

Debunking Disinformation Misinformation Related to Health and Pandemic

SL. No.	Claim	Claim Link/Origin	Fact Checker	Fact checker Rating	Definition given by Fact Checker	Links
1	A video shows a group of doctors calling itself “Doctors for the truth” say the pandemic is planned.	https://brandnewtube.com/watch/sk-the-experts-covid-19-vaccine-now-banned-on-youtube-and-facebook_qIsNohSleSgfz2J.html	Maldita.es	FALSE	The organisation “Doctors for the truth” started in Germany and later spread to Spain. They have made several claims to downplay the pandemic. They claim that it is not real and it a "Plandemic" instead. Regarding the falsehoods made in this video (especially, about masks, PCR testing and Covid-19 drugs) - the fact-checker has debunked their multiple claims and established how the use of mask is useful to minimize the risk of contagion, that PCR itself is useful to know if a person is infected or not, there is no evidence on the relationship between the flu vaccine and COVID-19 and there is no treatment to cure COVID-19 - drugs are used to alleviate its symptoms.	https://maldita.es/malditaciencia/20210123/video-asamblea-grupo-medicos-por-la-verdad-afirmaciones-falsas-mascarillas-confinamiento-gripe-tratamiento-covid19/
2	Richard Rothschild patented tests for COVID-19 in 2015 and 2017	Perma Ute Mall - Gestern im europäischen Patentamt gefunden..... Facebook	Reuters	FALSE	A Dutch website shows that a patent for a “System and Method for Testing for COVID-19” was filed with a priority date of 2015-10-13, sparking rumors that the coronavirus pandemic has been planned. However, the article has conflated the terms “priority date” and “application date”. In this case, Oct. 13, 2015 is when Rothschild first made a provisional application for a “System and Method For Using, Processing, and Displaying Biometric Data”, following which a series of regular, non-provisional patent applications were subsequently made. However, the patent for a system that analyses biometric data to determine whether the user is suffering from COVID-19 was not applied for until May 17, 2020 (US20200279585A1). Similarly another claim was made that a patent was filed on April 24, 2017 but it was also a predecessor to ‘US20200279585A1’ and did not mention COVID-19 in any form.	Fact check: Rothschild did not patent a test for COVID-19 in 2015 and 2017 Reuters
			Fast Check CL	FALSE	Fast Check CL contacted the European Patent Office (EPO) and consulted on the alleged testing method for Covid-19 registered in 2015. The EPO clarified this matter by replying that the patent application filed in 2015 refers to a system for acquiring and transferring biometric data from a user and does not mention any viruses.	"Rothschild Banking registered five years ago a method to test for Covid-19": #Fake — Fast Check CL
			Maldita.es	FALSE	The patent was filed under the United States Patent and Trademark Office, which is different from its European counterpart in the sense that it allows the patent applicant to change a pending patent application to some extent. So when the patent was originally filed in 2015 it concerned a system for acquiring and transferring biometric data from a user with subsequent changes added in 2016, 2017, 2019 and 2020. The patent application with reference to Covid-19 was filed in May 2020 and published on September 2020. None of the other versions had any reference to a virus infection apart from that one.	No, the Rothschild family did not patent in 2015 a method to test for COVID-19' · Maldita.es - Journalism so you don't get slipped

3	Test kits for 'Covid-19' were sold in 2017 and 2018, implying prior knowledge by The World Bank	https://www.facebook.com/464769626965707/posts/3090891681020142	Reuters	FALSE	<p>Several articles were being circulated on social media which claimed that the World Bank had prior knowledge about the covid-19 outbreak, accompanied by screenshots from the World Integrated Trade Solution (WITS) website, which is a joint initiative by organizations including the World Bank, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the World Trade Organization (WTO) to track trade data by product through Harmonized System (HS) codes. The screenshots show how several European countries, Canada, UK, USA, China and South Korea had imported Covid-19 test kits in 2017 and 2018. Archives of these webpages from Sept. 4-6, 2020, show that the WITS website did have "COVID-19" in the product description for three product codes for imports and exports dated to 2017 and 2018. The HS codes 300215 and 382200 were classified as "COVID-19 Test kits" and the product code 902780 was described as "COVID-19 Diagnostic Test instruments and apparatus". The World Bank told Reuters that these products and product codes predate COVID. They have been used since 2017 - not in relation to COVID-19 but labelled "in much more technical terms that did not mention COVID". In April 2020, the products were relabelled amidst the pandemic and WITS updated its product descriptions accordingly, including those attached to the data from 2017 and 2018, even if the products had not been used in relation to COVID-19 at the time. As of Sept 7, the HS codes 382200 and 382200 now have the product description "Medical Test kits" and the product code 902780 is "Medical Diagnostic Test instruments and apparatus" on the WITS website. This was done by The World Bank in order to prevent further misinterpretations.</p>	https://www.reuters.com/article/uk-factcheck-covid-worldbank-2017-2018/factcheckworld-bankwebsite-does-not-showcovid-19-testing-kits-werepurchasedin-2017-and-2018-idUSKBN26025U?edition-redirect=uk
			BBC Reality Check	FALSE	<p>While the screenshots shared on social media, containing trade information, are genuine, the claims made by conspiracy theorists based on that are false. According to The World Bank, all the chemical products listed on the site have had other uses for many years, but they were re-categorised to ease the tracking of items that are particularly important to tackle the coronavirus. However, following allegations of conspiracy which spread like fire on social media, from September 7, 2020 the title of the database was changed to "medical test kits" to avoid further misunderstanding along with a disclaimer that said that the data in the page was used to track previously existing medical devices that are now classified by the World Customs Organization as critical to tackling Covid-19.</p>	Coronavirus: False claims test kits for 'Covid-19' were sold in 2017 - BBC News
			thejournal.ie	FALSE	<p>The Journal FactCheck Unit, based in Ireland noted that the screenshots which were circulating on Social Media reported that Ireland exported more than 590 tonnes of Covid-19 test kits in 2017 and 18,000 tonnes of the same in 2018, which resulted in a lot of misinformation and fearmongering. However, on further investigation it was revealed that the HS codes used to classify those kits referred to previously used general medical test kits which were relabelled after the pandemic broke out in order to make tracking easier. Thus it becomes clear that this was indeed a confusion caused by an error in labelling products on the WITS website rather than a global conspiracy.</p>	https://www.thejournal.ie/debunked-covid-19-tests-exports-2017-2018-5200891-Sep2020/

4	The World Bank has said that pandemic will end in 2025.	https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/993371585947965984/pdf/World-COVID-19-Strategic-Preparedness-and-Response-Project.pdf	Reuters	FALSE	A document from The World Bank , “Covid-19 Strategic Preparedness and Response Program”, created on April 2, 2020 shows that the "Expected Project Closing Date” of March 31, 2025. This has lead to a lot of misinformation created largely by social media posts which claim this as proof that the entire Covid-19 pandemic is pre-planned project that will continue upto 2025. Such rumours have been put to rest by Carmen Reinhart, World Bank’s chief economist who clarified that the global economic recovery from the crisis resulting from the pandemic may take as much as 5 years. Thus the confusion was caused by people who mistook the end of the recovery plan as the end of the pandemic.	https://www.reuters.com/article/uk-factcheck-pandemic-idUSKBN2701IA
		https://www.facebook.com/ninobregadze2706/posts/1215532425471069	Logically	FALSE	The World Bank document “Covid-19 Strategic Preparedness and Response Program” consists of strategies and resources compiled in response to the threat posed by COVID-19. However several posts on Facebook misrepresented the information in the document saying that the expected closing date of the Phase I of this Covid recovery programme mentioned in the document as the date that the pandemic will end. The date was estimated as the time taken by the economy to recover from the impact of the covid-19, once public life reopens and in no way a date for the pandemic to end at any point.	https://www.logically.ai/factchecks/library/c70fbf0d
5	Post-Covid era will be dominated by automation		CNBC	TRUE	The economic shock from the Covid-19 has shifted the focus of companies from humans to machines who are immune to illnesses, unlike humans. Even if this shift is not apparent in many parts of the world, there are definitely signs of a move towards automation globally which would make several skills obsolete in the future. A recent McKinsey study found that artificial intelligence and deep learning could add as much as \$3.5 trillion to \$5.8 trillion in annual value for companies. However, training and education remain central to the fight against widespread job losses from technology. In the post-pandemic world absence of information technology skills, would definitely put one at a greater risk of being disrupted from this transition.	https://www.cNBC.com/2020/09/05/how-coronavirus-could-usher-in-a-new-age-of-automation.html
			Pew Research Center	TRUE	Asked to consider what life will be like in 2025, in the wake of the outbreak of the global pandemic and other crises in 2020, some 915 innovators, developers, business and policy leaders, researchers and activists responded by saying that people’s relationship with technology will deepen as larger segments of the population come to rely more on digital connections for work, education, health care, daily commercial transactions and essential social interactions. A number describe this as a “tele-everything” world. The shift towards “remote” processes – telework, telemedicine, virtual schooling, e-commerce shall rise even further in the coming few years. While such a transition will have positive effects in the form of more flexible workplace options, greater awareness and reforms aimed at racial justice and social equity as well as more productive lives, it does come with its own challenges in the form of worsening economic inequality and greater spread of misinformation wherein information is intentionally weaponised to feed into destructive biases and fears.	https://www.pewresearch.org/interne/2021/02/18/experts-say-the-new-normal-in-2025-will-be-far-more-tech-driven-presenting-more-big-challenges/

6	Anthony Fauci predicted that the Trump government will face a global pandemic and they have the cure for it	https://www.facebook.com/groups/834934276905639/permalink/1130737703991960/	USA Today	TRUE	While the screenshot of the article in the facebook post that was responsible for spreading this misinformation was indeed authentic, Fauci's remarks came during a forum on pandemic preparedness at Georgetown University. The event, held Jan. 10, 2017, was organized by the Center for Global Health Science and Security in partnership with the Harvard Global Health Institute. Students and global health experts had gathered to encourage the then-incoming Trump administration to step up his plans for combating disease outbreaks in general. Fauci's remark was thus aimed at surprise health threats in general, rather than hinting at the Covid-19 Pandemic as claimed by several conspiracy theorists.	https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/factcheck/2020/07/29/fact-check-2017-anthony-fauci-warned-potential-outbreak/5494601002/
		https://twitter.com/rubeeye127/status/1262779543666003980?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw%7Ctwcamp%5Etweetembed%7Ctwtterm%5E1262779543666003980%7Ctwgr%5E%7Ctwcon%5Es1_&ref_url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.wusa9.com%2Farticle%2Fnews%2Fverify%2Fverify-fauci-said-trump-would-face-surprise-outbreak-didnt-predict-covid-19%2F65-b5ac71a8-b0d7-458e-af82-acedbf8c6f61	Snopes	TRUE	As the then-outgoing Obama administration had already faced multiple outbreaks, including the 2009 swine flu (H1N1) pandemic, the 2015–2016 Zika virus epidemic, and the 2014-16 Ebola outbreak in West Africa, Dr. Fauci did not literally warn in January 2017 that the Trump administration would face the deadly Covid-19 pandemic in 2020, but he said more generally (while speaking on the subject of pandemic preparedness) that there was “no question” that a “surprise outbreak” of infectious disease would occur.	https://www.snopes.com/fact-check/fauci-warn-surprise-outbreak/
			Wusa9	TRUE	In his 37-minute speech at the during a forum about pandemic preparedness at Georgetown University, Dr. Fauci did warn the Trump administration of a surprise outbreak but he was just generally describing what presidents face, based on his experience advising five of them at the time and did not certainly predict the coronavirus pandemic. In the speech Fauci also talks about diseases that emerged or intensified during his tenure: HIV/AIDS, West Nile virus, SARS, H1N1, Zika and Ebola. So there is no conspiracy here, just a senior health expert explaining how to plan for future pandemics by looking to the past.	https://www.wusa9.com/article/news/verify/verify-fauci-said-trump-would-face-surprise-outbreak-didnt-predict-covid-19/65-b5ac71a8-b0d7-458e-af82-acedbf8c6f61
7	Bill Gates in 2018 declared that a global pandemic is on the way that could Wipeout 30 million people will that could continue very well into the next decade		Business Insider	TRUE	In 2018, while speaking at a discussion about epidemics hosted by the Massachusetts Medical Society and the New England Journal of Medicine, Bill Gates said that the world is not making the required progress when it comes to their preparedness to fight pandemics. According to one simulation by the Institute for Disease Modeling presented by Gates, a new flu like the one that killed 50 million people in the 1918 pandemic, would most likely kill 30 million within just six months at present. Thus, the threat from a global pandemic - whether one that emerges naturally or one that's engineered - is perhaps the biggest risk humanity faces right now.	https://www.businessinsider.in/tech/bill-gates-thinks-a-coming-disease-could-kill-30-million-people-within-6-months-and-says-we-should-prepare-for-it-like-we-do-for-war/articleshow/63946206.cms

			Forbes	TRUE	<p>In 2017, at the at the Munich Security Conference in Germany, Bill Gates stressed on the importance of infectious disease threats (whether starting naturally or used as a bioterrorist weapon) highlighting the fact that the world is woefully underprepared for a bad pandemic. In this context he pointed out that many health experts and epidemiologists say that a fast-moving airborne pathogen could kill more than 30 million people in less than a year and there was a reasonable probability that the world would experience such an outbreak in the next 10 to 15 years.</p>	<p>https://www.forbes.com/sites/brucelee/2017/02/19/bill-gates-warns-of-epidemic-that-will-kill-over-30-million-people/?sh=526aee44282f</p>
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