

Misinformation and Disinformation Regarding Corona Virus in Social Media  
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There is no doubt that a global pandemic is a scary phenomenon. Hence, it is not surprising that many stories regarding the event will surface and be communicated. For COVID 19 a number of stories containing inaccurate or misleading information have populated social media. We list here the stories of this type that have been identified. Whether they are being spread by those knowing they are inaccurate maliciously, as a joke, or simply to discuss the inaccuracy is under study at this time. The point here is simply that these stories are not accurate.

Stories containing inaccurate information regarding COVID 19 fall into at least three categories:

- 1) Stories relating inaccurate information about cures or preventative measures
- 2) Stories relating inaccurate information about the nature of the virus
- 3) Stories relating inaccurate information about weaponization and the bio-engineering of COVID 19

We note that there are also stories containing inaccurate information with respect to a) the number of deaths, the response effort and so forth. Such stories have not been tracked.

Following is a list of stories of each type.

- 1) Stories relating inaccurate information about cures or preventative measures
  - gargling with bleach will prevent/cure – also appears as satire
  - drinking corona beer will prevent/cure – also appears as satire
  - taking acetic acid will prevent/cure
  - taking steroids will prevent/cure
  - taking colloidal silver will cure
  - taking MMS (which contains chlorine dioxide) can cure
  - using essential oils will prevent
  - gargling with salt water will prevent/cure
  - gargling with ethanol will prevent/cure
  - eating raw garlic will prevent
  - spraying normal drinking alcohol on body will prevent
  - spraying chlorine on body prevents coronavirus
  - drinking or washing in sesame oil prevents coronavirus
  - using a hand dryer will kill corona virus
  - drinking water every 15 minutes will wash virus to stomach where it will die
  - drinking hot water will prevent
  - avoiding eating ice cream will prevent
  - rinsing your nose with saline will prevent
  - having a pneumonia shot will prevent

- having a flu shot will prevent
- using cocaine prevents/cures

2) Stories relating inaccurate information about the nature of the virus

- Corona virus is just a cold
- Covid 19 is a normal flu
- Children cannot catch corona virus

3) Stories relating inaccurate information about weaponization and the bio-engineering of COVID 19

- It is a US/CIA created bioweapon
- It is a Chinese bioweapon
- It is a Russian bioweapon
- It leaked from a bio-weapons lab in china
- It was caused by infected rat biting a student in bio-weapons lab in China

It is important to note that in every disaster or crisis situation disinformation and misinformation appear. It is also the case that many of these stories are short lived and have little impact. Further, many of these stories can be stopped simply by people calling them out, or making fun of them with satire. In many cases the spread of the stories can increase if they are rebroadcast by celebrities or news agencies. The irony is that in many cases, readers cannot tell when satire is being used, and may mistake the satire for fact. Another irony is that stories that talk about a story containing disinformation may spread both the inaccurate information and the information that it is inaccurate.