

Issue 1 - Tuesday March 24, 2020

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All resources directly from News Literacy Project's weekly newsletter 'The Sift' and the NLP website *except "From Dr. Anthony Fr. Fauci this week"

Staying informed on COVID-19 with the Weekly Newsletter from The News Literacy Project's THE SIFT.

Fight misinformation. Stay informed. - Subscribe to the NLP right [HERE](#)

Here is the [Online link](#) to this week's [The Sift Newsletter](#), including the popular "viral rumor rundown": Read it all [HERE](#)

Last week's Newsletter is right [HERE](#) : March 16, 2020

Take this week's News Literacy Quiz on this page right [HERE!](#) Mr. Dawkins got a 9/10 - can you tell which one he got wrong?

[THIS](#) visualization is updated daily with the John Hopkins CSSE data, which is typically released around 7:00pm Central.

***From Dr. Anthony Fauci this Week**

Dr. Anthony Stephen Fauci is an immunologist who serves as director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases and as a member of the White House Coronavirus Task Force addressing the 2019–20 coronavirus pandemic.

As a physician with the National Institutes of Health (NIH) of the United States, he has served public health in various capacities for over fifty years. He has made contributions to HIV/AIDS research and other immunodeficiencies, both as a scientist and as the head of the NIAID at the NIH. The New York Times called Fauci "the nation's leading expert on infectious diseases".

Fauci attended Regis High School, a Jesuit High School in New York City and the Jesuit College of the Holy Cross. Fauci then went on to attend Cornell University Medical College where he graduated first in his class with an M.D. in 1966. He then completed an internship and residency at The New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center

[Q & A with Dr. Fauci from Science Magazine](#)- Mar. 22, 2020

[Transcript](#): Dr. Anthony Fauci discusses coronavirus on "Face the Nation," March 22, 2020

[Anthony Fauci's Plan to Stay Honest](#)- The Atlantic, March 22

[Trump signals unity with Fauci amid talk of tension](#)- Politico, March 24

[Video](#): Dr. Fauci's lecture at CROI 2020 special session on COVID-19, "The Research Response to COVID-19: A View from NIAID" (lecture begins at 1:01:24)

Seek credible sources – Use these tools to fact check and recognize misinformation so you can stop it in its tracks.

Whatever the intent, the best way to protect yourself and others from infection with misinformation about COVID-19 or the strain of coronavirus that causes it is to fact-check before you share. There are a number of resources and sites to help you do that.

Here are a few:

- [AFP Fact Check](#)
- [First Draft](#)
- [Lead Stories](#)
- [Snopes](#)
- [PolitiFact](#)
- [World Health Organization myth busters](#)

Reliable sources for information on COVID-19

Columbia College Chicago's Civic Media Helpful Resources During Viral Times [HERE](#)

- [World Health Organization](#)
- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)
- [Johns Hopkins University & Medicine](#)
- [Federation of American Scientists](#)
- [SAS Institute's Coronavirus Dashboard](#) (up-to-date graphics and data on the pandemic)
- [CovidActNow.org](#)
- Local health agencies [Denver, Colorado]
 - [Tri-County Health](#) COVID-19 page
 - [Colorado.gov](#) COVID-19 updates

-Also, check out NLP's [Flipboard magazine](#), where we are gathering excellent reporting on COVID-19 from high quality news sources

Debunking COVID-19 misinformation

- [Rumor Review: Want to help others avoid COVID-19? Don't share misinformation!](#)
- [Rumor Review: Misleading video, false cures swirl around COVID-19](#)
- [Rumor Review: Misinformation creates coronavirus 'infodemic'](#)
- [Rumor Review: Virus not causing nbeer drinkers to avoid Corona brand](#)

Tips, articles and more

- [Classroom Connection: Practicing information hygiene](#)
- [NLP's Peter Adams discusses coronavirus misinformation on NPR](#)
- [How to know what to trust in 7 steps](#) (Printable [PDF](#))
- [The Sift \(March 16\): Practicing information hygiene | Coronavirus misinformation | COVID-19 journalism](#)
- [What's Going on in This Graph?](#) (New York Times article explaining "flatten the curve")

Who shares COVID-19 rumors?

Why would someone make up a story or share an unverified rumor? As Craig Silverman noted in [*Lies, Damn Lies and Viral Content*](#), a 2016 report for Columbia University's Tow Center for Digital Journalism, behavioral economist Cass Sunstein identified four main types of rumor propagators in his book *On Rumors*:

Here is a quick explanation of what these types are and how they apply to the information we see online:

- Those who promote **self-interest** at the expense of others (for example, people spreading scams and using falsehoods to build up large followings online).
- Those who promote the **interests of a group** they favor or support (for example, people in one political party who share false claims or misleading videos about a politician in the other party).
- Those motivated by **malicious intent** (for example, trolls who seek to derail conversations or extremists advancing agendas of hate online).
- Those who act for **altruistic reasons** (for example, people with a sincere desire to warn others about a possible threat).

In the case of the coronavirus pandemic, we see all of those motivations playing out in our social media feeds.

And you might be surprised to discover the biggest misinformation vector in the current crisis: people acting on the altruistic impulse to help others avoid infection — and sharing misinformation without realizing that it's false or misleading.

This week's extra bonus content for the (online) classroom:

- [“Why people share misinformation in a global health crisis.”](#) (Renée DiResta, Slate).
 - **Discuss:** What patterns exist in misinformation during outbreaks and other global health crises? What can we learn from these patterns?
 - **Idea:** Have students create infographics highlighting common misinformation patterns — about outbreaks of disease generally, or about the current strain of coronavirus specifically; once you've confirmed their accuracy, share them online.
- [“Russian misinformation targets coronavirus fears”](#) (Sara Fischer, Axios).
- [“The battle against disinformation is global”](#) (Scott Shackelford, The Conversation).
 - **Discuss:** How are governments around the world using misinformation to advance their interests? What can ordinary people do to combat these efforts?
- [“Mayo Clinic asks news media to refrain from photographing COVID-19 mobile collection sites”](#) (Jay Furst, Mayo Clinic).
 - **Discuss:** Do you think news organizations should refrain from photographing COVID-19 testing tents to avoid scaring people away or stigmatizing catching the virus? Does the public have a right to know — and see — what is happening at test sites around the country? Are official photos of the sites released by the Mayo Clinic and other organizations that operate them as effective as photos taken by photojournalists? Why or why not?

- ["Coronavirus: Russia doctors say government is covering up cases"](#) (Irina Titova, Business Insider).
- ["Medium removes viral post downplaying coronavirus after it spreads in conservative circles"](#) (Andrew Wyrich, Daily Dot).
- ["Straight from Facebook: How to spot fake news on coronavirus"](#) (ABS-CBN).
- ["How journalists are working together to cover the COVID-19 pandemic"](#) (Stefanie Murray, Nieman Lab).
- ["Amid coronavirus pandemic, Iran covers up crucial information and threatens journalists"](#) (Committee to Protect Journalists).
- ["Government gives 'key worker' status to all journalists reporting on coronavirus pandemic to the public"](#) (Charlotte Tobitt, Press Gazette).
- ["Major news organizations are showing ads for face masks despite shortage for health care workers"](#) (Donie O'Sullivan, CNN Business).
- ["New BBC explainer feature helps news readers understand complex topics"](#) (Daniel Green, Journalism.co.uk).
- * ["The Week in Tech: How to Stop Coronavirus 'Doomsurfing'"](#) (Kevin Roose, The New York Times).
- * ["Inauthentic YouTube channels spam partisan content from fringe sites"](#) (Digital Forensics Research Lab, Medium).
- ["We were on borrowed time': coronavirus could strike final blow to local newspapers"](#) (Abené Clayton, The Guardian).
- ["Facebook Spreads Fake News Faster Than Any Other Social Website, According To New Research"](#) (Mark Travers, Forbes).

* = possible paywall; some news organizations have dropped their paywalls on their COVID-19 coverage.

