



INFODEMIC MANAGEMENT NEWS FLASH

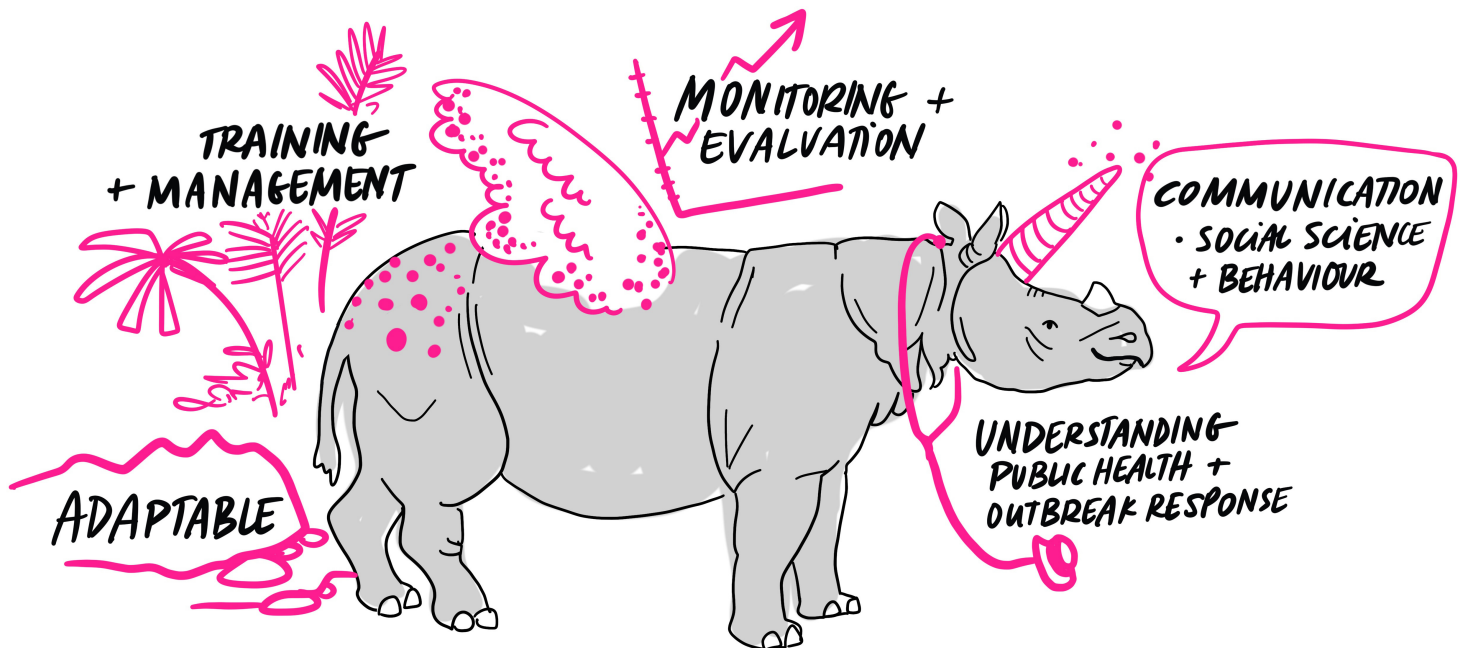
Thursday, 15 October 2020 | Issue #2

FEATURE ARTWORK

Wiley Miller really hit the nail on the head with this drawing, and with his crafty use of "heard mentality" word play. It's like he reached into our brains and sketched what we were thinking. This is a perfect illustration of how COVID-19 misinformation and disinformation can be harmful. Or worse, lethal.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR ACTION

Do you want to play a role in helping manage the COVID-19 infodemic? Seize one of these opportunities below.



INFODEMIC MANAGER UNICORN

Apply to the 1st WHO training in infodemic management. Application deadline is 18 October 2020.

To successfully mitigate the current infodemic and promote more effective future response, participants from the [WHO first infodemiology conference](#) recently contributed to a draft public health research agenda that cuts across many fields of specialization. From physics to law to behavioral science to epidemiology to user experience and design—it's clear that an infodemic manager would need a wider array of skills and expertise to successfully address infodemics that go beyond traditional boundaries of epidemiology, risk communication and community engagement and digital media. WHO and partners invite applications from experienced professionals from the fields of epidemiology, risk communication, health service delivery/health care workers, digital health, policy making (in health and intersectoral), who are responding to

the current COVID-19 and overlapping infodemics at country level.

HAVE YOUR SAY: AN ONLINE CONSULTATION CO-HOSTED BY UNDP AND UNESCO


FORGING A PATH TO A BETTER
INFORMATION ECOSYSTEM


EFFECTIVE GOVERNANCE,
MEDIA, INTERNET AND
PEACEBUILDING RESPONSES TO
DISINFORMATION

5-23 OCTOBER, 2020

Inviting researchers, UN agencies, civil
society groups, policy makers, media,
peacebuilders, fact checkers, technologists
and others tackling disinformation.

Register


United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



PART OF THE FUTURE OF GOVERNANCE CONSULTATION SERIES

Play an active role in this consultation from 5-23 October 2020.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), have teamed up to conduct a three-week online global consultation exploring the drivers and responses to the growing problem of disinformation. The consultation rooms are fully moderated and open 24/7, so we're encouraging experts in the field to drop in anytime to have a lively discussion on the impact of disinformation.

GO VIRAL!

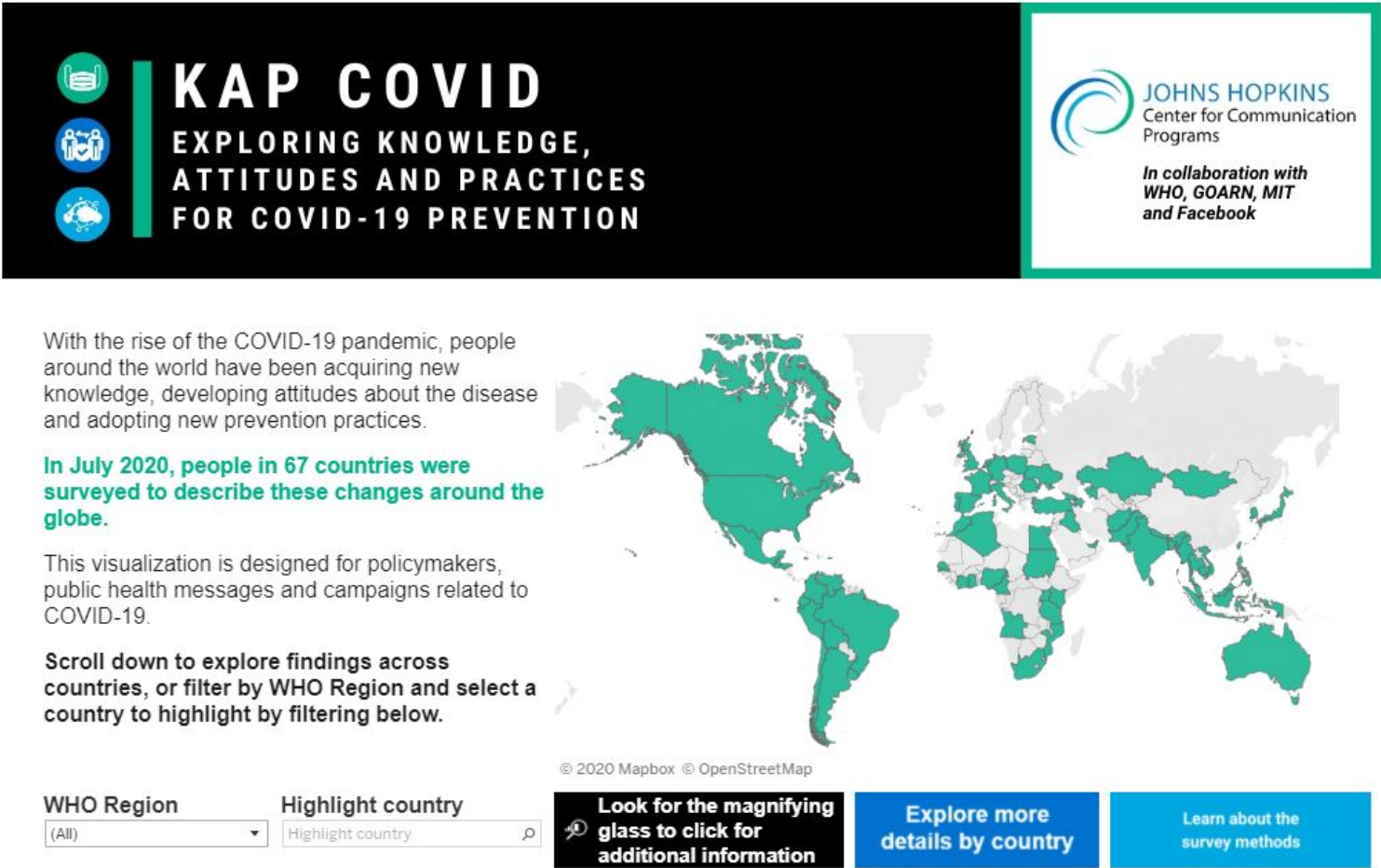
Misinformation about COVID-19 is spreading far and wide. Play the role of a media manipulator and uncover their tactics to learn how to resist them in the future.

START

Play this game.

GO VIRAL! is a 5-minute game that helps you learn about some of the most common strategies used to spread false and misleading information about COVID-19. Understanding these tricks allows you to resist them the next time you come across them online. Then fight the spread of misinformation by

challenging your friends and family to a round.



With the rise of the COVID-19 pandemic, people around the world have been acquiring new knowledge, developing attitudes about the disease and adopting new prevention practices.

In July 2020, people in 67 countries were surveyed to describe these changes around the globe.

This visualization is designed for policymakers, public health messages and campaigns related to COVID-19.

Scroll down to explore findings across countries, or filter by WHO Region and select a country to highlight by filtering below.



© 2020 Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

WHO Region

(All) ▾

Highlight country

Highlight country 🔍



Look for the magnifying glass to click for additional information

Explore more details by country

Learn about the survey methods

Click around on this open-access dashboard.

Johns Hopkins Center for Communication Programs has developed a dashboard that presents data from a global survey of knowledge, attitudes and practices (KAP) around COVID-19. The data were collected from more than 300,000 people in 67 countries who chose to participate in a survey promoted on Facebook. Researchers from MIT collected the data and Johns Hopkins CCP analyzed and presented the data on an easy-to-use COVID dashboards.

UPCOMING EVENTS



19-22 October 2020:

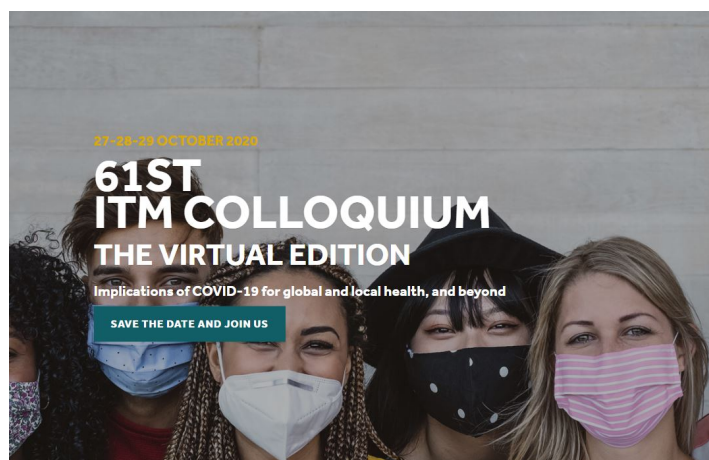
WHO is participating in PRovoke's ninth Global Public Relations Summit, which examines the communications turbulence that has swept the world this year, including disease infodemics during emergencies.



#ThankYouPublicHealth

24-28 October 2020:

WHO will participate in a panel to explore the challenges of the COVID-19 infodemic in a post-digital era. The session will cover the dangerous aspects of the COVID-19 infodemic, and how to address it by promoting digital advocacy, science and evidence-based information.



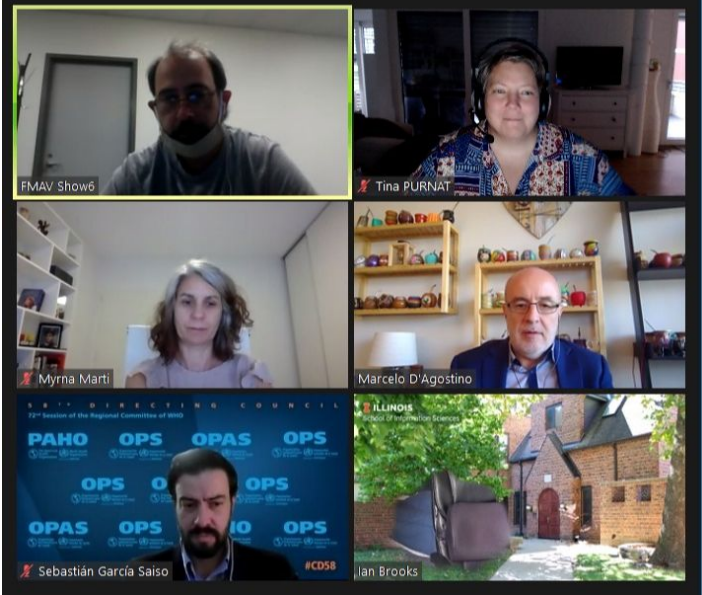
27-29 October 2020:

WHO will participate on a panel focused on investigating the potential impact of mis- and disinformation on COVID-19 vaccine uptake. This session will explore how infodemics interact with the pandemic in shaping attitudes towards acceptance and uptake of hoped-for, potential game-changing, vaccines.

RECENT EVENTS

14-16 October 2020:

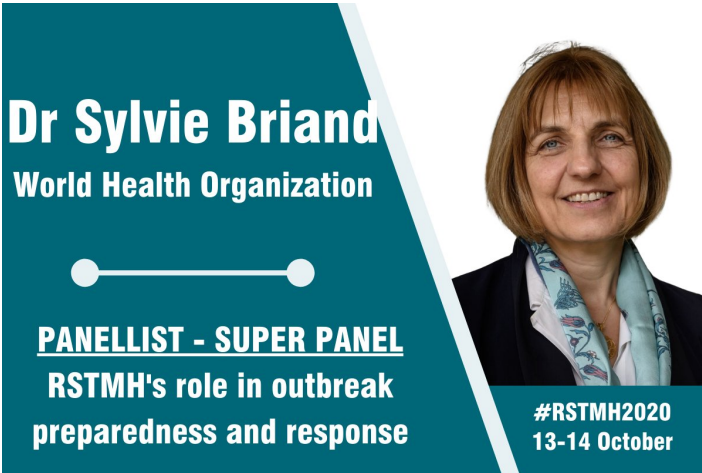
WHO participated in the Canadian



Public Health Association's 2020 public health forum to create awareness among health workers, health-related institutions and the general public about the importance of understanding their role in fighting the infodemic.



13-17 October 2020: WHO participated in the virtual G20 Interfaith Forum Saudi Arabia to discuss how faith communities can build partnerships to address COVID-19.

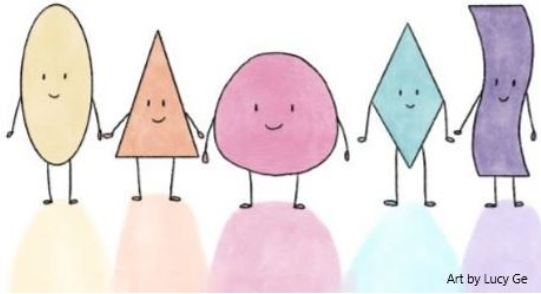


13-14 October 2020: WHO participated in the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine & Hygiene annual meeting on emerging diseases and outbreaks.



Good participatory practices for COVID-19 research and response

13 October 2020: This WHO EPI-WIN webinar highlighted approaches to good participatory practices for COVID-19 research and response, providing practical examples of how these methods work to engage and empower communities through their involvement.



Empathy and Emotions: Navigating Digital Wellbeing and Grief during COVID-19

12 October 2020: As part of the EPI-WIN webinar series, WHO hosted a conversation about the importance of empathy and community-based solutions to mental health challenges, including grief and digital wellbeing in the context of COVID-19 and beyond.



7 October 2020: The European Broadcasting Union hosted an event where WHO discussed the media's role on combatting COVID-19 misinformation.

WHAT WE'RE READING

If you're feeling overwhelmed by the abundance of new research being published on infodemic management, it just means you're human. Take a look here. We've selected a few interesting articles that you can read on your daily commute to your... home office.

THE LANCET
Infectious Diseases

COVID-19: the deadly threat of misinformation

CARNEGIE
ENDOWMENT FOR
INTERNATIONAL PEACE

The EU's Role in Fighting Disinformation: Developing Policy

Interventions for the 2020s

The International Journal of Press/Politics

nature

Beyond (Mis)Representation: Visuals in COVID-19 Misinformation

The COVID-19 social media infodemic

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

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