

This snapshot updates #19. These COVID-19 Analytical Snapshots are designed to capture the latest research, information and analysis in a fast-moving environment. Topics will be repeated from time to time as analysis develops. If you have an item to include, please email us at research@iom.int.



New research & analysis on misinformation & Covid-19

[Immigrants are not to blame for global epidemics: Insights from past and present](#), by T. Shams

[Types, sources, and claims of COVID-19 misinformation](#), by J.S. Brennen et al.

[Battling the pandemic of misinformation](#), by C. Pazzanese

[Fake news swamping interpersonal communication in the times of corona virus](#), by K. Patel and H. Binjola

[The challenge of real-time analysis: Making sense of the migration and mobility implications of COVID-19](#), by M. McAuliffe, C. Bauloz and A. Kitimbo



The human cost of misinformation

As presented in [snapshot #19](#), misinformation on COVID-19, including conspiracy theories, [continue to invade the digital landscape](#). The [human toll of coronavirus misinformation](#) has resulted in poisoning, critical illnesses, racial tensions and violent attacks. As with [previous disease outbreaks](#), misinformation has been circulating on the alleged role of migrants in spreading COVID-19 globally.

“One crucial but overlooked point dismantles these fears about immigrants being active vectors: while [human mobility](#) transforms region human-to-human transmission into global outbreaks, immigrants and [refugees](#) are relatively static compared to seasonal travelers. Unlike tourists and business travelers, who travel back and forth across borders on a temporary but regular basis, immigrants and refugees have settled in their adopted countries fairly permanently. Their often-limited resources prohibit frequent travel.—T. Shams

The UN verified campaign “Good communication saves lives”

The United Nations has launched “[Verified](#)”, a new initiative to combat the growing scourge of COVID-19 misinformation. “As we contain the virus, we must also contain misinformation”.



Preventive practices taken by countries and social media platforms

Social media platforms and [countries](#) have all ramped up efforts to identify and take down COVID-19 misinformation.

- ⇒ [The European Digital Media Observatory project \(EDMO\)](#): The project collaborates with media organizations and experts to better limit the phenomenon of disinformation and increase societal resilience to it.
- ⇒ [Twitter COVID-19 Stream](#): Twitter [announced](#) that they are introducing “new labels and warning messages that will provide context and information on some Tweets containing disputed or misleading information related to COVID-19”
- ⇒ [Facebook Coordinated Inauthentic Behavior Report](#): The report included networks that have been taken down due to their violation of Facebook’s policies against harmful health misinformation.

IOM’s Migrants as Messengers initiative

[IOM’s Migrants as Messengers initiative](#) has proved to be helpful in combatting misinformation and preventing the spread of COVID-19. [Volunteers from West African countries](#) produced and shared videos to raise awareness within their own communities.

In [Guinea](#), returned migrants have participated in training sessions that were organized by IOM that focused on awareness-raising around COVID-19 especially with female community members.



5 measures to prevent the spread of misinformation

- ⇒ **Be critical** when you look at social media
- ⇒ **Challenge false information** by politely **asking** the person who shared it **to remove it**.
- ⇒ **Report** the false information to the platform administrators
- ⇒ When in doubt, **take the time to verify** the shared information
- ⇒ **Make more noise** than people who share false information

Source: [Nadia Naffi](#) also available at [The Conversation](#)

This COVID-19 Analytical Snapshot has been produced by [IOM Research](#) (research@iom.int).

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