List of Known Misinformation and Disinformation Regarding Corona Virus in Social Media IDeaS Center and CASOS Center – Under Direction of Dr. Kathleen M. Carley Last updated 3/23/2020

Stories containing inaccurate information regarding COVID-19 fall into many categories:

- 1) Stories relating inaccurate information about cures or preventative measures or treatments that make it worse
- 2) Stories relating inaccurate information about the nature of the virus
- 3) Stories relating inaccurate information that are conspiracy stories
- 4) Stories relating false diagnosis procedures
- 5) Stories relating inaccurate information about emergency responses
- 6) Stories relating inaccurate but funny or feel good stories
- 7) Stories relating to social misbehavior

We note that there are also stories containing inaccurate information with respect to the number of deaths, politicians' response, the original source, the first reported cases, and other government activities. Such stories have not been tracked.

Following is a list of stories of each type.

#### **Preventions and Cures**

Stories relating inaccurate information about cures or preventative measures, or things that make it worse

- 1. gargling with bleach will prevent/cure also appears as satire
- 2. drinking corona beer will prevent/cure also appears as satire
- 3. taking acetic acid will prevent/cure
- 4. taking steroids will prevent/cure
- 5. taking colloidal silver will cure
- 6. taking MMS (which contains chlorine dioxide) can cure
- 7. using essential oils will prevent
- 8. gargling with salt water will prevent/cure
- 9. gargling with ethanol will prevent/cure
- 10. eating raw garlic will prevent
- 11. garlic will cure
- 12. spraying normal drinking alcohol on body will prevent
- 13. spraying chlorine on body prevents coronavirus
- 14. drinking or washing in sesame oil prevents coronavirus
- 15. using a hand dryer will kill corona virus
- 16. drinking water every 15 minutes will wash virus to the stomach where it will die
- 17. drinking hot water will kill the virus
- 18. avoiding eating ice cream will prevent

- 19. rinsing your nose with saline will prevent
- 20. aspirating boiling water vapor for five minutes deactivates the coronavirus
- 21. having a pneumonia shot will prevent you from getting the disease
- 22. having a flu shot will prevent you from getting the disease
- 23. using cocaine prevents/cures
- 24. Asians are more likely to get COVID-19
- 25. Wearing more than one mask will help prevent the virus
- 26. It is dangerous to receive packages from china
- 27. It is dangerous to eat in a Chinese restaurant (more so than other restaurants)
- 28. Cold weather and snow can kill off the SARS-CoV-2 virus
- 29. Warmer weather will kill off the SARS-CoV-2 virus
- 30. Taking a hot bath prevents COVID-19
- 31. Hand dryers are effective in killing off the SARS-CoV-2 virus
- 32. Antibiotics are effective in preventing and treating the SARS-CoV-2 virus
- 33. Vinegar is more effective than hand sanitizer
- 34. Gargling with Vinegar prevents COVID-19
- 35. Hand sanitizer does not work
- 36. Shuanghuanglian (Chinese medical herb) can prevent
- 37. drinking cow urine and applying cow dung on the body can cure coronavirus
- 38. there is no risk to mass public gatherings as the virus is impossible to contract outdoors
- 39. drinking water every 15 minutes will prevent coronavirus
- 40. Miracle Mineral Supplement/Solution (MMS) cures
- 41. silver-infused toothpaste will kill the virus
- 42. Kenneth Copeland can cure the virus directly from his tv studio
- 43. you have to be with someone for 10 minutes to catch the virus from them
- 44. taking ibuprofen makes COVID-19 worse, especially in new patients
- 45. reading the Quran will make you immune
- 46. you can kill the virus by holding a blow dryer up to your nose
- 47. Sheep head's soup is a preventative
- 48. Lemon and bicarbonate kill the virus
- 49. Lemon juice with salt is a cure
- 50. Lemon juice with Chinese mesona is a cure
- 51. Lemon juice with turmeric prevents
- 52. Consuming alcoholic beverages may help reduce the risk of infection by the novel coronavirus
- 53. Coronavirus will be cured after 14 hours of curfew
- 54. Bitter gourd juice can cure coronavirus in two hours
- 55. "Gale of the wind" and neem tree leaves can prevent corona virus
- 56. Sitting in the sunlight will cure COVID-19
- 57. Coronavirus can be cured by sniffing clove and camphor
- 58. Green chiretta can cure
- 59. Eating bananas will prevent
- 60. 15 minutes in Sauna will kill the virus
- 61. Morel mushrooms increase risk by 200%

- 62. Eating onions with salt will cure
- 63. Propolis cures COVID-19
- 64. Arsenic album-30 homeopathic medicine can prevent coronavirus
- 65. Drinking boiled garlic water cures
- 66. A bovine vaccine can be used to inoculate people against coronavirus
- 67. Shaving your beard prevents
- 68. Turkish raki prevents
- 69. Constant sex kills coronavirus
- 70. An alkaline diet prevents
- 71. Volcanic ash kills coronavirus
- 72. Ketamine can cure
- 73. Putting an opinion in your room can prevent
- 74. Black tea can prevent
- 75. Pu'er tea can prevent
- 76. Environmental enzymes can prevent
- 77. Cocaine kills coronavirus
- 78. Eating Nigella with honey prevents as it contains 100% hydroxychloroquine
- 79. Masks can be sanitized by microwaving them for 2-3 minutes
- 80. Teas with lemon and bicarbonate can cure
- 81. Mustard oil kills the coronavirus
- 82. Coffee can cure COVID-19
- 83. Chlorine dioxide can cure COVID-19
- 84. Green tea can cure COVID-19
- 85. Eating high alkalinity foods can cure COVID-19
- 86. Lifting lockdowns will exterminate coronavirus

### **Nature of Virus or Disease**

Stories relating inaccurate information about the nature of the virus

- 1. Corona virus is just a cold
- 2. COVID-19 is a normal flu and is no more dangerous than that
- 3. Children cannot catch corona virus
- 4. SARS-CoV-2 is mutating faster than normal viruses
- 5. Pregnant women who have COVID-19 can pass the virus through the placenta to the unborn child
- 6. COVID-19 only affects the elderly
- 7. The SARS-CoV-2 virus can be transmitted through mosquito bite
- 8. Africans are immune
- 9. Vegetarians are immune
- 10. People in India can resist the coronavirus
- 11. People with type-A blood are more prone to get coronavirus
- 12. Everyone with COVID-19 dies

- 13. There is no corona (virus)
- 14. This is "fake news" invented by Trump to strengthen the dollar
- 15. Chloroquine in any amount can cure COVID-19
- 16. The outbreak of covid -9 is not real
- 17. COVID-19 breeds rapidly in toilet paper
- 18. Turks area immune to COVID-19
- 19. Coronavirus is caused by snakes
- 20. Coronavirus activates all bacterias and viruses in your body
- 21. Streets in Roma filled with dead birds due to corona poisoning in air

# **Conspiracy theories including bioweapons**

Stories relating inaccurate information regarding weaponization or other conspiracies

- 1. It was created in a lab
- 2. It is a US/CIA created bioweapon
- 3. It is a Chinese bioweapon
- 4. It is a Russian bioweapon
- 5. It leaked from a bio-weapons lab in China
- 6. It leaked from the Wuhan Institute of Virology in China
- 7. It was caused by an infected rat biting a student in the Wuhan Institute of Virology in China
- 8. March 12, Ayatollah Khamenei falsely claimed that there is evidence that COVID-19 might be a "biological attack."
- Electromagnetic fields and the introduction of 5G wireless technologies led to COVID-19 outbreaks
- 10. Washing hands is propaganda by soap companies
- 11. This was a plan from Gate Foundation to increase the Gate's wealth
- 12. Qatar knew about COVID-19 since 2015 and Doha paid billions to China to "grow the virus"
- 13. Corona virus is being spread by Coca-Cola
- 14. US military brought the virus to Wuhan on October 2019
- 15. Bill Gates and Vatican have a plan to depopulate world with coronavirus vaccine
- 16. Saddam Hussein in 90s told his cabinet that US threatened to spread coronavirus if he didn't follow US commands
- 17. Cuba gave a vaccine to China
- 18. Cuba has a vaccine called Interferon
- 19. Israel found the cure
- 20. China finds a vaccine 3/17
- 21. Institut Pasteur in France invented COVID-19
- 22. COVID-19 is no worse than other outbreaks, it is just being hyped to hurt Trump
- 23. COVID-19 is a scripted narrative to justify closed borders
- 24. COVID-19 is a scripted narrative to force people to stay at home
- 25. Egypt developed cure (doctor developed a fluid)

- 26. Egypt gave China the vaccine
- 27. US has 40 thousands troops immune to COVID-19 conducting an invasion of Europe
- 28. CDC admits coronavirus originated in the US
- 29. Cow urine and feces can cure
- 30. COVID-19 was created in 2014 by an English Institute
- 31. Ecuadorean doctor develops vaccine 3/3
- 32. Filipino student develops vaccine and gets 5million US from Alibaba founder Jack Ma
- 33. Raúl Rodolfo Abhduz Khan, biochemical engineer from Karmalah Laboratories, is the creator of coronavirus.
- 34. RS 2000 notes scattered in Delhi to spread coronavirus
- 35. US soldiers who drank snake blood in Thailand carried coronavirus to Wuhan for Military World Games
- 36. Coronavirus is a hoax used to coverup the secret installation of a 5G network in Zagreb Croatia
- 37. American researcher Charles Lieber arrested for selling SARS-Cov-2 to Chinese
- 38. 5G exposure compromises hemoglobin in cells and worsens COVID-19 pandemic

# **False Diagnostic Procedures**

Stories describing false diagnosis procedures

1. If you can hold your breath for 10 seconds you don't have COVID-19

## **Emergency Measures**

Stories describing inaccurate information about emergency measures

- 1. NYC is under martial law 3/20
- 2. Only people who have tested positive need to stay home and isolate themselves
- 3. Only large gatherings have to be stopped
- 4. All human interaction needs to be stopped
- 5. Coronavirus is spread only by coughing and sneezing
- 6. Social distancing will lead to dramatic immediate results
- 7. 1 month of social distancing will stop the epidemic permanently
- 8. Friend/relative at Pentagon said the US is going on total lockdown
- 9. Friend/relative at White House said the US is going on total lockdown
- 10. Russia has unleashed over 500 lions to ensure that people stay inside their homes amid the coronavirus outbreak
- 11. In Spain free internet during 60 days due to quarantine
- 12. Polish telecommunications company used quarantine as a cover up to put 100 5G antennas in Gdynia
- 13. Riots in London due to unavailability of food leading to lockdown and martial law 3/22

- 14. In USA Helicopters are spraying disinfectants to try to eradicate coronavirus
- 15. Bangalore Municipal body will be spraying medicine in the air to kill coronavirus
- 16. Homeland Security is mobilizing the national guard to combat coronavirus 3/20
- 17. Janta curfew in India will break the chain of transmission
- 18. Elderly people in Brazil who are caught wandering outside with have their pensions cancelled by the government
- 19. People in Spain are committing suicide due to quarantine 3/20
- 20. Parks in Adra Spain are being fumigated with poison
- 21. Spanish helicopters are spreading medicines against coronavirus
- 22. Oman helicopters are spraying pesticides to eliminate coronavirus
- 23. Venezuela helicopters are going to spread chemicals against coronavirus
- 24. Trump will impose a nationwide mandatory quarantine in 38 to 72 hours 3/16
- 25. Military in Philadelphia are preparing to invoke martial law and bring citizens to FEMA camps
- 26. Supermarkets are recalling coronavirus-infected toilet paper
- 27. Pence urges people with coronavirus to go to police 3/2
- 28. Police in China kill COVID-19 patients 3/2
- 29. Chinese coronavirus patients are being cremated alive 2/25
- 30. Hungary forcing men over 50 to quarantine in government facilities
- 31. Countries throwing dead bodies of COVID-19 victims into sea
- 32. Kenya hires Maasai tribe to enforce lockdown
- 33. Idia deploys army in Telangana to curb coronavirus situation
- 34. Indian police beat street children not abiding by lockdown

#### **Good News Stories**

Stories relating inaccurate but funny or feel good stories

- 1. Pandemic caused Venice's water to be clear so the swans returned
- 2. Pandemic caused Venice's water to be clear so the dolphins returned
- 3. Elephants break into a village due to social distancing and get drunk on corn wine
- 4. Sri Lankan Sambar deer graze on Yala Park beach
- 5. Deers walking down streets in Ciudad Real Spain
- 6. Deers rome Pudukkottai, Tamil Nadu

## **Misbehavior and Scams Stories**

Stories relating inaccurate accounts misbehavior or crimes that violate lockdown or social distancing

- 1. Kerala migrant laborers gambling with huge stashes of money
- 2. Hindu man in Rajathan killed by Muslims amidst the lockdown

- 3. Starving family in India commits suicide
- 4. Americans placed a nude statue of President Trump in NYC because he failed to handle the US situation
- 5. Criminals handing out masks with chemicals to make people pass out so they can commit robbery
- 6. Brazil takes money from hospitals to finance cultural projects
- 7. CostCo stimulus plan food for providing your information
- 8. 24 hour hotline for getting essential food items during Sri Lankan curfew
- 9. Hindus drop religious statues in sea because they are useless in COVID-19 crisis
- 10. People in India beating police enforcing lockdown
- 11. Man in Italy commits suicide after he loses family to coronavirus
- 12. 59 people die as pastor gives them Dettol to drink to prevent coronavirus
- 13. Delivery boy opens packers of bread and spits on slices to spread corona virus
- 14. Muslim owned restaurants in Bengaluru are spreading corona virus by spitting in food