

What have we learnt
from the COVID-19 pandemic
in terms of disinformation and
media literacy?



Beata Biel,
Fundacja Reporterów, Poland

Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union



NACIONALINĒ
ŠVIETĪMO
AGENTŪRA



MEDIA LAB FOR BRIDGING CROSS BORDER GAPS

The European Commission's support for the production of this publication (work) does not constitute an endorsement of the contents, which reflect the views only of the authors, and the Commission and National Agency cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.



INFODEMIC



INFODEMIC

- not a new word in our dictionaries, but in 2020 it became widely used
- information + epidemic
- a wide and rapid spread of misinformation
- new context of 2020: pandemic of disinformation about the COVID-19 pandemic
- **“We’re not just fighting an epidemic; we’re fighting an infodemic”** [WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, 15 February 2020]

DIFFERENT STAGES OF COVID-19 DISINFORMATION



Whuan market. China, the origin of the #Corona virus...
•• How unclean place?
Then how the n2019 virus can be restricted?



♡ 19 19:34 - 30 Jan 2020



FALSZ

Nie, film z ciałami dzieci nie pokazuje ofiar koronawirusa z Wuhan

**Wuhan
disinformation**

- e.g. fake stories of hundreds of people dying in the streets, of deaths of children that are being hidden from the public
- fake photos of e.g. wet markets
- fake content about the origins of the coronavirus



- building hate or despise towards Chinese and Eastern cultures
- building mistrust towards information about the then epidemic
- building fear among societies

Healthcare disinformation

pacjent.gov.pl › archiwum-aktualnosci › koronawirus-co-o-nim-wiemy ▾

Koronawirus – co o nim wiemy | Pacjent

Przebieg wywołanej przez koronawirusa choroby COVID-19 jest bardzo ... trzeba brać preparaty na wzmocnienie odporności, jeść czosnek i cebulę lub zazywać ...

www.focus.pl › Zdrowie ▾

Czosnek ochroni przed koronawirusem? Poznaj 6 ... - Focus.pl

9 mar 2020 - Niemniej, w internecie nie brakuje "skutecznych" metod leczenia i zapobiegania wywołanej wirusem chorobie COVID-19. Czosnek 1000667.

zdrowie.wprost.pl › Medycyna › Choroby ▾

Czy jedzenie czosnku może zapobiec infekcji nowym ...

12 lut 2020 - Czy jedzenie czosnku może zapobiec infekcji koronawirusem? „Czosnek to zdrowa żywność, która może mieć pewne właściwości ...

beszamel.se.pl › zdrowa-dieta › koronawirus-a-dieta-na-odpornosc-cz... ▾

Koronawirus a dieta na odporność: czy czosnek to dobre ...

Jednocześnie minister zdrowia zaznacza, że nie ma leku na koronawirusa, a jedynie lekarstw na objawy. Jednak w przypadku koronawirusa zalecana jest taka ...

konkret24.tvn24.pl › miły,114 › nie-te-metody-nie-chronia-przed-za... ▾

Nie, te metody nie chronią przed zakażeniem koronawirusem

15 mar 2020 - Czosnek działa przeciwbakteryjnie, ale nie ochroni przed koronawirusem. Wódka nie ... Częste picie wody nie wypłucze z organizmu wirusa.

l24.lt › zdrowie › item › 338589-panaceum-na-wirusy-i-infekcje ▾

Panaceum na wirusy i infekcje

17 mar 2020 - Czosnek wzmacnia odporność na wirusy Fot. ... Sprawność organizmu jest szczególnie potrzebna teraz, gdy w świecie szaleje koronawirus.

www.o2.pl › artykuł › koronawirus-korea-polnocna-poleca-jesc-czos... ▾

Koronawirus. Korea Północna poleca jeść czosnek - o2 ...

8 kwi 2020 - Korea Północna utrzymuje, że w kraju nie odnotowano ani jednego przypadku zakażenia koronawirusem. ...

- fake or science unproven advices how to prevent or cure coronavirus
- e.g. garlic prevents being infected from coronavirus, masks do not help, water or alcohol washes out the virus



Treshuna @Misssweetass · 28 cze

Lordt don't let me have **coronavirus** I can't taste my food I've brushed my teeth 7 times within the hr ima be a piss cat tonight cause I'm throwing this water down making sure I'm not dehydrated I've took tamflu n **vitamin c**



lois_martha @lois_martha · 28 cze

W odpowiedzi do @StevenPruett7 i @drbairdonline

Coronavirus heals with megadoses of **Vitamin C** as found by China. It is not being promoted or applied in America where over a hundred thousand people died from **Coronavirus**. Mexico and every Nation must be alerted to give the **Vitamin C** (and Vit. D aids with it).This heals all NOW.



1



2



Susan K. Munson @SusanKMunson2 · 28 cze

W odpowiedzi do @BusyDrT

Artemisia was used against previous **Corona virus** with good efficacy. I find it pitiful that there has been unreasonable reluctance to work with artemisia, HCQ + zinc, **Vitamin C**, licorice root, stinging nettle root, quarcitine. Approach to working with Wuhan Virus is criminal



1



1



Hreidar Thor Saemundsson @safnarabudin · 28 cze

Explore High Dose IV **Vitamin C** for **Coronavirus** Patients! #ApproveIVC chng.it/H67crrm8 via @Change

- raised insecurity on what is true, what not
- raised fears and distrust towards healthcare workers and their advises
- many of the advises were dangerous for people's health

3 maja o 18:09 -

PILNA SPRAWA. NIE MA WIRUSA! DR. SIMON NA ŻYWO.
PRZEKAŻ DALEJ!!!

<https://www.facebook.com/.../pcb.2536855957.../253685095782535/...>

123 125 komentarzy 6,8 tys. udostępnień

Polscy lekarze nie twierdzą, że nie ma u nas koronawirusa

SOURCE: SNIPS FROM PLANDEMIC VIDEO
YOUTUBE AND FACEBOOK

Russell Wooten • THE RESISTANCE!
Yesterday at 06:12

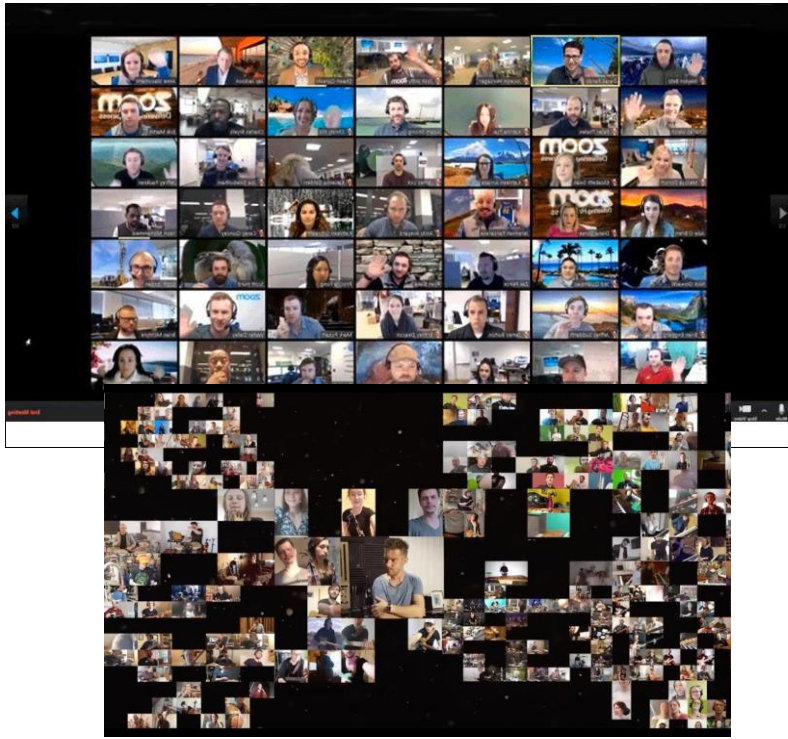
I'm sure everyone already knows that Dr. Fauci is a Deep State Traitor, that the pharmaceutical companies goal is to make people as sick as possible as early as possible to take as many drugs as possible, that people who take a flu shot are 38% more likely to get the flu, that they are incentivized \$13,000 for every death they code as covid, \$39,000 extra for everyone they kill on a ventilator, and that the "experts" and many Doctors have been doing more harm than good for a long time, and hiding cures that actually work- including for autism caused by their vaccines, and that the real evil behind it all is mandatory vaccines, all with the help of a lying fake news media

YOUTUBE.COM
Plandemic Documentary: The Hidden Agenda Behind Covid-19

69 27 comments 60 shares

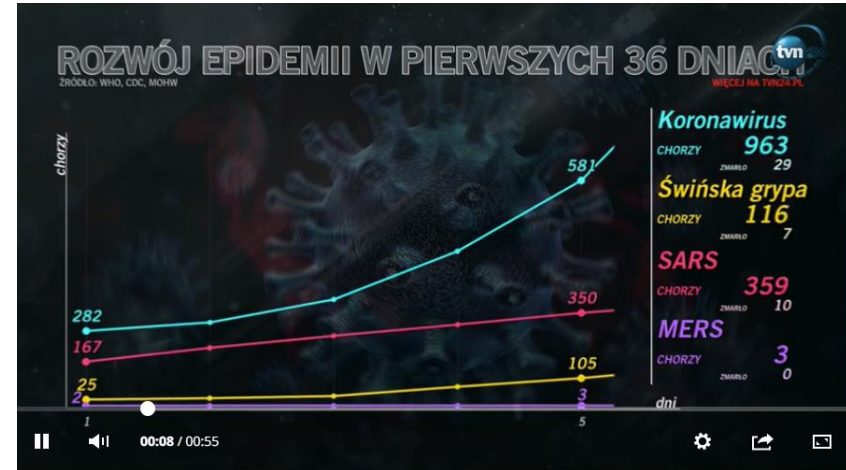
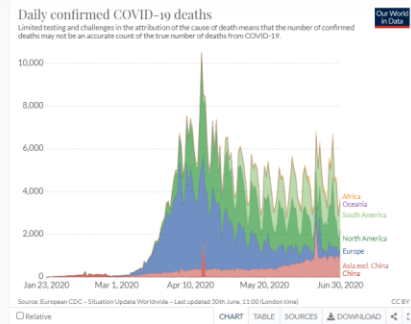
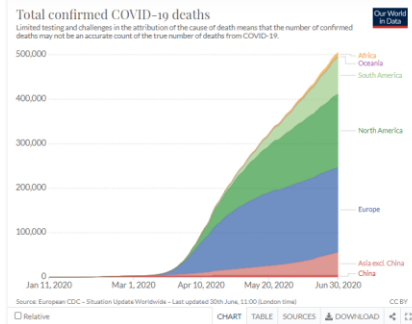
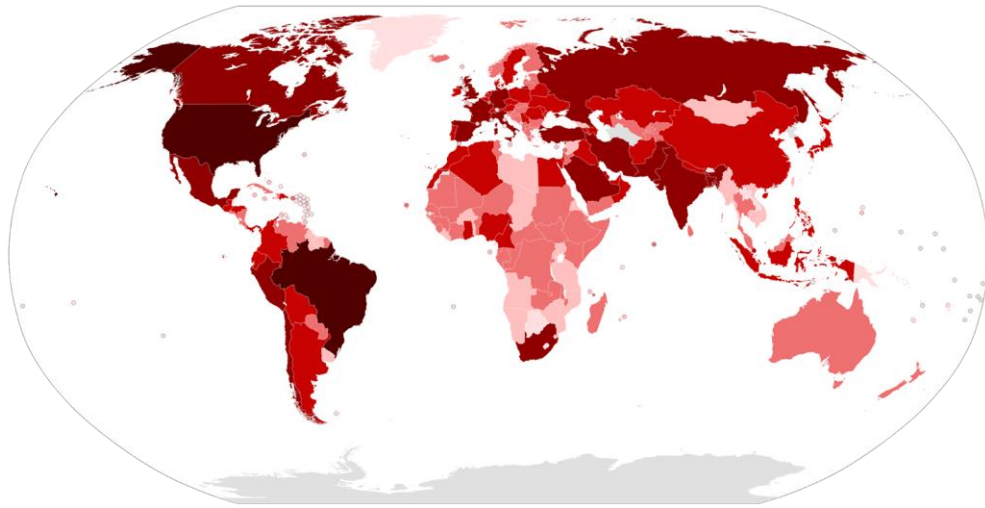
The scope of the pandemic disinformation

- stories denying coronavirus exists or that it is a global threat
- suggestions that COVID-19 is “just a flu”
- conspiracy theories about depopulation or forced vaccination
- undermining trust towards health and governmental officials
- creating information bubbles
- not complying with laws and healthcare recommendations
- hampering the global fight against the pandemic



Educational challenges

- limited access to distant learning equipment
- school system unprepared for months of distant learning
- teachers unable to conduct classes in remote school
- growing online bullying and trolling



Data (il)literacy challenges

- people unable to read graphs, numbers and analyse them in an unemotional way
- journalists, governmental representatives not explaining data in an easy and understandable way



Celebrities spreading
conspiracy theories