Mainstream media coverage and social media narratives about Covid-19

According to The Washington Times, Coronavirus issue is obviously important for many reasons. None of us want to get sick with any illness, let alone a respiratory virus that disrupts our lives, and can even pose a threat to our lives.
But after weeks of watching this chaos unfold out of China, perspective is still almost as much in short supply as face masks. Naturally, we fear the unknown and the uncertainty it brings. But there is plenty we do know about the coronavirus, at least enough to realize this is not the End of Days virus that some have imagined.
Reports continue to unfold around the world that this new virus was spreading possibly longer than initially believed and that many more individuals have been infected without even knowing. Doctors in various countries have noted that some of the known cases are severe, but many mild cases exist and even symptomless cases are likely to be found.

According to the Collins Dictionary,the mainstream media refers to conventional  newspapers, television and other news sources that most people know about and regard as reliable.

Social Media
forms of electronic communication (such as websites for social networking and microblogging) through which users create online communities to share information, ideas, personal messages, and other content (such as videos).

There are so many pieces of information that has surfaced the social media cyberspace as a result if the novel Coronavirus, these pieces of information could either be true, not ascertained or false as the case maybe; whichever way it is, it is important to sift the fact from the fancy and they could come as false preventive measure, cure, health advice, and generally, fake news about the entire Covid-19 situation.

Covid-19
According to the World Health Organization (WHO), coronaviruses are a family of viruses that cause illnesses ranging from the common cold to more severe diseases such as severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) and the Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS).
These viruses were originally transmitted from animals to people. SARS, for instance, was transmitted from civet cats to humans while MERS moved to humans from a type of camel.
Several known coronaviruses are circulating in animals that have not yet infected humans.
The name coronavirus comes from the Latin word corona, meaning crown or halo. Under an electron microscope, the virus looks like it is surrounded by a solar corona.
The novel coronavirus, identified by Chinese authorities on January 7 and since named SARS-CoV-2, is a new strain that had not been previously identified in humans. Little is known about it, although human-to-human transmission has been confirmed.
Mainstream media coverage
Washington Times has it that, Currently, reports are there are 95,000 known coronavirus cases around the world (more than 80,000 of which are in China), with 3,249 deaths worldwide as of this writing. ABC News reported “flu deaths are up more than 65 percent so far in 2020, with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reporting that 4,800 people have died and 87,000 people have been hospitalized.” This is not a zero-sum game in comparing the two viruses. The flu and the coronavirus are absolutely something we must avoid, along with other respiratory ailments, because of its impact on us. But it is an opportunity to observe media and the establishment develop a narrative in society with the intent on dragging us along by our ears into their preferred (and usually false and fear-based) narrative.

All of this is a reminder that media and government must be watched like hawks and held to account. On everything. They ridiculed Mr. Trump for reminding us that the coronavirus was like the flu, and we should wash our hands. You see, he wasn’t being enough of an alarmist for the fear-and-control-addicted swamp. Controlling you and your family is of paramount importance to the bureaucratic establishment. Maintaining perspective with facts is imperative; a panicked and fear-driven citizenry is more inclined to give big government even more control.

The cure is worse than the disease

According to( www.cjr.org), the first stories suggesting that the remedies to battle covid-19 were worse than the actual disease began showing up in mid-March. A number of media outlets voiced this perspective, including the Washington Times, The Federalist, and BernardGoldberg.com. The Epoch Timesexpressed a similar concern and added, “For a disease that so far has extracted a relatively small death toll and from which a quarter of those infected have already recovered, why are we reacting as if Covid-19 is the second coming of the Black Death?”

China Scorn
Again, according to (www.cjr.org), At least half of conservative coverage centered on the name of the virus, with right-wing journalists enthusiastically labeling it “China coronavirus” or “Wuhan virus.” Limbaugh and the American Thinker put forth the theories that somehow the virus had escaped or was deliberately released from a lab in China, and that the country was buying up stocks in the slumping market. (The headline was “Did China panic the world and steal our wealth with a common cold?”) American Greatness called the virus a way for China to destroy the United States.

Social Media Narratives

From the World Health Organisation
1.coronavirus is believed to be airborne, but the World Health Organisation, debunked this statement saying that Covid-19 isn't airborne but passed through droplets of sneezing and coughing which is why face masks, social distancing and hand sanitizing is highly encouraged.
Misleading video about virus testing in South Africa

According to BBC Africa, In South Africa, a video claiming testing kits were contaminated was widely shared on social media.
In the video, a man calls on South Africans to refuse swab tests, which check if someone currently has the virus.
The clip begins with the man having a swab stuck up his nose. "Do not under any circumstances allow them to test you. There's a possibility that the swabs are contaminated with Covid-19," he says.
He alleges that people globally are saying the swabs are being used to spread the virus, and refers to reports in the UK that test kits there were contaminated.
But this is misleading - the tests were giving false positive readings, it wasn't that the swabs were contaminated with the actual virus.
Temperature as a cure
According to The Africa Report, (www.africareport.com)
Just as the scientific community didn’t give Trump’s theories on COVID-19’s survival in high temperatures a seal of approval – hand dryers and UV lamps don’t effectively guard against the virus – the WHO has also discredited the idea that cold weather and snow can kill the new virus. So don’t bother going on an ice cream binge.