Appendix: Evidence of disinformation published by news publishers and on the social media platforms they operate

Please find below evidence under the following two categories:

1. User Generated Content on the social media platforms operated by the largest newspaper publishers. Four newspaper websites were reviewed (The Sun, Telegraph, Mirror and Mail Online). Examples of disinformation are shown in the UGC (“Comment”) sections under five stories published by each newspaper.

   This was not an exhaustive review: examples are limited to five stories to present an indication of the problem. This content is ostensibly “regulated” by IPSO.

2. Editorial disinformation published by the largest newspaper publishers in the UK, which are members of IPSO. In many cases, the diagnosis of disinformation is verified by a third party (for example Full Fact). This content is ostensibly “regulated” by IPSO.
Evidence Category One: Disinformation on established newspapers’ social media platforms

Please find below some of the most egregious examples of disinformation published on the social media platforms operated by four of the largest newspapers:

1. The Sun
2. The Telegraph
3. The Mirror
4. The Daily Mail

Five stories from each publication are recorded, with screenshots of users sharing disinformation in the social media (“comment”) sections set out below. The date that the comment was recorded is also noted, which shows that in many cases the public had been exposed to these comments for days without any action being taken by the publisher.

All four of these newspapers are members of IPSO. At time of writing, neither the publishers nor IPSO had taken action in respect of these comments.
Publication: The Sun

Story 1:

BAT ATTACK Coronavirus may have started in Wuhan lab where HUNDREDS of bats ‘attacked and peed on scientists’, experts say
https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/10973774/coronavirus-wuhan-lab-bats-attacked/

BAT ATTACK Coronavirus may have started in Wuhan lab where HUNDREDS of bats ‘attacked and peed on scientists’, experts say

Mark Hodge
16 Feb 2020, 9:27 | Updated: 17 Feb 2020, 17:48

60 Comments

THE coronavirus could have spread from a Wuhan laboratory which housed 600 bats which attacked and “peed on” scientists, experts say.

One researcher at the Wuhan Center for Disease Control (WCDC) who was urinated on also had bat BLOOD on his skin and was forced to quarantine himself, an academic journal says.

Read our coronavirus live blog for all the latest news and updates.

Coronavirus may have started in a lab where scientists were attacked by bats,

This story was debunked by FullFact - it is editorial disinformation published by The Sun newspaper. The comments below show disinformation also being spread in the comments.

Comment 1 (09/04/2020):
A user states that a cure already exists for the virus, and it is controlled by “elites”.

Comment remains visible, accessed 20/04/2020.

**Comment 2 (09/04/2020):**

Sounds like a cover story to get ahead of the news that the lab is the source of the virus. But not because of a bat attack but because they were working on developing the virus and had an accidental leak.

Comment remains visible, accessed 20/04/2020.
Story 2:

**VIRUS RAGE** Coronavirus fury as wet markets across Asia STILL selling wildlife to eat despite ‘sparking deadly pandemic’


**VIRUS RAGE** Coronavirus fury as wet markets across Asia STILL selling wildlife to eat despite ‘sparking deadly pandemic’

Mark Hodges
27 Mar 2020, 16:19 | Updated: 27 Mar 2020, 18:36

FILTHY wet markets selling animals butchered in front of shoppers are still open across Asia despite being blamed for starting the coronavirus outbreak.

Experts warn these horrific sites are a "ticking time bomb" and could lead to a new disease much like COVID-19 which has swept the world killing more than 25,000.

⚠ Read our coronavirus live blog for the latest news & updates

Comment 1 (09/04/2020):

Kieron Blitz - 28 Mar

that's what they eat why should they stop...THIS VIRUS CAME ENGINEERED IN A CHINESE LAB...

A user repeats the conspiracy theory that the virus was engineered.

Comment no longer accessible.

Comment 2 (09/04/2020):
Again, the conspiracy theory that the virus was engineered.

Comment remains visible, accessed 20/04/2020.

**Comment 3 (09/04/2020):**

Ronnie Kray · 30 Mar
The Chinese are trying to wreck western economies this is an attack and when over the world should boycott Chinese suppliers of goods this i just my own opinion

Disinformation that the virus is a bioweapon. It received 39 “likes” at time of being recorded, and had been published for over a week.

Comment remains visible, accessed 20/04/2020.

**Comments 4 & 5 (09/04/2020):**

Tracy Longley · 31 Mar
Give it a few months, the Chinese government will deny all knowledge Coronavirus ever existed in their country. Records and documentation will simply disappear.

User indicates that the virus is part of a Chinese conspiracy; a second user responds to effectively allege the virus is a bioweapon.

Comment remains visible, accessed 20/04/2020.
Story 3:
US officials warned bat study at Wuhan lab could trigger coronavirus outbreak TWO years ago

Comment 1 (15/04/2020):

Superpower development of a bio weapon more like

The conspiracy theory that the virus is a bioweapon is repeated.

Comment 2 (15/04/2020):

The wet market isn't the source of the virus, hence it is open again.

We need to bring manufacturing home, stop buying Chinese crap. The chinks are savages, communist liars, I have likened them to a plague of locust for years.

Disinformation that the virus did not come from the market - suggests it was engineered.

Comment remains visible, accessed 20/04/2020.

Racist language directed at Chinese people – a further online harm currently intended by the Government to be beyond the scope of its regulatory policies. IPSO does not regulate racist comments unless directed at an individual. Dozens of similar examples of racist language in comments were also visible, although they have not been recorded for this submission given the terms of reference of this inquiry.
Story 4:
Wuhan coronavirus scientists injected bat virus into piglets then fed their infected internal organs to cannibal hogs

Comment 1 (15/04/2020):

A user responds in agreement - suggesting the virus began as biological warfare.

Comment remains visible, accessed 20/04/2020.

Comment 2 (15/04/2020):
Conspiracy theory is spread that the virus came about after discarded animals which had been tested on were sold in the local market.

Comment remains visible, accessed 20/04/2020.
Story 5:
China hushed up work of ‘Bat Woman’ coronavirus expert who unlocked killer gene that could have saved lives
https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/11381746/china-hushed-up-bat-woman-coronavirus-expert/#comments

Comment 1 (15/04/2020):

We do know for sure they lied along with WHO who now is being investigated and payments withdrawn to them by my country USA. Every country should do the same. No eBay shopping no Amazon shopping or at least make sure it’s not made in china. People will tell u it’s impossible to shop without having to buy China’s cheap rubbish. But that’s not entirely true you’d just have to pay tad more but better quality obviously. Everyone knows now it’s man made simply coz it’s 90odd % bat and something else but what they know now it must be something rare and exotic. Whether it came straight out of the labs is doubtful because they know that would be a guilty verdict straight away and easily sussed out. So this is how they done it just like how these vets have been looking into it. They have like everyone knows have been stopping large trucks full of pets and exotic animals and many trucks heading to the wet market’s with the animals limbs missing and still alive where they have been experimenting on the adrenal glands, the same experimental procedures they were doing with bats. THIS IS WHAT THE WHO ACTUALLY KNEW COZ THEY WERE TOLD LONG AGO BEFORE EVERYONE EXCEPT THESE VETS. THE LAST TIME WE SAW THESE VETS WERE ON YOUTUBE AND WERE SAYING THEY NEED TO GET TO HONG KONG. THE CHINESE CAN BLAME IT ON WET MARKETS ONLY AND Plead THERE INNOCENCE AND CALL IT ACCIDENTALLY. WHEN IN FACT IT WAS DELIBERATE DONE TO MESS UP THE WORLD’s ECONOMY. CHINESE TO THE RESCUE AND A MASSIVE ECONOMIC GROWTH.
Disinformation that the virus came from a lab; that it was started deliberately, and that animals were losing limbs as part of experimentation.

Comment remains visible, accessed 20/04/2020.

**Comment 2 (15/04/2020):**

> The communist Chinese government need to be held to account for creating the virus and infecting the entire planet.

Conspiracy theory that the virus is a weapon.

**Comment 3 (15/04/2020):**

> The virus started in the US and was brought by American soldiers to Wuhan in Oct 2019. Western press are always very quick to blame China, Russia for everything.

Disinformation which has been widely shared; that the virus began in the US, and that US soldiers brought the virus to China.

Comment remains visible, accessed 20/04/2020.

**Comment 4 (15/04/2020):**

> China created this virus. China told the world it was nothing to worry about it. Chinese Daigou bought up all the PPE outside of China and exported it to China.

Disinformation that the virus was created by China; that Chinese people bought out the world’s supply of protective equipment.

Comment remains visible under different username, accessed 20/04/2020:
China created this virus.
China told the world it was nothing to worry about it.
Chinese Daigou bought up all the PPE outside of China and exported it to China.
Publication: The Telegraph

Story 1:
Coronavirus: can sunbathing spread the virus and should we ban outdoor exercise?
https://www.telegraph.co.uk/science/2020/04/05/coronavirus-can-sunbathing-spread-virus-should-ban-outdoor-exercise/

Coronavirus: can sunbathing spread the virus and should we ban outdoor exercise?

Matt Hancock's threat to ban outdoor exercise has been labelled 'deeply worrying' by experts who say virus does not transmit well outdoors

Comment 1 (recorded 07/04/2020):

Pen Mander 5 Apr 2020 8:54PM

There is no science, nor is there a model, that is of any use in prognosticating anything about this Wuhan Flu. It is a new, engineered virus. There is just guesswork, and nowhere do we see policy input from actual doctors doing actual work on the front lines. Just 'experts' and scientists with their guesses, far removed from the practice of medicine.

Meanwhile, this disease is picking off the usual influenza victims - the elderly and those with pre-existing illnesses - just like previous 'flus.

Ultra violet light is a well known weapon in the fight against viruses. The utter stupidity of those plods (politicians and police) in not being aware of this fact, is stupifying and frightening. Try buying an ultra-violet lamp - they are mostly sold out.

Who can have any confidence in anything these people say? And all the while economies are being destroyed and lives blighted, not just by the virus, but by the ineptitude and unfitness of public 'servants'.

Reply

Rosie Langridge 6 Apr 2020 12:37AM

@Pen Mander

Agree totally.

Plus these people are not "scientists" nor experts in anything. Neil Ferguson should have been sent packing many years ago with his destruction of the herds and flocks of this country to his 'credit' as well as telling us we would all be dead of mad cow disease.

He's just a modeller with no real world knowledge about anything. Patrick Vallance is no better, another modeller who terms himself 'a scientist'. This artificial guesswork is obviously taken by a political agenda and is no more reliable than Vallance's other modelling fantasy (ie global warming).

'Chief Medical Officer' is another so far as I can see.

Here a user repeats the dangerous “fake news” that UV lamps can viably be used to kill the virus and that coronavirus is no worse than any other strain of flu and only responsible for deaths of the elderly and unwell. It gains 66 “likes”.

Comment remains visible, accessed 20/04/2020.
Comment 2 (08/04/2020):

A user links directly to a YouTube video from the author “RogueWays”. The video is entitled “Not a Pandemic”. Within the first few minutes of the YouTube video, the theory that 5G is causing illness is suggested. The video goes on, in detail, to argue that Coronavirus illness is not caused by a virus.

Comment remains visible, accessed 20/04/2020.

Comment 3 (08/04/2020):

A user suggests that sunlight can kill the virus.


Comment remains visible, accessed 20/04/2020.

Comment 4 (08/04/2020):

Another user suggests that sunlight can kill the virus.

Comment remains visible, accessed 20/04/2020.
Story 2:
Blood from recovered coronavirus victims helps patient come off ventilator in just two days

Blood from recovered coronavirus victims helps patient come off ventilator in just two days

In trial, 10 severely-ill patients made recoveries after receiving antibodies from people who had successfully fought the Covid-19 virus

By Sarah Knapton, SCIENCE EDITOR
7 April 2020 • 5:08pm

A coronavirus patient was able to come off ventilation just two days after

Comment 1 (08/04/2020):
Under this story a user posts the fake news that Bill Gates patented a Coronavirus strain. When this is challenged (the respondent is also incorrect - the charity does not belong to Bill Gates and was not founded by him - it is an independent charity which received some funding for other projects from the Foundation founded by Bill and Melinda Gates), the commenter doubles down to suggest there is some secretive committee, including George Soros and possibly the Clintons, which are powerful and influential enough to avoid media scrutiny. Anti-Semitic conspiracy theories often rely on this fiction - and almost always include reference to Soros.

Full Fact: https://fullfact.org/online/wuhan-virus-patent-gates/

Comment remains visible, accessed 20/04/2020.

Comment 2 (08/04/2020):
A commenter says that the 2003 SARS disease was produced in a lab, suggesting it was intended for use as a bio-weapon. SARS (the outbreak began in 2002) is understood to have originated in animals. A later spate of infections may have begun with contact with the virus in a lab, but it was not being “produced”.

NHS on the origins of 2003 SARS:
https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/sars/

Comment remains visible, accessed 20/04/2020.

**Comment 3 (08/04/2020):**

**Chris Stevens** 8 Apr 2020 7:55AM

@bob wright

The study was performed in China. China needs you to believe this nonsense. Ask yourself how come Beijing is largely unaffected and Wuhan up and running again? Stories like these are cover stories and out of panic you believe them. China had a vaccine long before the virus was released. I inspect parts of N Korea were provided with it also as they seem to be unaffected but also are coming out with silly cover stories.

Comment remains visible, accessed 20/04/2020.
Story 3: Apple’s 5G iPhone launch faces delay
https://www.telegraph.co.uk/business/2020/04/04/governments-5g-auction-should-scrapped-
aseextra-capacity-needed/

Comment 1 (08/04/2020):

A commenter states that 5G will lead to “deaths” - repeating fake news that 5G technology is
dangerous.

Comment remains visible, accessed 20/04/2020.

Comment 2 (08/04/2020):
The commenter refers to the “5G Space Appeal” - a petition arguing 5G is dangerous, which is based on widely debunked source material (much of it originating from more than 20 years ago - long before 5G technology was developed).
EU Fact Check: https://eufactcheck.eu/factcheck/mostly-false-10000-scientific-research-files-call-upon-delaying-the-implementation-of-5g-technology/

Comment remains visible, accessed 20/04/2020.

Comment 3 (08/04/2020):

Again, a commenter suggests 5G is unsafe.

Comment remains visible, accessed 20/04/2020.
Story 4: 
**Boris Johnson in hospital for coronavirus – everything we know on his recovery**


Comment 1 (09/04/2020):

_Britannia Of Truth_ 9 Apr 2020 9:24AM

"Everything we know so far."

1. The virus was created and spread by the Globalist Deep State.
2. The 'lock down' was put in place by this vile, evil cult as part of their agenda to curb freedom and liberty.
3. Boris Johnson was deliberately targeted by them.
4. Raab has become a puppet of theirs without realising it.
5. Military and special operations are ongoing behind the scenes by 'positive' forces attempting to remove the Deep State.
6. Well known household names who are connected with this nefarious global Cabal, will be arrested in due course.

Comment remains visible, accessed 20/04/2020.

Comment 2 (09/04/2020):
The mainstream media is CONTROLLED by the Deep State, merely a cog in the wheel. The illusion of OFCOM was that it was setup to stop just anyone from broadcasting information on the mainstream media platform and has nothing to do with 'standards'. If anyone tries to create a general circulation newspaper (newsprint) and website and publish information about the Deep State etc, it will be shutdown by OFCOM. In fact, it would be unlikely that it would be given permission from the start.

The same user repeats their “deep state” theory.

Comment remains visible, accessed 20/04/2020.
Story 5:
Two million people lose their jobs in record plunge

Comment (09/04/2020):

Jake masec 9 Apr 2020 10:46AM
Like

This is what deliberate bio weapons attacks cause and expect more in the future. This was China's first deliberate attempt to destroy Western economies and take over the World and become the dominant power and has proved highly successful. Until the naive and gullible wake up and realize this virus inserted into the World was no accident of nature but a deliberate bio weapons insertion the quicker we can get ourselves ready for the next one which is not if but when!~In the meantime do your bit and never buy any product made or suspected to be made from this evil satanic state which is Communist China~Retaliation is coming as is bad karma on this pariah state but that will take time so please stop buying Chinese goods immediately~

Reply
Flag

A user shares the fake news that China invented the virus as a bioweapon, as a “deliberate attempt to destroy Western economies”.

Comment remains visible, accessed 20/04/2020.
Comment 1 (09/04/2020):

There is no credibly published evidence that USA soldiers suffered from a “White Lung illness” in connection with any visit to Wuhan.

Comment remains visible, accessed 20/04/2020.

Comment 2 (09/04/2020):
The fake news that the virus emerged from a lab ("bio factory") is also repeated.

Comment remains visible, accessed 20/04/2020.

Comment 3 (09/04/2020):

Fake news that Coronavirus is “man made” to “cull” the population receives six likes.

Comment remains visible, accessed 20/04/2020.

Comment 4 (09/04/2020):

A user spreads the disinformation that the USA introduced the virus to China.

Comment remains visible, accessed 20/04/2020.

Comment 5 (09/04/2020):
A commenter xenobically states that China engineers fruit from plastic.

Comment remains visible, accessed 20/04/2020.

Comment 6 (09/04/2020):

A user shares the fake news that China released Coronavirus into the world in retaliation for trade tariffs imposed by the US, and that China has plans to release something even more serious.

Comment remains visible, accessed 20/04/2020.

Comment 7 (09/04/2020):

Fake news about vaccine safety is repeated here, as is the allegation that Bill Gates is somehow maliciously involved with the virus.
Comment remains visible, accessed 20/04/2020.
Story 2:
Coronavirus treatment possible as trial finds HIV drug is beneficial to patients
https://www.mirror.co.uk/science/coronavirus-treatment-possible-trial-finds-21839709

Comment (15/04/2020):

fuglygit

6 DAYS AGO

Deffo man made

Disinformation that the virus was “man made”.

Comment remains visible, accessed 20/04/2020.
Story 3:
COBRA to meet today over UK coronavirus lockdown - as extension looks inevitable
https://www.mirror.co.uk/news/politics/cobra-meet-today-over-uk-21837992

Comment 1 (09/04/2020):
This is a link to the video of the infamous conspiracy theorist David Icke. In the video, Icke sets out a series of wild conspiracy theories and fake news.

Comment remains visible, accessed 20/04/2020.

Comment 2 (09/04/2020):
Comment suggests the 9/11 attack was a hoax.
Comment remains visible, accessed 20/04/2020.
Story 4:

*China records most coronavirus cases in six weeks amid fears of second wave*

https://www.mirror.co.uk/news/world-news/china-records-most-coronavirus-cases-21856856#comments-section

Comment (15/04/2020):

Disinformation that the virus was “man-made”.

Comment remains visible, accessed 20/04/2020.
Story 5:
Former MI6 chief claims China 'concealed crucial information' about coronavirus outbreak
https://www.mirror.co.uk/news/world-news/former-mi6-chief-claims-china-21869925#comments-section

Comment (15/04/2020):

FoggyDewhurst
3 HOURS AGO

Of course they did!!! they “conceal” everything, this virus was “released” to destabilise global economies as part of China’s ambition for global domination.:)

Conspiracy theory that China released the virus deliberately.

Comment remains visible, accessed 20/04/2020.
Publication: The Daily Mail

Story 1:
Why are the people who decide the fate of the country allowed to remain SECRET?

Comment 1 (15/04/2020):
Conspiracy theory that Bill Gates is responsible for the COVID-19 outbreak, and that his team are manipulating the Government response.
Comment remains visible, accessed 20/04/2020.

Comment 2 (15/04/2020):
Disinformation that the virus is being choreographed to block EU withdrawal.
Comment remains visible, accessed 20/04/2020.

Comment 3 (15/04/2020):
Disinformation that “corporations/banks” own the Government, the “world government”, and are responsible for use of vaccines.
Comment remains visible, accessed 20/04/2020.

Comment 4 (15/04/2020):
Conspiracy theory that Bill Gates is behind the virus, which is part of a global depopulation plan.

Comment remains visible, accessed 20/04/2020.

Comment 5 (15/04/2020):

Again, the conspiracy theory that Bill Gates is maliciously involved in the virus/response.

Comment remains visible, accessed 20/04/2020.
Story 2:
New York is the coronavirus epicenter of the world with more infections than any other country outside the U.S. - and a third of global cases are now in America - as the state tops 159,000 cases
https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-8206143/New-York-coronavirus-cases-Italy-Spain.html

New York is the coronavirus epicenter of the world with more infections than any other country outside the U.S. - and a third of global cases are now in America - as the state tops 159,000 cases
- The number of confirmed cases in New York state increased to nearly 160,000 on Thursday after the number of infections went up by 10,000 in 24 hours
- In comparison, Spain has now recorded just over 152,000 cases and Italy’s infections increased to more than 142,000

Comment (15/04/2020):
Malaj Malaga, Gibraltar, 8 minutes ago
What were the statistics for deaths last year from the flu? That's what I want to know. Was it less? Or similar amounts? Are we being kept inside for a different reason...? G5 masks going up maybe because it seems builders are immune from this virus, they are all at work.

Disinformation that the virus is a hoax, with a connection to 5G.
Comment remains visible, accessed 20/04/2020.
Story 3:
*How many people have REALLY been infected with coronavirus? German scientists claim only 6% of cases have been diagnosed worldwide (and say the rate for the UK is just 1.2%)*

Comment 1:

Conspiracy theory that the virus was engineered.

Comment remains visible, accessed 20/04/2020.
Story 4: 
Donald Trump to use 3pm conference call with governors to unveil his plan for reopening before May 1 despite CEOs telling him country's testing system is not good enough to get economy going

https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-8225859/Donald-Trump-use-3pm-conference-call-governors-unveil-plan-reopening-1.html#comments

Comment (16/04/2020):

Conspiracy theory that the virus is a hoax.

Comment remains visible, accessed 20/04/2020.
Story 5: At least 22MILLION Americans are now out of work due to COVID-19 as another 5.2m claim unemployment - decimating 13.5% of US workforce and 10 years of job growth

https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-8225711/New-unemployment-claims-reach-5-2-million-week.html#comments

Comment 1 (16/04/2020):

Conspiracy theory that the virus was engineered and released by China.

Comment no longer accessible.

Comment 2 (16/04/2020):

Conspiracy theory that the Trumps are prolonging the effect of the virus because Ivanka Trump stands to profit from sales of coffins.

Comment no longer accessible.

Comment 3 (16/04/2020):

Conspiracy theory that the virus is a hoax.
Comment remains visible, accessed 20/04/2020.

**Comment 4 (16/04/2020):**

Conspiracy theory that the virus was made by China (and that the USA made HIV).

Comment remains visible, accessed 20/04/2020.
### Category 2.1: Disinformation published by established media outlets

The table below sets out more than 30 examples of disinformation published to millions of readers by the largest newspaper publishers in the UK.

The publishers are members of IPSO. None of them have (as yet) been subject to any remedial action from the complaints-handler.

The rebuttal to the disinformation is included in the relevant column; where FullFact (or another fact-checking body) has verified the inaccuracy, this is made clear.

**Please note that in many cases, the newspaper published these false claims on its social media accounts (on Twitter and Facebook for example) where they have large followings and are amplified across the internet by reposting, linking and re-tweeting. Any proposals for tackling online harms must not allow these fake news stories on social media to be excluded from the reach of any regulator or policy, while those of ordinary citizens with far less impact are subject to the regime.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Example No.</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Publication</th>
<th>Headline</th>
<th>Link</th>
<th>Story remains accessible?</th>
<th>Claim</th>
<th>Reality</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>10/02/2020</td>
<td>The Sun</td>
<td>“Chilling satellite pics ‘show extent of corpse burning in Wuhan’”</td>
<td><a href="https://www.thetimes.co.uk/legalthem/20200210/china-accused-major-coronavirus-cover-up-chilling-satellite-pics/">https://www.thetimes.co.uk/legalthem/20200210/china-accused-major-coronavirus-cover-up-chilling-satellite-pics/</a></td>
<td>Removed</td>
<td>Satellite images showing high levels of sulphur dioxide above China are possible evidence of mass cremations of people who have died from coronavirus.</td>
<td>Full Fact: 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.</td>
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<tr>
<td>#</td>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Source</td>
<td>Article Title</td>
<td>URL</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>10/02/2020</td>
<td>The Express</td>
<td>“Coronavirus satellite image: Does THIS image show REAL scale of virus cremations?”</td>
<td><a href="https://www.express.co.uk/news/world/1240523/Coronavirus-satellite-image-scale-of-coronavirus-outbreak-infections-coronavirus-cremation">https://www.express.co.uk/news/world/1240523/Coronavirus-satellite-image-scale-of-coronavirus-outbreak-infections-coronavirus-cremation</a></td>
<td>Removed</td>
<td>Full Fact: 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.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>16/02/2020</td>
<td>Mail Online</td>
<td>“Did coronavirus originate in Chinese government laboratory? Scientists believe killer disease may have begun in research facility 300 yards from Wuhan wet fish market”</td>
<td><a href="https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-8009669/Did-coronavirus-originate-Chinese-government-laboratory.html">https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-8009669/Did-coronavirus-originate-Chinese-government-laboratory.html</a></td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Full Fact: Two Chinese scientists have published an article suggesting that the 2019 coronavirus outbreak could have originated from bats in a laboratory in Wuhan. However, apart from maps showing the proximity of laboratories, they offer no evidence to prove this.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>16/02/2020</td>
<td>The Sun</td>
<td>“THE coronavirus could have spread from a Wuhan</td>
<td><a href="https://www.theson.co.uk/news/10973774/coronavirus-wuhan-lab-bats-attacked/">https://www.theson.co.uk/news/10973774/coronavirus-wuhan-lab-bats-attacked/</a></td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Full Fact: Two Chinese scientists have published an article suggesting that the 2019 coronavirus outbreak could have originated from bats in a laboratory in Wuhan. However, apart from maps showing the proximity of laboratories, they offer no evidence to prove this.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Source</td>
<td>Story</td>
<td>Verification</td>
<td>Full Fact</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>The Daily Express</td>
<td>“Did scientists know about coronavirus before outbreak? ’Disease X’ warning revealed”</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Scientists knew about the new coronavirus long ago and called it “Disease X”. Full Fact: They didn’t. This is a misunderstanding about the phrase “Disease X”, which the WHO used to denote an unknown serious new disease that might cause a pandemic.</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>The Sun</td>
<td>The NHS hasn’t advised people to stop shaking hands to avoid the</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>The NHS has warned people should not shake hands to prevent the spread of the Wuhan coronavirus. Full Fact: This is incorrect. Although some doctors have suggested this may be a good idea, no advice around shaking hands has been issued by the government.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>laboratory which housed 600 bats which attacked and “peed on” scientists, experts say.”</td>
<td></td>
<td>Chinese research facility from bats in a laboratory in Wuhan. However, apart from maps showing the proximity of laboratories, they offer no evidence to prove this.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Source</td>
<td>Article Title</td>
<td>Article URL</td>
<td>Veracity</td>
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<tr>
<td>8/26/2020</td>
<td>The Sun</td>
<td>“Coronavirus symptom tracker app suggests 6.6MILLION Brits already have Covid-19”</td>
<td><a href="https://www.ththesun.co.uk/news/11259093/coronavirus-symptom-tracker-app-6-6-million-brits/">https://www.ththesun.co.uk/news/11259093/coronavirus-symptom-tracker-app-6-6-million-brits/</a></td>
<td>Y</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Full Fact:**
This data cannot be extrapolated to the UK population. The number of people with Covid-19 may be higher, lower, or the same as claimed.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Text</th>
<th>URL</th>
<th>Fact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>26/03/2010</td>
<td>Mail Online</td>
<td>“Coronavirus symptom tracker claims up to 6.6MILLION people in Britain may already have the life-threatening infection”</td>
<td><a href="https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-8154891/Coronavirus-tracker-claims-6-6MILLION-people-UK-it.html">https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-8154891/Coronavirus-tracker-claims-6-6MILLION-people-UK-it.html</a></td>
<td>Full Fact: This data cannot be extrapolated to the UK population. The number of people with Covid-19 may be higher, lower, or the same as claimed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>26/03/2010</td>
<td>Daily Telegraph (print edition)</td>
<td>“Data from the free Covid Symptom Tracker suggests that one in 10 Britons may now be carrying the virus.”</td>
<td><a href="https://www.pressreader.com/search?query=app&amp;newspapers=1190&amp;start=2020-3-27&amp;stop=2020-3-27&amp;hideSimilar=1&amp;type=3&amp;state=3">https://www.pressreader.com/search?query=app&amp;newspapers=1190&amp;start=2020-3-27&amp;stop=2020-3-27&amp;hideSimilar=1&amp;type=3&amp;state=3</a></td>
<td>Full Fact: This data cannot be extrapolated to the UK population. The number of people with Covid-19 may be higher, lower, or the same as claimed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>24/03/2020</td>
<td>The Sun</td>
<td>[Bill Gates “quote” story]: as reported by Buzzfeed</td>
<td><a href="https://www.buzzfeed.com/joeydurso/coronavirus-fake-bill-gates-quote">https://www.buzzfeed.com/joeydurso/coronavirus-fake-bill-gates-quote</a></td>
<td>Removed. The quote was an invention: Mr Gates never said it. It is particularly dangerous given the conspiracy theories that exist about Bill Gates and his charitable work.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ID</td>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Source</td>
<td>Claim Description</td>
<td>Confirmation</td>
<td>Notes</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>24/03/2020</td>
<td>The Metro</td>
<td>A quote reportedly given by Bill Gates was published. The “quote” suggested it is Mr Gates’ view that the virus has some supernatural purpose.</td>
<td>Removed</td>
<td>The quote was an invention: Mr Gates never said it. It is particularly dangerous given the conspiracy theories that exist about Bill Gates and his charitable work.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>03/02/2020</td>
<td>The Sun</td>
<td>An individual recovered from COVID-19 by drinking whiskey and honey.</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>There is on evidence to suggest that honey or whiskey can “beat” COVID-19.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>28/03/2020</td>
<td>The Mirror</td>
<td>Coronavirus: People with Down’s syndrome could be left to die to ‘save’ medical supplies.</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Misleading and sensationalist clickbait. Despite the Mirror referring to Down’s Syndrome, cerebral palsy and autism, the actual guidelines...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>26/03/2020</td>
<td>Daily Star</td>
<td>Fears 5G WiFi networks could be acting as ‘accelerator’ for disease</td>
<td>syndrome-could-21772296</td>
<td>Y</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Reported 01/04/2020</td>
<td>Telegraph</td>
<td>&quot;Ten times more people die of flu than covid-19&quot;</td>
<td><a href="https://twitter.com/gameoldgirl/status/1245308094906802178/photo/1">https://twitter.com/gameoldgirl/status/1245308094906802178/photo/1</a></td>
<td>n/a</td>
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<td>Date</td>
<td>Source</td>
<td>Article Title</td>
<td>Article Link</td>
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<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>01/04/2020</td>
<td>Sun</td>
<td>BCG injection we all had as kids ‘could protect against coronavirus’ – so should we have another dose?</td>
<td><a href="https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/11292581/anti-tb-injection-protect-against-coronavirus/">https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/11292581/anti-tb-injection-protect-against-coronavirus/</a></td>
<td>Y</td>
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<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>02/04/2020</td>
<td>Express</td>
<td>Coronavirus cure: Does drinking warm water help cure coronavirus?</td>
<td><a href="https://www.express.co.uk/life-style/health/1258204/coronavirus-cure-drinking-warm-water-help-cure-coronavirus">https://www.express.co.uk/life-style/health/1258204/coronavirus-cure-drinking-warm-water-help-cure-coronavirus</a></td>
<td>Y</td>
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<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>02/04/2020</td>
<td>Express</td>
<td>Coronavirus symptoms: Five signs you may have already had the COVID-19 infection</td>
<td><a href="https://www.express.co.uk/life-style/health/1262217/coronavirus-symptoms-signs-loss-of-smell-conjunctivitis-diarrhoea-tiredness-tummy-ache">https://www.express.co.uk/life-style/health/1262217/coronavirus-symptoms-signs-loss-of-smell-conjunctivitis-diarrhoea-tiredness-tummy-ache</a></td>
<td>Y</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date</td>
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<td>Source</td>
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<td>Summary</td>
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| 20    | 27/03/2020 | Express      | Coronavirus warning after study suggests COVID-19 could do this to men's sexual health | https://www.express.co.uk/life-style/health/1261359/coronavirus-cases-update-china-study-sexual-hormones-erec
tile-dysfunction | The article refers to a report, since retracted, which has not been peer-reviewed and is almost entirely speculative in nature. BioNews: A report published online that suggests the novel coronavirus may lead to male infertility has now been removed...the team did not perform a study to assess male fertility in patients who had been infected with the coronavirus, and there is no evidence to suggest that the virus is found in the testes. |
<p>| 21    | 12/03/2020 | The Mirror   | Coronavirus 'may cause damage to men's testicles', doctors warn             | <a href="https://www.mirror.co.uk/science/coronavirus-may-cause-damage-mens-21681342">https://www.mirror.co.uk/science/coronavirus-may-cause-damage-mens-21681342</a> | The article refers to a report, since retracted, which has not been peer-reviewed and is almost entirely speculative in nature. BioNews: A report published online that suggests the novel coronavirus may lead to male infertility has now been removed...the team did not perform a study to assess male fertility in patients who had been infected with the coronavirus, and there is no evidence to suggest |</p>
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<th></th>
<th>Date</th>
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<th>Headline</th>
<th>Rating</th>
<th>Full Fact</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>26/03/2020</td>
<td>Express</td>
<td>Coronavirus warning: Nurse says long nails is one of the fastest spreaders of the virus</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Article goes on to set out that it's the view of an individual that, in Australia, the scarcity of resources and support available for pregnant women during the COVID-19 crisis is likely to lead to a traumatic experience of pregnancy. There is no connection to the UK, and COVID-19 does not affect pregnancy directly.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>31/03/2020</td>
<td>Express</td>
<td>Coronavirus when pregnant: Childbirth during pandemic will be 'traumatic' warns expert</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Headline suggests being infected with coronavirus affects pregnancy.</td>
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<td>Full Fact: Based on the limited data available, the WHO writes, there is currently no evidence to suggest that pregnant women are at greater risk of severe illness</td>
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<td>Date</td>
<td>Source</td>
<td>Event Description</td>
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<td>Verification</td>
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<td>25</td>
<td>10/03/2020</td>
<td>Express</td>
<td>Coronavirus news: Once infected you could have COVID-19 virus FOR LIFE, warns expert</td>
<td><a href="https://www.express.co.uk/news/science/1253132/Coronavirus-news-infection-COVID19-for-life-virus-warning-latest-coronavirus?int_source=traffic.outbrain&amp;int_medium=traffic.outbrain&amp;int_term=traffic.outbrain&amp;int_content=traffic.outbrain&amp;int_campaign=traffic.outbrain">https://www.express.co.uk/news/science/1253132/Coronavirus-news-infection-COVID19-for-life-virus-warning-latest-coronavirus?int_source=traffic.outbrain&amp;int_medium=traffic.outbrain&amp;int_term=traffic.outbrain&amp;int_content=traffic.outbrain&amp;int_campaign=traffic.outbrain</a></td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Individuals could suffer from COVID-19 for life. An expert had commented that some people occasionally will retain an inactive form of the virus (this happens with other viruses). There was no “warning”, because there is no suggestion that people will suffer the virus symptomatically for life.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>21/01/2020</td>
<td>Sun</td>
<td>&quot;LIKE A BAT OUTTA HELL China coronavirus: Fears outbreak is linked to bat soup sold at Wuhan market&quot;.</td>
<td><a href="https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/10801901/china-coronavirus-outbreak-wuhan/">https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/10801901/china-coronavirus-outbreak-wuhan/</a></td>
<td>Removed.</td>
<td>That the virus originated with the consumption of bat soup, including a video of bat soup being consumed.</td>
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<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>31/04/2020</td>
<td>Express</td>
<td>Coronavirus bombshell: Biosecurity expert exposes real ‘origin of human virus transfer</td>
<td><a href="https://www.express.co.uk/news/world/1262659/coronavirus-biosecurity-covid19-wuhan-market-origin-pangolin-bats-spt">https://www.express.co.uk/news/world/1262659/coronavirus-biosecurity-covid19-wuhan-market-origin-pangolin-bats-spt</a></td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Pangolins are responsible for spreading the virus to humans in the first instance.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>19/03/2020</td>
<td>The Sun</td>
<td>Flu, anti-malaria, arthritis and HIV drugs ‘showing promise’ in fight against coronavirus</td>
<td><a href="https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/11206632/flu-malaria-arthritis-hiv-drugs-coronavirus/">https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/11206632/flu-malaria-arthritis-hiv-drugs-coronavirus/</a></td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Drugs used for flu and other viruses have been shown in tests to offer a possible cure for COVID-19.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Author</td>
<td>Source</td>
<td>Title</td>
<td>URL</td>
<td>Verification</td>
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<tr>
<td>04/03/2020</td>
<td>Mail Online</td>
<td></td>
<td>Did coronavirus leak from a research lab in Wuhan? Startling new theory is 'no longer being discounted' amid claims staff 'got infected after being sprayed with blood'</td>
<td><a href="https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-8188159/Did-coronavirus-leak-research-lab-Wuhan-Startling-new-theory-no-longer-discounted.html">Link to article</a></td>
<td>Y</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03/04/2020</td>
<td>Mail Online</td>
<td></td>
<td>Trump-backed anti-malaria drug hydroxychloroquine is the most effective coronavirus treatment currently available, finds international poll of</td>
<td><a href="https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-8184259/Malaria-drug-hydroxychloroquine-effective-coronavirus-treatment-currently-available.html?ito=social_twitter_mailonline">Link to article</a></td>
<td>Y</td>
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**Full Fact:**
- China may have developed COVID-19 in a lab. There is “no evidence” for this.
- A poll of this kind cannot show “effectiveness” - it only shows the anecdotal perceptions of doctors. There was also not a majority, and the sample was not representative.
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<th>Text</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Mail Online</td>
<td>Hydroxychloroquine was among the most effective treatments.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03/04/2020</td>
<td></td>
<td>Trump-backed anti-malaria drug hydroxychloroquine is the most effective coronavirus treatment currently available, finds international poll of 6,000 doctors</td>
<td>Y</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02/04/2020</td>
<td>Daily Mirror</td>
<td>‘Coronavirus ‘could kill 50,000’ in UK with Easter Sunday ‘to be deadliest day’.”</td>
<td>Y</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02/04/2020</td>
<td>Daily Mirror</td>
<td>The 50,000 figure is cumulative - not an expectation for Easter Sunday itself.</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>