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Assignment

Social media and proliferation of fake news, dodgy health advice and fake cures of Covid 19.

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is an [infectious disease](/wiki/Infectious_disease%22%20%5Co%20%22Infectious%20disease) caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome.

The disease was first identified in December 2019 in [Wuhan](/wiki/Wuhan%22%20%5Co%20%22Wuhan), and has since spread globally, resulting in the ongoing [2019–20 coronavirus pandemic](/wiki/2019%E2%80%9320_coronavirus_pandemic%22%20%5Co%20%222019%E2%80%9320%20coronavirus%20pandemic).

The virus Which can survive on surfaces up to 72 hours is most contagious during the first three days after symptom onset, although spread is mainly by close contact, and [small droplets](/wiki/Respiratory_droplets%22%20%5Co%20%22Respiratory%20droplets) produced when people cough, sneeze, or talk.

A pressing problem with modern-day, online media is the spread of misinformation . After the initial [outbreak](/wiki/2019%E2%80%9320_coronavirus_pandemic%22%20%5Co%20%222019%E2%80%9320%20coronavirus%20pandemic) of COVID-19, conspiracy theories, [misinformation](/wiki/Misinformation%22%20%5Co%20%22Misinformation), and [disinformation](/wiki/Disinformation%22%20%5Co%20%22Disinformation) emerged regarding the origin, scale, prevention, treatment, and other aspects of the disease and rapidly spread online.

Theories have been floating around that the [virus was engineered in a lab as a bioterrorism agent, or that the symptoms are actually caused by the 5G mobile network](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/technology-51646309%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank) and all other forms of misleading information .

Hundreds of people have heard about the virtues of chloroquine, and how it cures the virus and people have started abusing the intake of the drugs thereby creating more damage to their health system, most of the fake news are been circulated through WhatsApp, twitter and instagram . Some of the false information and health advice that has been circulating round is

1) drinking water will flush out the virus

2) Garlic with salt water or disinfectant will kill the virus

3) if you can hold your breath for 10seconds, you don't have the virus

4) the virus is killed by the sun

And all other kinds of misleading advices.

Myths like these can be really harmful because they can fuel anxiety and panic , no matter the information we get from these various social media platform we should ensure to crosscheck the information on the world health organization (WHO) . And people should not be misinformed as there is no cure for the covid 19. Mis leading information spreads more than the correct informations, which makes it difficult to spot what is true and accurate .

Source

Http://www.bbc.com/news/world-51735367

Http://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/apr/11/the-cure-for-fake-news-how-to-read-about-the-coronavirus