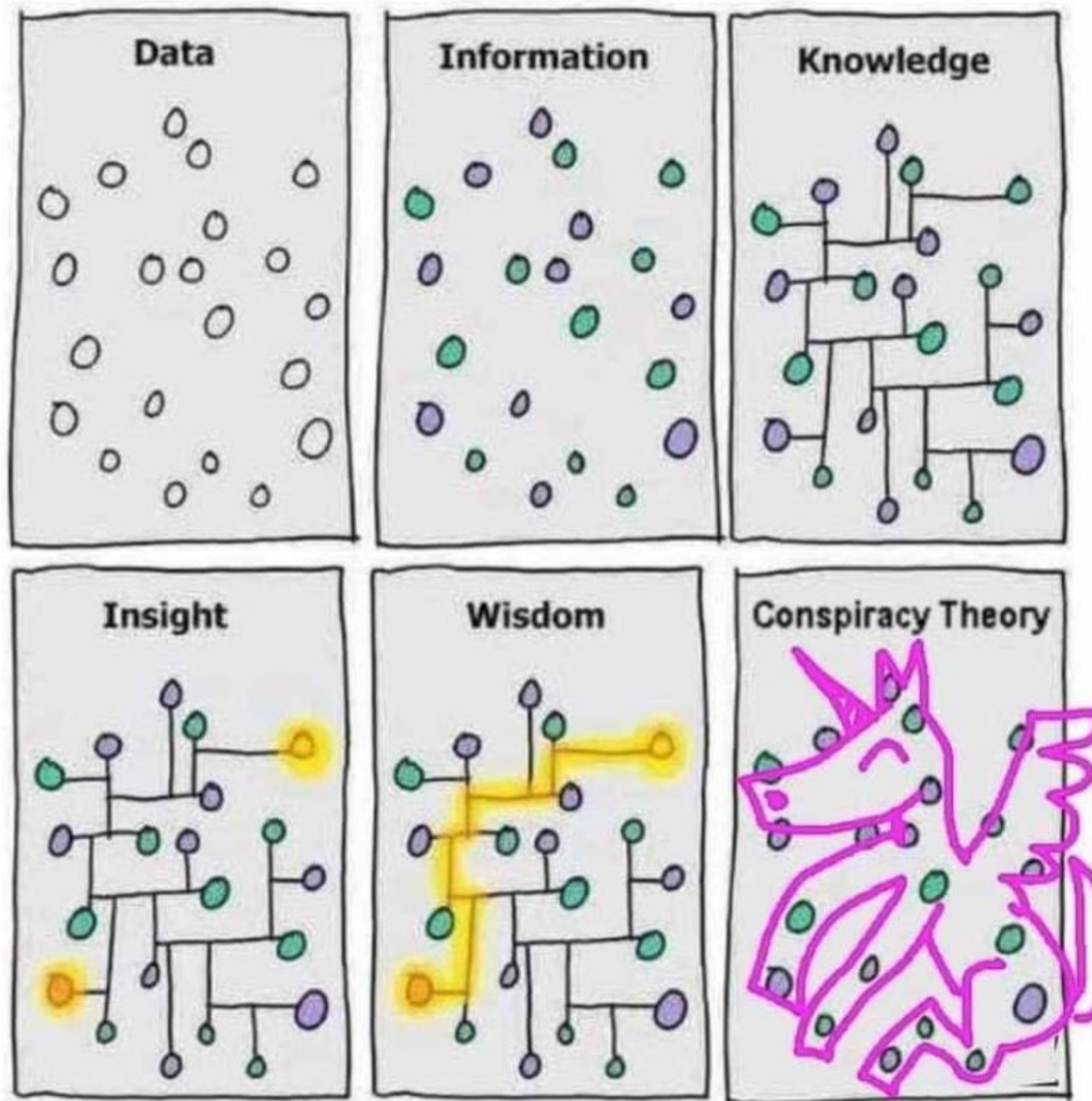


[View this email in your browser](#)



World Health
Organization



Infodemic Management News Flash

Thursday, 18 March 2021 | Issue #12

Feature Artwork

While it's unclear where the conspiracy portion of this graphic originated, it certainly speaks to our hearts.

Not only are we partial to the unicorn because it has unofficially become the WHO infodemic management mascot, but here's a great visual of the intel-gathering process.

We can look at this and see how data is used to connect the dots, grow knowledge and gain wisdom that can help us make informed decisions based on evidence.

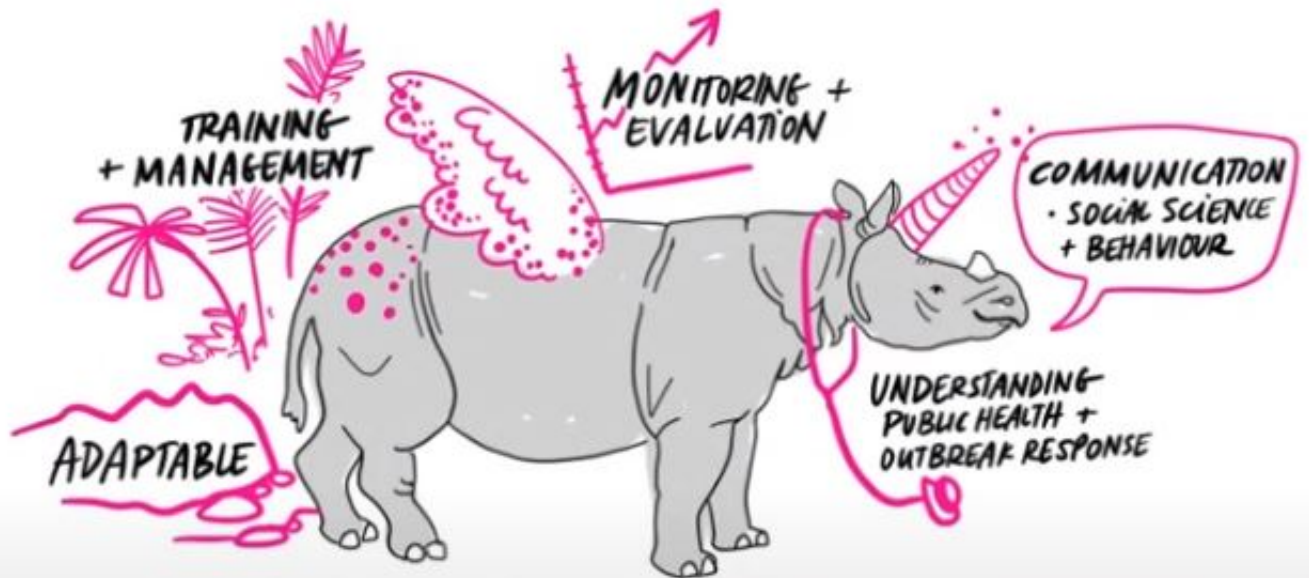
It's also a great visual about how conspiracy theories are built on kernels of truth.

Regardless of what your key takeaway is here, let's just all agree that unicorns are real—they exist in our hopes and dreams.

Credit: Illustration by David Somerville based on the original by Hugh McLeod – unicorn/conspiracy addition by anonymous

Feature Content

WANTED: INFODEMIC MANAGER UNICORNS



Apply to WHO's 2nd global infodemic manager training course.

- Online training runs for four weeks from 1 - 30 June 2021
- Deadline for submission is 9 May 2021 at 18:00 Geneva, Switzerland time

As part WHO's efforts to manage the infodemic in line with a comprehensive pandemic preparedness plan, WHO has opened applications for its 2nd-ever global infodemic manager training.

As the world accelerates the development and rollout of public health measures, making good health information accessible is as important as ever.

This cohort will be the second group of professionals to become skilled and certified WHO infodemic responders. Upon completion of the training, they can be deployed to different country assignments around the globe.

Experienced professionals who are responding to the current COVID-19 pandemic and infodemic at the country level are invited to apply. We are inviting people from the fields of epidemiology, risk communication, health service delivery, digital health, policymaking and more.

[Find the full guidelines for how to apply here.](#)

Opportunities for Action



NICOLE GRABLE

Public Health Advisor

COVID-19 Response Unit

and Public Health Advisor on the COVID

Mercy Corps is taking action to stop the spread of

misinformation.

In April of 2020, [WHO established 50 global actions](#) to manage infodemics, and one of our infodemic manager training alumni at [Mercy Corps](#) is making strides to support the action plan. They just kicked off a 10-week learning journey with team members from 13 countries with a focus on evidence-based social programming for COVID-19 vaccines. In an effort to build resilience to misinformation, Mercy Corps is working with community action committees and volunteers in different countries to understand how different communities are responding to COVID-19. When Mercy Corps knows what information the communities lack, they can step in with accurate information that will help people in the communities make healthy decisions.

Scaling up grassroots efforts at the local level is critical to helping communities protect themselves against damage caused by infodemics. Mercy Corps requests that we all be agents of change and to fact-check information we receive so we can avoid spreading misinformation.

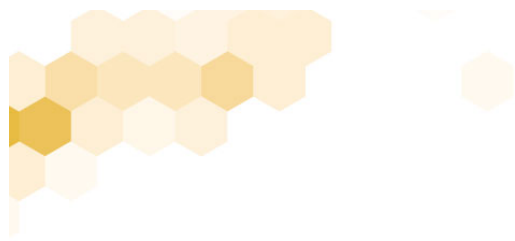


Donate your expertise on infodemic management to school kids in the UK.

[The Burnet News Club is hosted by The Economist Educational Foundation](#), and it's a programme that offers UK school children and teachers resources to improve their news literacy skills. Each half term they cover one current affairs topic in depth, and this term the topic is all things infodemic.

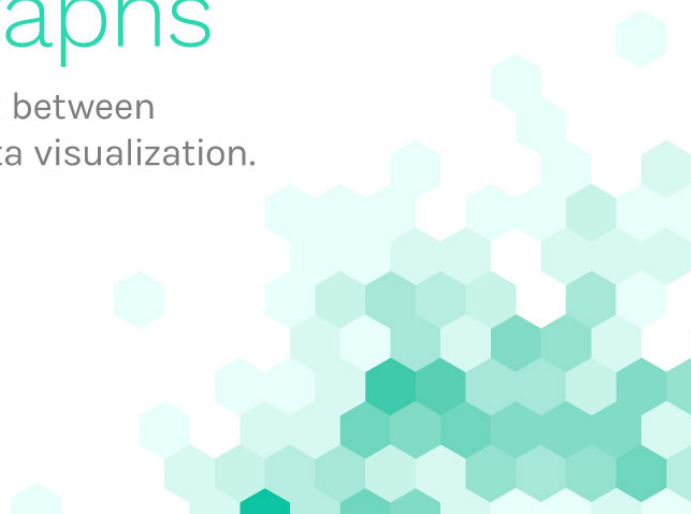
[Check out the club hub](#) and look at some of the ways you can get involved this

term.



RAWGraphs

The missing link between
spreadsheets and data visualization.



Use RAWGraphs—an open-source tool—to visualize your data.

[RAWGraphs](#) is an open-source data visualization framework built with the goal of making the visual representation of complex data easy for everyone. The tool aims to provide a missing link between spreadsheet applications (e.g. Microsoft Excel, Apple Numbers, OpenRefine) and vector graphics editors (e.g. Adobe Illustrator, Inkscape, Sketch).

Through [RAWGraphs](#), you can load your dataset, and make a wide range of charts with the point-and-click interface. The options try to update smartly depending on your data and visualization choices.



Submit a paper or a talk proposal.

Truth & Trust Online is [requesting two types of submissions](#) for their October virtual conference: technical papers and talk proposals.

The focus of the conference is on identifying what new problems related to trust and truth arise on the internet and what technical solutions could be a potential answer to these problems, rather than incremental solutions to what has already been proposed.

Topics should include:

- Misinformation and disinformation
- Trustworthiness of COVID-19 news and guidance
- Hate speech
- Online harassment and cyberbullying
- Credibility and fake reviews
- Hyper-partisanship and bias
- Image/video/audio verification
- Fake amplification, polarization, and echo chambers
- Transparency in content and source moderation
- Privacy and anonymity requirements

[Find full details here.](#)



Answer Crest's call for commissioned projects.

CREST is the UK's hub for behavioural and social science research into security threats. As well as conducting independent research, they take a leading role in stimulating public and professional debate; connecting disciplinary communities; informing security policy and practice; and providing training to research leaders of the future. They are funded by the Economic and Social Research Council, which is part of UK Research and Innovation.

[CREST is calling](#) for higher education institutions, research organisations, charities, commercial companies, and individuals from the UK and overseas, who can demonstrate a capability to deliver a high-quality programme of research on the following topics:

- Identifying Social Media Influencers and their Impact
- Evidence Base of Data-driven Personalised Advertising
- Culture and Effective Messaging Overseas
- Predicting Narcissism and Risk Appetite from Language Data
- The Effects of Communication Medium on Working Relationships
- Joiners to Online Communities: How do People Build Trust, Credibility, and Influence?

Successful applicants will become part of CREST's larger research programme, benefiting from resources for translating and communicating evidence for impact, and opportunities for sustained interaction with our key stakeholders – including UK and overseas governments.

[Find full details here.](#)

Key dates:

- **The call closes at 16:00 GMT on 5 May 2021**
- **Projects are due to commence after October 2021. All projects should be complete by December 2022**



Submit an abstract to this conference.

The [Global Health Literacy Summit](#) is the first largest and most diverse global gathering on health literacy. Organized by the International Health Literacy Association, the summit will bring hundreds of people from countries throughout the world to network and share ideas on how to advance health literacy. The theme of the Summit is “Health Literacy for All” highlighting its importance for equity and sustainable development.

Deadline is extended! [Submit an abstract by 31 March 2021, 23:59 \(GMT +8\).](#)

MEDIATE

ICWSM - 2021 WORKSHOP

Answer ICWSM's call for papers and talk proposals.

The second Mediate workshop will be held virtually on 7 June 2021, as part of the [International AAAI Conference on Web and Social Media \(ICWSM\)](#). The main goal of the workshop is to bring together media practitioners and technologists to discuss new opportunities and obstacles that arise in the modern era of information diffusion. This year's theme is: "Misinformation: automation, uptake, and digital governance." You can also check [last year's program and recorded talks](#).

[Submit your technical paper and talk proposal](#)—**deadline is 23 April 2021 (23:59 AOE)**

2021 Humanitarian Health Conference

Submit a poster or an abstract to the Humanitarian Health Conference.

[The 2021 Humanitarian Health Conference](#) is an educational event to equip healthcare professionals and students to provide excellent and appropriate care

to the world’s most marginalized people. Breakout sessions will focus on community health, patient care, and career development. In-person attendees can also participate in hands-on skill learning sessions. Participants will also connect with organizations with whom they can serve.

Deadline for poster and abstract submissions is 25 May 2021.



Apply for this training.

Apply for a four-week online Investigative Training Institute organised by Tactical Tech on 4 - 31 May 2021! You will learn from and collaborate with civil society investigators across the European Union to develop skills and techniques for secure investigations and digital research.

Application Deadline: 22 March 2021 (at midnight CET). [Apply here.](#)

- **WHO:** [Consultant, Communications and External Relations](#) (Japan/remote)
- **UNICEF:** [Communication for Development Specialist - Community Engagement](#), Temporary Appointment (USA)
- **European Medicines Agency:** [Scientific Communication Officer](#), Temporary (The Netherlands)
- **Knowledge Media Institute, The Open University:** [Post-doc Research Associate, Countering Creative Information Manipulation with Explainable AI](#) (UK)
- **Meedan's Digital Health Lab:** [Program Manager](#) (Flexible)

Upcoming Events



[18 March 2021](#)

The humanitarian imperative is built on trust. With growing pushes towards the decolonisation of the sector and an understanding that our work cannot be successful without earning the trust of the communities we work with - we ask the question, 'Do we give what we get?' Do we genuinely trust crisis-affected communities to know what is best for themselves? How genuine are we about giving communities a voice in the decisions that affect their lives?

Join Internews and panelists for a moderated discussion to explore how trust - or the lack of it - is impacting our sector today.

[Register to attend.](#)



[22 March 2021](#)

The **European Science-Media Hub** (ESMH), the Panel for the future of Science and Technology (STOA), and the European Parliament Liaison Office in Lisbon have organised a workshop in Portuguese (without interpretation), where a health professional, a researcher in social networks’ dynamics, a journalist and a science communicator will talk about the new challenges of science, including lessons and opportunities of the pandemic.

[Register to attend.](#)



[22 March 2021](#)

The COVID-19 pandemic has fueled a parallel “infodemic” of harmful misinformation about the virus and vaccines. This has highlighted the wider challenge for governments on how to manage the spread of misleading content

on the internet and social media platforms.

This Institute for Government event, held in partnership with the Arts and Humanities Research Council, will explore the scale of the misinformation challenge facing the UK government and the policy approaches that government can take to address it.

[Register to attend.](#)



[23 March 2021](#)

The European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies is hosting a webinar on "The COVID-19 Infodemic: Ensuring universal access to credible health information" where WHO will deliver the keynote address. With the surge of information, some accurate, some not, accompanying the COVID-19 pandemic, information gaps plus a mix of misinformation and malicious disinformation have led to confusion around the choices we are making to protect ourselves and each other. This can lead to harmful behaviours and erode social cohesion. Improving the management of this ‘infodemic’ is critical for a successful pandemic response. Panelists will address questions like:

- How do we manage an infodemic?
- What tools and techniques can we add to our toolkit?
- Where do we need more research and innovation to strengthen the global response?

[Register to attend.](#)

A banner for Kantar Public featuring a dark background with several large, overlapping orange circles. The text 'KANTAR PUBLIC' is in white, bold, uppercase letters. Below it, 'Citizen trust in 2021' is in white, and 'How restoring public confidence will be key to accelerating the recovery' is in smaller white text. On the right, 'A webinar series in February and March' and 'Book your place below' are in white text. The word 'Istanbul' is partially visible in orange on the right side.

KANTAR PUBLIC

Citizen trust in 2021

How restoring public confidence will be key to accelerating the recovery

A webinar series in February and March
Book your place below

23 March 2021

Kantar is the world's leading data, insights and consulting company. The final webinar in their Citizen Trust Series will explore public trust in media and government communications and will feature WHO among its speakers.

As the world battles the ongoing challenges from the COVID-19 health crisis, this webinar will share findings of research on the issues of public health policy, vaccination, trust and the public's concerns for the future. It will also provide an understanding on how government and public health bodies could act and plan to improve public trust and success of health measures to tackle the COVID-19 pandemic.

[Register to attend.](#)



25 March 2021

Disinformation Workshop: Tools & Techniques

Join an interactive workshop introducing you to tools and techniques for detecting disinformation. Some of the approaches presented will use geolocation, digital literacy, social media research and web scraping. By attending, learn how to:

- Differentiate between bots and real accounts on social media

- Perform more sophisticated search online when verifying information
- Verify photos and videos
- Review how far a disinformation narrative has spread online and perform basic analysis on such data.

This is a hands-on workshop where participants will be presented with demos of tools, as well as group and individual activities. In addition, a handout will be provided with further resources and ideas for verifying disinformation.

[Register to attend.](#)

SAVE THE DATE

March 30th, 2021

5:00 PM EAT, 3:00 PM WAT

Join our Virtual Influencer Workshop For Celebrities, Media Houses and Journalists:

#AfricaCOVIDChampions #ForAfricaWithLove

Featuring influencers from across Africa such as;



Heritier Wanabe
Artist, DRC.



Mutale Mwanza
Media Personality, Zambia.



Joseph Kusaga
Media Personality, Tanzania.



Anne Kansiime
Comedian, Uganda.

and many more to be
announced in the coming days.



Join via this Link / Scan QR
<https://bit.ly/InfluencerWkshp>





















[30 March 2021](#)

The One By One: Target COVID-19 Campaign has invited prominent religious leaders, distinguished health voices, and African influencers, artists, and athletes to join with African media personalities, business leaders, digital influencers, and journalists to participate in a public health communications workshops/training session for COVID-19 messaging.

[Register to attend.](#)



World Health Organization

31 March 2021

WHO will host a global consultation on community-centred responses to health emergencies. This event aims to promote a rethink of the role communities play in the successful design and implementation of prevention, detection, response and recovery interventions during outbreaks of new and re-emerging infectious diseases. Drawing on experiences from COVID-19 and other disease control efforts, the event will signpost the vital role of trust, agency, social cohesion and resilience for inclusive, people and community-centred approaches to preparedness and response, and will aim to address following objectives:

- Identify knowledge gaps and evidence needs that can be addressed through interdisciplinary or social science research
- Understand the experience gained through local, regional, and national approaches, strategies and initiatives for inclusive, people and community-centred responses to the COVID-19 pandemic and other infectious disease outbreaks.
- Inspire new perspectives to tackling pandemic challenges through citizen engagement and participation.

[Register to attend.](#)

Recent Events



moz://a
festival 2021

DIALOGUES & DEBATES

AI & Truth

with Jacquelyn Mason, Mutale Nkonde,
Rasha Abdul-Rahim, Peaks Krafft,
and Brandi Geurkink

MONDAY, MARCH 15
AT 11AM ET / 3PM GMT / 4PM CET



[15 March 2021](#)

With AI powering our most influential communications platforms, there's a critical vulnerability: it rewards engagement, not truth or civility. Can AI be designed differently to avoid this pitfall? And if so, what conditions and incentives must be changed for this to be the case? Panelists discussed these questions and more at Mozilla's MozFest.

[Watch the recording.](#)



WEBINAR

Retos de inmunización durante la pandemia de
COVID-19 y cómo estos han sido enfrentados por
profesionales de la salud en países latinoamericanos
en transición de recibir apoyo de Gavi

Envíenos sus preguntas para las/los panelistas a
ipadigitalcell@gmail.com o en Twitter [@IPAWorldorg](https://twitter.com/IPAWorldorg)

Miércoles, 3 de marzo 2021

08:00 am - hora central/Honduras

10:00 am - hora de Bolivia/Guyana

Interpretación simultanea español e inglés

[3 March 2021](#)

The International Pediatric Association (IPA) and the Sabin Vaccine Institute hosted a webinar to discuss immunization challenges facing health workers in Gavi transition countries in Latin America during the COVID-19 pandemic.

[Watch the recording.](#)



THE WORLD BANK

IBRD • IDA | **WORLD BANK GROUP**

[2 March 2021](#)

WHO participated in a webinar hosted by the World Bank Middle East & North Africa (MENA) to discuss with other global and regional experts the challenges and solutions for building vaccine confidence.

[Watch the recording here.](#)



[6 August 2020](#)

There are plenty of sensationalized headlines, misleading stories and even complete falsehoods circulating on the Internet, making it hard for even the

most discerning reader to sort fact from fiction. This free webinar on "sorting fact from fiction online" will equip you with valuable tools and resources to help you stay safe online.

[Register to watch the recording.](#)

Noteworthy Multimedia



Edu-tain yourself with a TED-Ed infodemic-themed [video playlist](#).



How to choose your news.

Can you outsmart a troll?



How false news can spread.



How to spot a misleading graph.



How statistics can be misleading.



Why people fall for misinformation.

How To Teach Kids Media Literacy

Experts share their advice for parents who want to raise informed media consumers.

Learn a few tips from this [Huff Post article](#) on how to teach your kids media literacy.



Listen to [Stéphane Duguin](#), CEO of the [CyberPeace Institute](#) [explain how cyberattacks on healthcare are attacks on people](#).

What We're Reading



[Features Constituting Actionable COVID-19 Dashboards: Descriptive Assessment and Expert Appraisal of 158 Public Web-Based COVID-19 Dashboards](#)

February 2021



[Classification of the Use of Online Health Information Channels and Variation in Motivations for Channel Selection: Cross-sectional Survey](#)

March 2021

PLOS ONE



OXFORD
ACADEMIC

Journal of
Public Health

**Journal for Cultural
Research**



[Science skepticism in times of COVID-19](#)

4 March 2021

[The anti-vaccination infodemic on social media: A behavioral analysis](#)

3 March 2021

[Who Is Susceptible to Online Health Misinformation? A Test of Four Psychosocial Hypotheses](#)

November 2020

[Acceptance of a Covid-19 vaccine is associated with ability to detect fake news and health literacy](#)

9 March 2021

[Conspiracist cognition: chaos, convenience, and cause for concern](#)

9 February 2021

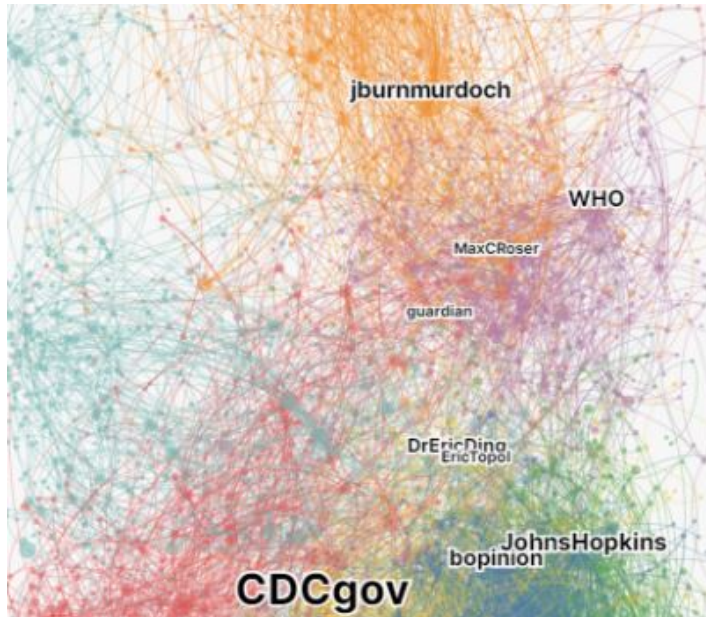
[Effective engagement and involvement with community stakeholders in the co-production of global health research](#)

15 February 2021

[Tackling threats to informed decisionmaking in democratic societies](#)

The Alan Turing Institute

Defence and Security Programme



The Data Visualizations Behind COVID-19 Skepticism

1 March 2021

Fun With Numbers

2 Months

Remember back in [issue #3](#) (which seems like a million years ago) when we shared the “[Bad News](#)” game? The one that teaches participants how to distinguish between real and fake news headlines?

Yeah that one—you played it.

That game also contributed to [three longitudinal studies](#) on misinformation inoculation effects.

As of this month, more than 1 million people have played the game and the study concludes that inoculation-based media and information literacy interventions such as the Bad News game can protect against the influence of misinformation over time. However, without regular “boosting,” the effects wane within two months.

Just when you think you've mastered avoiding manipulation, we can all be fooled. Keeping your infodemic management skills sharp isn't an end game, it's a practice.

[Read more highlights about psychologists' research on misinformation](#), including a brief history and a look to the future.

About the News Flash

An infodemic is an overabundance of information—some accurate, some not—that spreads alongside a disease outbreak. Infodemics are nothing new, but in the digital age, they spread in real time and create a breeding ground for uncertainty.

Uncertainty fuels skepticism and distrust, which is perfect environment for fear, anxiety, finger-pointing, stigma, violent aggression and dismissal of proven public health measures. To manage an infodemic, we need to understand what contributes to it. So that's why we're sending you these updates. In each issue of the WHO's Infodemic Management News Flash we'll share the latest work happening at the global level, as well as highlight some of the challenges and solutions with infodemics in local contexts. We'll also provide you with a few takeaways to help you be an effective infodemic manager in your daily life.

If you have a tip on infodemic management or an idea for a future News Flash, email us at infodemicmanagement@who.int. Thanks for joining us on this journey.



Our mailing address is: infodemicmanagement@who.int

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).