China that compared remdesivir against placebo and found no benefit from the drug, but the trial did not enroll enough patients to have statistical power. May 14, 2020. <https://www.ucsf.edu/news/2020/05/417436/antiviral-drug-remdesivir-can-help-fight-coronavirus-can-patients-get-it>

According to the publication, studies conducted by Chinese scientists have shown that Remdesivir does not improve the condition of patients and also does not reduce the number of pathogens in the bloodstream. April 24, 2020. <https://ge.news-front.info/2020/04/24/lugaris-laboratoriasthan-dakavshirebuli-amerikuli-phirmis-antikorona-preparati-uvargisi-aghmochnda/> (accessed via web.archive.org June 8, 2020 and translated from Georgian by Google))

## Antivirals (as a class)

Currently there is no specific antiviral treatment for COVID-19. August 24, 2020. <https://www.health.harvard.edu/diseases-and-conditions/treatments-for-covid-19>

## Convalescent Plasma

In the current situation, antibody-containing plasma from a recovered patient is given by transfusion to a patient who is suffering from COVID-19. The donor antibodies may help the patient fight the illness, possibly shortening the length or reducing the severity of the disease. August 24, 2020. <https://www.health.harvard.edu/diseases-and-conditions/treatments-for-covid-19>

Though convalescent plasma has been used for many years, and with varying success, not much is known about how effective it is for treating COVID-19. August 24, 2020. <https://www.health.harvard.edu/diseases-and-conditions/treatments-for-covid-19>

## Ivermectin

Possible treatment: Head lice drug killed COVID-19 virus in less than 48 hours during lab test. August 14, 2020. <https://abcnews.go.com/Health/head-lice-drug-emerges-potential-coronavirus-treatment-studies/story?id=70119724>

COVID-19 is not a parasite, but investigators said ivermectin treats it like one--blocking the viral RNA from invading healthy cells. With it unable to enter the cell, the RNA is slowed from replicating, giving the patient's immune system more time to fight it off. August 14, 2020. <https://abcnews.go.com/Health/head-lice-drug-emerges-potential-coronavirus-treatment-studies/story?id=70119724>



## Elderberry

Due to its antiviral properties, elderberry may help prevent the early stages of coronavirus infections, including COVID-19. May 22, 2020. <https://eatwellmtl.com/can-elderberry-boost-immunity-and-help-fight-covid-19/>

At the time of writing, there are no studies evaluating the use of elderberry to prevent or treat COVID infection. September 4, 2020. <https://www.parkview.com/community/dashboard/supplements-to-prevent-covid-19-do-these-popular-picks-work>

## Treatments that shorten the length of COVID-19 infection [Treatment-X shortens the length of COVID-19 infection] (topic C344)

### Chloroquine/hydroxychloroquine

Early reports from China and France suggested that patients with severe symptoms of COVID-19 improved more quickly when given chloroquine or hydroxychloroquine. August 24, 2020. <https://www.health.harvard.edu/diseases-and-conditions/treatments-for-covid-19>

### Remdesivir

A study from China published in The Lancet found that patients with symptom duration of 10 days or less who were treated with remdesivir had slightly faster time to clinical improvement compared to patients who received a placebo. But the differences were not considered significant. August 24, 2020. <https://www.health.harvard.edu/diseases-and-conditions/treatments-for-covid-19>

In comparing remdesivir to a placebo in more than 1,000 people hospitalized with COVID-19, it found that patients who received remdesivir recovered more quickly than those taking a placebo (a median of 11 days for remdesivir compared to a median of 15 days for placebo). This was a statistically significant difference. August 24, 2020. <https://www.health.harvard.edu/diseases-and-conditions/treatments-for-covid-19> )

A randomized, placebo-controlled study of Gilead Science Inc.'s antiviral drug Remdesivir, to treat patients in critical stages of COVID-19 condition....claims to reduce time to recovery for hospitalized patients. June 2020. <https://www.gonewsindia.com/latest-news/health/controversy-over-us-announcement-on-remdesivir-to-treat-covid-19-patients-12671>

However, patients receiving remdesivir had a faster time to clinical improvement than those receiving placebo, among patients with symptom duration of 10 days or less. June 29, 2020. <https://www.trialsitenews.com/the-remdesivir-ride-what-you-see-is-what-you-get/>

The antiviral medicine remdesivir from Gilead Sciences failed to speed the improvement of patients with Covid-19 or prevent them from dying, according to results from a long-awaited clinical trial conducted in China. April 23, 2020. <https://www.statnews.com/2020/04/23/data-on-gileads-remdesivir-released-by-accident-show-no-benefit-for-coronavirus-patients/>

[A] large National Institutes of Health (NIH) study that enrolled over 1,000 hospitalized COVID-19 patients [with evidence of lung involvement] across 22 countries....found that median time to recovery was 11 days for patients on remdesivir and 15 days for patients on placebo. May 14, 2020. <https://www.ucsf.edu/news/2020/05/417436/antiviral-drug-remdesivir-can-help-fight-coronavirus-can-patients-get-it>

It found a 31 percent faster recovery time for patients with advanced COVID-19 and lung involvement who received remdesivir compared to similar patients who received a placebo. The

data also showed a lower mortality rate among patients receiving remdesivir: 8 percent compared to 11.6 percent among placebo group. April 30, 2020. <https://www.polygraph.info/a/fact-check-remdesivir-kremlin-georgia/30585711.html>

### **Elderberry and/or Zinc**

If during this COVID-19 pandemic you come down with viral symptoms, adding high quality elderberry and zinc supplements to your medicine cabinet could help you recover faster. (NO DATE). <https://www.bouldermedicalcenter.com/elderberry-zinc-and-the-fight-against-viruses/>

These properties along with clinical studies suggest that elderberry may be beneficial for reducing the duration of viral respiratory illnesses and for reducing their symptoms. This has led to the premise that elderberry may also offer some potential benefit for use in COVID-19. (NO DATE). <http://accurateclinic.com/accurate-education-elderberry/>

## **Treatments that prevent or reduce the chance of death from COVID-19 infection [Treatment-X prevents death or reduces the chance of death from COVID-19 infection] (topic C346)**

### **Convalescent Plasma**

A recent analysis of 35,000 hospitalized patients who received convalescent plasma to treat severe COVID-19 suggests that the therapy may reduce the risk of dying. August 24, 2020. <https://www.health.harvard.edu/diseases-and-conditions/treatments-for-covid-19>

### **Dexamethasone**

A recent report on a clinical trial showed that the corticosteroid drug dexamethasone decreased the risk of dying in very ill hospitalized COVID-19 patients. August 24, 2020. <https://www.health.harvard.edu/diseases-and-conditions/treatments-for-covid-19>

### **Remdesivir**

Questions remain, including whether remdesivir reduces the risk of dying from COVID-19. August 24, 2020. <https://www.health.harvard.edu/diseases-and-conditions/treatments-for-covid-19>

It [large NIH study] also suggested a lower death rate, 8 percent on remdesivir compared to 11.6 percent on placebo, but that difference was just short of statistical significance. May 14, 2020. <https://www.ucsf.edu/news/2020/05/417436/antiviral-drug-remdesivir-can-help-fight-coronavirus-can-patients-get-it>

## **Treatment Availability**

### **Treatments approved for Emergency Use Authorization [Treatment-X received emergency use approval] (topic C348)**

#### **Convalescent Plasma**

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) placed a hold on the Emergency Use Authorization for convalescent plasma as a potential treatment for COVID-19 over what was described as a lack of robust data supporting its use. August 20, 2020. <https://www.biospace.com/article/fda-places-hold-on-eua-of-convalescent-plasma-draws-criticism-from-potus/>

The US Food and Drug Administration on Sunday issued an emergency use authorization for convalescent plasma to treat Covid-19, saying the "known and potential benefits of the product outweigh the known and potential risks of the product." August 23, 2020.

<https://www.cnn.com/2020/08/23/health/covid-19-convalescent-plasma-eua-white-house/index.html>

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) reversed itself Sunday following pressure from the White House and announced an Emergency Use Authorization for convalescent plasma as a treatment for patients who have contracted COVID-19, the disease caused by the novel coronavirus.

August 24, 2020. <https://www.biospace.com/article/fda-grants-eua-for-convalescent-plasma-in-hospitalized-covid-19-patients/>

## Remdesivir

Two drugs, chloroquine and remdesivir, are being designated for Expanded Access, or "compassionate use," by the FDA to address the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, according to FDA Commissioner Stephen Hahn, MD, and President Donald Trump. March 19, 2020.

<https://www.pharmacytimes.com/news/fda-announces-two-drugs-approved-for-compassionate-use-in-treating-covid-19>

Chloroquine and remdesivir are not FDA-approved for a COVID-19 indications, but Expanded Access allows patients with serious or life-threatening cases of the virus to have access to them as investigational medicinal products. March 19, 2020.

<https://www.pharmacytimes.com/news/fda-announces-two-drugs-approved-for-compassionate-use-in-treating-covid-19>

Gilead's Investigational Antiviral Remdesivir Receives U.S. Food and Drug Administration Emergency Use Authorization for the Treatment of COVID-19. May 1, 2020. <https://www.gilead.com/news-and-press/press-room/press-releases/2020/5/gileads-investigational-antiviral-remdesivir-receives-us-food-and-drug-administration-emergency-use-authorization-for-the-treatment-of-covid19>

Remdesivir is an investigational agent that has not been approved by the FDA, and it has not been demonstrated to be safe or effective for any use, including for the treatment of COVID-19. May 1, 2020.

<https://www.gilead.com/news-and-press/press-room/press-releases/2020/5/gileads-investigational-antiviral-remdesivir-receives-us-food-and-drug-administration-emergency-use-authorization-for-the-treatment-of-covid19>

In early May, the FDA approved emergency use authorization for remdesivir in adults and children hospitalized with severe COVID-19 illness. August 24, 2020.

<https://www.health.harvard.edu/diseases-and-conditions/treatments-for-covid-19>

## Treatment Safety

### Safe treatments for COVID-19 [Treatment-X is a safe treatment for COVID-19] (topic C349)

#### Remdesivir

The adverse event profile for remdesivir as a treatment for COVID-19 remains murky, although liver and kidney risks are emerging. May 19, 2020. <https://www.medpagetoday.com/infectiousdisease/covid19/86582>

Adverse event risk involving the liver has been one of the clearest potential risks from remdesivir.

May 19, 2020. <https://www.medpagetoday.com/infectiousdisease/covid19/86582>

Compassionate use data on 61 severe COVID-19 cases treated with the drug, published in the New England Journal of Medicine in April, showed that hepatic enzyme increases were by far the most

common adverse event, occurring in 23% of patients. Hypotension was seen in 8%. May 19, 2020. <https://www.medpagetoday.com/infectiousdisease/covid19/86582>

However, in the randomized trial from China, stopped early at an enrollment of 237 patients and published in The Lancet, elevated aspartate aminotransferase was actually less common in the remdesivir group than with placebo (5% vs 12%). May 19, 2020.

<https://www.medpagetoday.com/infectiousdisease/covid19/86582>

In some patients, the drug showed significant side effects. April 24, 2020 <https://ge.news-front.info/2020/04/24/lugaris-laboratoriasthan-dakavshirebuli-amerikuli-phirmis-antikورونا-preparati-uvargisi-aghmochnda/> (accessed via web.archive.org June 8, 2020 and translated from Georgian by Google))

## Generally safe medications that are unsafe for COVID-19 patients [Generally safe medication X is unsafe for COVID-19 patients] (topic C350)

The term “medications” can also include products sold as dietary supplements.

### Ibuprofen/NSAIDs

Some French doctors advise against using ibuprofen (Motrin, Advil, many generic versions) for COVID-19 symptoms based on reports of otherwise healthy people with confirmed COVID-19 who were taking an NSAID for symptom relief and developed a severe illness, especially pneumonia. August 24, 2020. <https://www.health.harvard.edu/diseases-and-conditions/treatments-for-covid-19>

The WHO initially recommended using acetaminophen instead of ibuprofen to help reduce fever and aches and pains related to this coronavirus infection, but now states that either acetaminophen or ibuprofen can be used. [nb: change of recommendation over time] August 24, 2020.

<https://www.health.harvard.edu/diseases-and-conditions/treatments-for-covid-19>

Since some doctors remain concerned about NSAIDs, it still seems prudent to choose acetaminophen first, with a total dose not exceeding 3,000 milligrams per day. August 24, 2020.

<https://www.health.harvard.edu/diseases-and-conditions/treatments-for-covid-19>

### Vitamin D

If you have symptoms of infection or have had a positive test for the coronavirus, Dr. Weil recommends avoiding the following agents, which could possibly stimulate an inflammatory response: Vitamin D. (NO DATE). <https://www.drweil.com/health-wellness/body-mind-spirit/disease-disorders/covid-19-what-you-should-know-about-coronavirus/>

### Elderberry

However, uncooked or unprocessed elderberry can cause serious harm due to the potential of cyanite toxicity. September 4, 2020. <https://www.parkview.com/community/dashboard/supplements-to-prevent-covid-19-do-these-popular-picks-work>

## Imagery

Image types of interest for Phase 3 are the following:

- People and objects in camera footage.
- Text in images, for example:
  - Screenshots of social media posts such as Facebook and Twitter

- Text in informational graphics (“infographics”)
- Logos. These could provide clues about the source of the claim.
- Visual “claim negators,” which are overlays on the graphics to indicate that a claim is false.

The following subsections illustrate examples of each of these.

## Camera Footage

Because of the nature of the domain, there not many photos of scenario events. There is, however, ample stock footage as well as photos of claimers (or alleged claimers).

### **Claim:** COVID-19 can be transmitted via packages



Members of the World Health Organization (WHO) at a press conference where they countered the claim that the virus can be transmitted via packages. Source: <https://www.localmemphis.com/article/news/health/health-alert/verify-can-coronavirus-be-spread-by-packages-shipped-from-china/522-ff68aee7-c2bd-468d-a3fc-09bc4c1909fe>



Stock photos of delivery drivers which appeared in articles about this claim. Sources: <https://www.cleveland.com/news/2020/03/packages-and-coronavirus-how-to-safely-pick-up-deliveries-during-a-pandemic.html>, <https://forestsecurity.com/can-you-contract-coronavirus-from-delivery-packages/>

### **Claim:** The source of COVID-19 was the Wuhan wet-market



Stock photo of a Chinese wet-market, not the one in Wuhan. Source: <https://www.businessinsider.com/wuhan-coronavirus-chinese-wet-market-photos-2020-1#bats-and-birds-are-considered-reservoir-species-for-viruses-with-pandemic-potential-according-to-bart-haagmans-a-virologist-at-the-erasmus-medical-center-in-rotterdam-netherlands-11>

**Claim:** Dr. Anthony Fauci "wrote a paper regarding the Spanish Flu and stated that the majority of deaths in 1918-1919 was because of bacterial pneumonia from wearing masks."



Stock photo of Dr. Anthony Fauci. Source: <https://www.voanews.com/covid-19-pandemic/infodemic/infodemic-dr-fauci-didnt-write-paper-blaming-most-spanish-flu-deaths>

## Text and Logos in Images

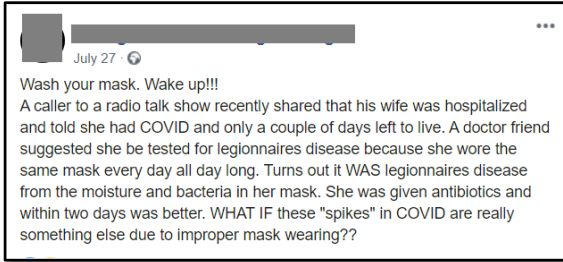
The claims and counterclaims related to the COVID-19 global pandemic often appear as text in graphics. The following section contains examples of text in photos, screen grabs of social media posts, infographics, and video frames. Logos are also included in several of these examples. Social media posts containing health-related misinformation are typically taken down, but screen grabs of them will frequently appear in debunking articles. Note that we have grayed out identifying faces, names, and handles of non-public figures.

**Claim:** COVID-19 is a hoax



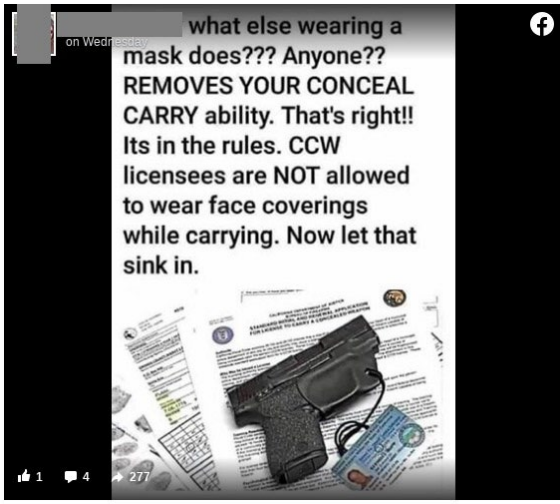
Graffiti on a wall. Source: <https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/nine-covid-19-myths-that-just-wont-go-away/>

**Claim:** Wearing the same facemask all day long can cause Legionnaires Disease



Facebook post. Source: <http://archive.is/N9NCC>

**Claim: Wearing a facemask infringes on your right to carry a concealed firearm**



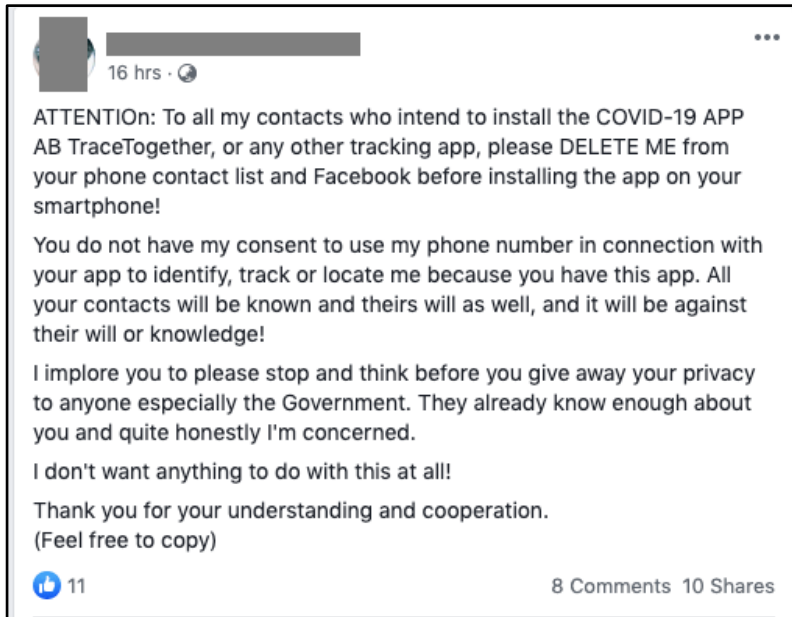
Facebook post. Source: <https://leadstories.com/hoax-alert/2020/06/fact-check-wearing-a-mask-does-not-remove-your-ability-to-carry-a-concealed-weapon.html>

**Refute of Claim: FEMA is providing direct food vouchers**



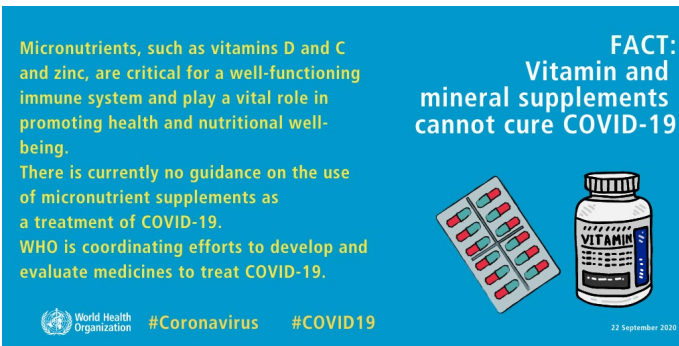
Tweet from FEMA with FEMA logos. Source: <https://twitter.com/fema/status/1365066364189347845>

**Claim: Tracing app gathers personal information from your cell phone**

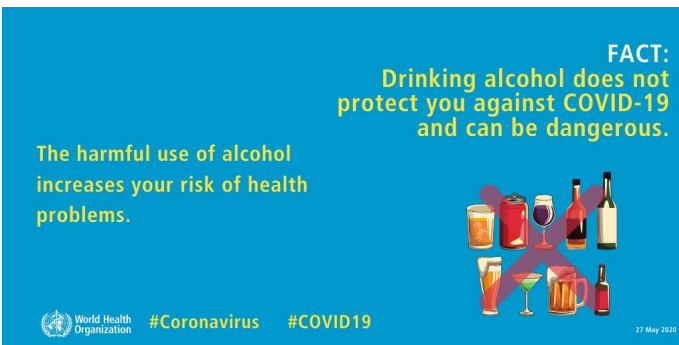


Facebook post. Source: <https://www.snopes.com/fact-check/covid-app-tracker/>

**Refute of claims**



Infographic with WHO logo. Source: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/advice-for-public/myth-busters>




Infographic with WHO logo. Source: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/advice-for-public/myth-busters>



**Hot peppers in your food, though very tasty, cannot prevent or cure COVID-19.** The best way to protect yourself against the new coronavirus is to keep at least 1 metre away from others and to wash your hands frequently and thoroughly. It is also beneficial for your general health to maintain a balanced diet, stay well hydrated, exercise regularly and sleep well.

**FACT:** Adding pepper to your soup or other meals **DOES NOT** prevent or cure COVID-19.



World Health Organization #Coronavirus #COVID19 27 April 2020

Infographic with WHO logo. Source: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/advice-for-public/myth-busters>

**Do not under any circumstance spray or introduce bleach or any other disinfectant into your body. These substances can be poisonous if ingested and cause irritation and damage to your skin and eyes.**

Bleach and disinfectant should be used carefully to disinfect surfaces only.

Remember to keep chlorine (bleach) and other disinfectants out of the reach of children.

**FACT:** Spraying or introducing bleach or another disinfectant into your body **WILL NOT** protect you against COVID-19 and can be dangerous



World Health Organization #COVID19 #coronavirus 27 April 2020

Infographic with WHO logo. Source: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/advice-for-public/myth-busters>

**Claim: the flu vaccine increases the risk of contracting COVID-19**

January 2020 Pentagon Study Shows Influenza Vaccination Increases Risk of Coronavirus by 36%

**ABSTRACT**

**Purpose:** Receiving influenza vaccination may increase the risk of other respiratory viruses, a phenomenon known as virus interference. Test-negative study designs are often utilized to calculate influenza vaccine effectiveness. The virus interference phenomenon goes against the basic assumption of the test-negative vaccine effectiveness study that vaccination does not change the risk of infection with other respiratory illness, thus potentially biasing vaccine effectiveness results in the positive direction. This study aimed to investigate virus interference by comparing respiratory virus status among Department of Defense personnel based on their influenza vaccination status. Furthermore, individual respiratory viruses and their association with influenza vaccination were examined.

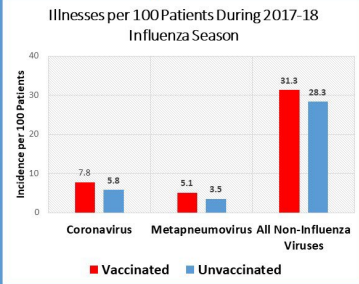
**Results:** We compared vaccination status of 2880 people with non-influenza respiratory viruses to 3240 people with non-flu viruses with non-negative results. Comparing vaccinated to non-vaccinated patients, the adjusted odds ratio for non-flu viruses was 0.97 (95% confidence interval (CI): 0.86, 1.09; p = 0.66). Additionally, the vaccination status of 3349 cases of influenza were compared to three different control groups: all controls (N = 6120), non-influenza positive controls (N = 2880), and non-vaccinated controls (N = 3240). The adjusted odds for the comparisons among the three control groups did not vary much (range: 0.66-0.71).

**Conclusions:** Receipt of influenza vaccination was not associated with virus interference among our population. Examining virus interference by specific respiratory viruses showed mixed results. Vaccine-derived virus interference was significantly associated with coronavirus and human metapneumovirus; however, significant protection with vaccination was associated not only with most influenza viruses, but also parainfluenza, RSV, and non-influenza virus coinfections.

Published by Elsevier Ltd.

Wolff 2020 Vaccine <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.vaccine.2019.10.005>

**“Vaccine derived virus interference was significantly associated with coronavirus and human metapneumovirus.”**



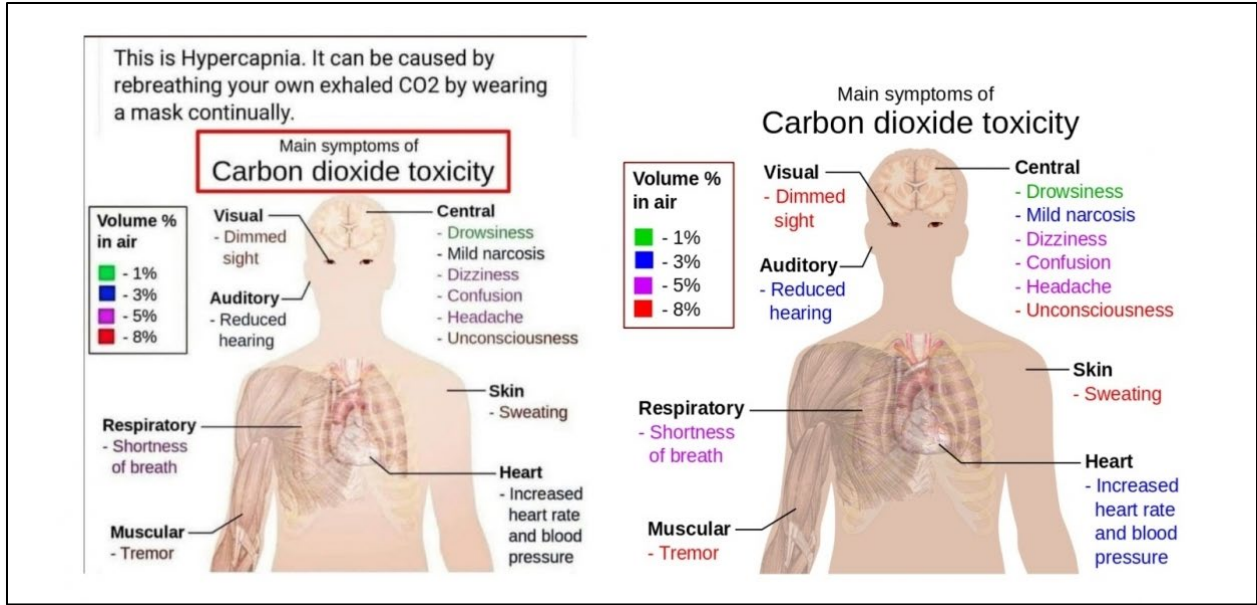
Illness Type	Vaccinated	Unvaccinated
Coronavirus	7.8	5.8
Metapneumovirus	5.1	3.5
All Non-Influenza Viruses	31.3	28.3

Children's Health Defense

Infographic with Children's Health Defense logo. Source: <https://childrenshealthdefense.org/news/vaccine-misinformation-flu-shots-equal-health/>

**Claim: Wearing a mask continually can cause hypercapnia**

Altered Infographic. Original legitimate graphic on right; altered on left. Source: <https://factcheck.afp.com/prolonged-use-face-masks-unlikely-cause-hypercapnia>



## Visual Negators

If a misinformation debunking source displays an image containing misinformation, a label will often be overlaid on that image to indicate the claim is false. These visual “negators” are of interest to the AIDA program. They are not limited to this domain; one sees them applied to other topics in fact-checking articles and sites.

### Refute of Claim: wearing a facemask can cause hypoxia



"NO EVIDENCE" negator banner overlaying a busy text and icon infographic. Source: <https://www.bbc.com/news/53108405>

**Refute of Claim: wearing a facemask can cause hypercapnia**

**DANGER OF FACEMASK**

Mask is supposed to be used for limited time, if you wear it for a long time :

1. Oxygen in the blood reduces.
2. Oxygen to the brain reduces.
3. You start feeling weak.
4. May lead to death.

**• NO EVIDENCE**

in their car with AC on still wearing face Mask. Ignorance or illiteracy?

B. Do not use it at home.

C. **Only use in crowded place and when in close contact with one or more persons.**

D. Reduce the use of it while isolating yourself most of the times.

**STAY SAFE**

Hypercapnia. It can be caused by your own exhaled CO2 by wearing continually.

Main symptoms of carbon dioxide toxicity

- Visual** - Dimmed sight
- Auditory** - Reduced hearing
- Central** - Drowsiness, - Mild narcosis, - Dizziness, - Confusion, - Headache, - Unconsciousness
- Skin** - Sweating
- Heart** - Increased heart rate and blood pressure
- Muscular** - Tremor

- Shortness of breath

“NO EVIDENCE” Negator overlaying two overlaid infographics. Source: <https://www.bbc.com/news/53108405>

**Refute of Claim: wearing a facemask can cause hypoxia**

**Prolonged use of the mask produces hypoxia**

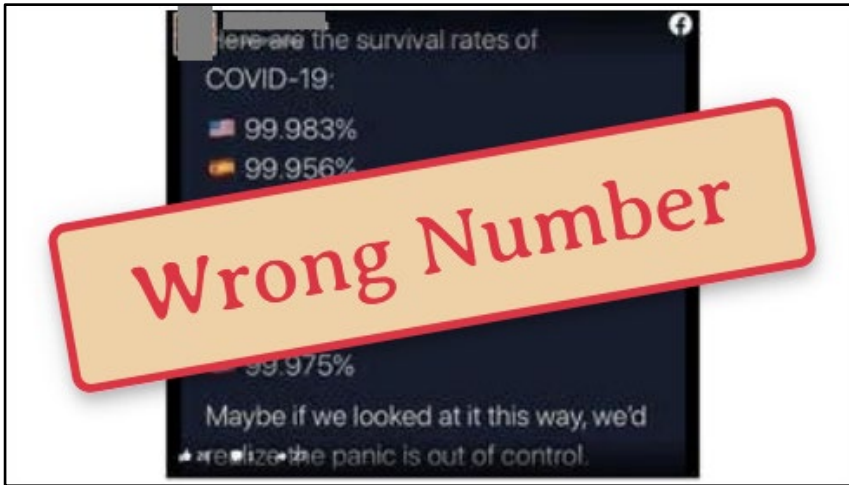
April 29, 2020

**• FALSE**

Breathing over and over exhaled air turns into carbon dioxide, which is why we feel dizzy.

“FALSE” Negator overlaying a screenshot. Source: <https://www.bbc.com/news/53108405>

**Refute of Claim: the severity of COVID-19 is overstated**



Claim-specific negator typical of LeadStories.

Source:

<https://leadstories.com/hoax-alert/2020/05/fact-check-u.s.-survival-rate-from-covid-19-is-not-99.8-percent.html>

**Refute of Claim: Wearing a facemask infringes on your right to carry a concealed firearm**



Claim-specific negator typical of LeadStories. Source:

<https://leadstories.com/hoax-alert/2020/05/fact-check-u.s.-survival-rate-from-covid-19-is-not-99.8-percent.html>

**Refute of Claim: Toilet paper can transmit COVID-19**



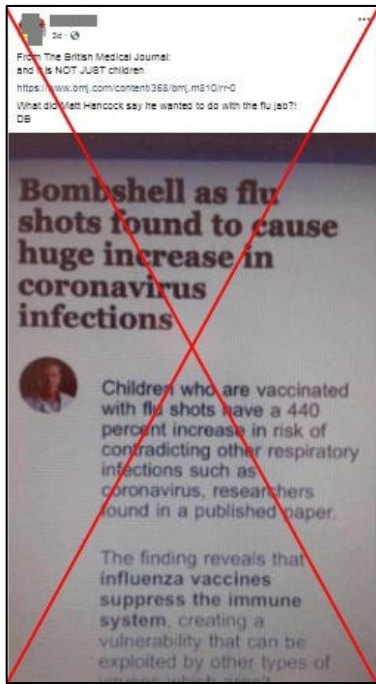
Faint "FALSE" negator. Source: <https://www.snopes.com/fact-check/covid-19-found-in-toilet-paper/>

**Refute of claim: Slices of lemon in a cup of hot water can save your life. The hot lemon can kill the proliferation of" the novel coronavirus.**

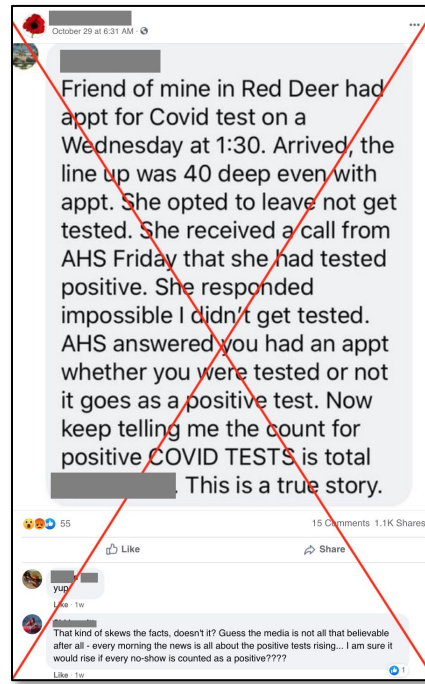


Negator used by Politifact. Source: <https://www.politifact.com/factchecks/2020/mar/24/chai-n-message/facebook-messenger-video-falsely-claims-hot-lemon-/>

Examples of a negator that takes the form of a red X (or sometimes just a single red line) over the graphic that contains misinformation.



source: <https://factcheck.afp.com/no-evidence-flu-vaccines-make-children-more-vulnerable-coronavirus-infections>



source: <https://factcheck.afp.com/mystery-covid-19-test-result-rumor-fuels-claims-canada-figures-inflated>