

Fact-Check COVID-19 Claims

Purpose of the Study

We are interested in gathering information on the truthfulness of claims relating to COVID-19. You will be presented with claims relevant to the COVID-19 pandemic and asked to assess their validity as well as provide evidence for your assessment. Please be assured that your answers will be kept confidential and anonymous.

Data Collection

The data collected will only pertain to truthfulness assessments of claims and will not elicit any personal information. This data will be further used for analysis and research into fact-checking as part of a Masters thesis which may be published. The thesis is written by Isabelle Mohr and supervised by Amelie Wühl and PD Dr. Roman Klinger at the Institute of Natural Language Processing at the University of Stuttgart.

Contact

If you would like to contact the Principal Investigator in the study to discuss this research, please message Isabelle Mohr on Prolific or email her at st169866@stud.uni-stuttgart.de.

Conditions and Consent

The study should take you no more than 20 minutes to complete and you will receive £2.50 for your participation. Your participation in this research is voluntary. You have the right to withdraw at any point during the study, for any reason, and without any prejudice.

Please also be aware that your submission will be rejected if you do not respond correctly to any of the attention checks in this survey. The same holds true if you do not provide substantiating evidence in the form of a URL and extract for your answers to the multiple choice questions. Your responses will be carefully validated and a bonus of £0.50 will be awarded if your URLs and text extracts provide consistent evidence for the assessment of the claims. The total payment would thus be £3.00.

Only when the option 'No, I could not find any resource that confirms or refutes this claim' is selected as a response, evidence in the form of a URL and extract is not required. Please read and follow the instructions in Section 4 carefully.

By clicking the button below, you acknowledge that your participation in the study is voluntary, you are at least 18 years of age, and that you are aware that you may choose to terminate your participation in the study at any time and for any reason.

* Required

1. Please indicate your consent before proceeding: *

Mark only one oval.

☐ I consent, begin the study

☐ I do not consent, I do not wish to begin the study *Skip to section 16 (Do not consent)*

Prolific ID

2. Please enter your Prolific ID: *

Demographics

3. What is the highest level of education you have completed? *

Mark only one oval.

☐ No formal qualifications *Skip to section 17 (Inconsistent screening responses)*

☐ Secondary school/High school/GCSE
Skip to section 17 (Inconsistent screening responses)

☐ Technical/Community college

☐ College/A levels *Skip to section 17 (Inconsistent screening responses)*

☐ Undergraduate degree (BA/BSC/other)

☐ Graduate degree (MA/MSc/other)

☐ Doctorate degree (PhD/other)

Survey
Instructions
- Fact-
Check
COVID-19
Statements

In this survey, you will be presented with 10 tweets that contain claims in bold text. Text surrounding this claim only serves the purpose of providing context to the bold phrase. The twitter handles have been anonymised with '@handle' and URLs masked with '[https://URL](#)'.

Fact-check the emboldened claim by

- 1) reading the tweet carefully
- 2) taking note of the claim in bold text
- 3) entering its key terms into Google Search
- 4) finding a reputable* source that confirms or refutes the claim
- 5) mark the claim as being confirmed or refuted in the multiple choice question
- 6) enter the URL to the reputable source you have found into the given answer slot
- 7) copy and paste the segment** of text from the source that explicitly confirms or refutes the claim

Each claim should take no more than 2 minutes to complete. If you have investigated the Google search results and are not able to find a confirmation/disconfirmation within this time constraint, please select the multiple choice option "No, I could not find any resource that confirms or refutes this claim".

Your responses will be checked carefully, and if we agree that the evidence consistently supports your decisions to confirm or refute the claims, we will reward you with a bonus of £0.50 for the survey.

* 'reputable' here refers to the credibility of the source. If your source has a web domain that is government or military (.gov or .mil) or university (.edu), there is a high likelihood that this is a reputable source. You may use general news, medical and scientific articles as sources. Please do not use satirical sites (like The Onion) or sites that are known to publish false information and conspiracy stories.

** the segment of text selected from the source may be an entire paragraph or a sentence depending on the text. Please use your own judgement to select this.

Task
I

Fact-check the emboldened claim by

- 1) reading the tweet carefully
- 2) taking note of the claim in bold text
- 3) entering its key terms into Google Search
- 4) finding a reputable source that confirms or refutes the claim
- 5) mark the claim as being confirmed or refuted in the multiple choice question
- 6) enter the URL to the reputable source you have found into the given answer slot
- 7) copy and paste the segment of text from the source that explicitly confirms or refutes the claim

Each claim should take no more than 2 minutes to complete. The bonus is only awarded if a sensible URL and supporting text are pasted into the relevant fields. If you have investigated the Google search results and are not able to find a confirmation/disconfirmation, please select the multiple choice option "No, I could not find any resource that confirms or refutes this claim".

Tweet 1

@handle Polio vaccine underwent the largest clinical trial for its time. COVID passed through the EUA process. Science is telling us **two of the vaccines cause blood clots**. People are allowed to make logical judgements on what they do or dont put in their body.

4. Could you find a resource that confirms or refutes the claim in bold text? *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Yes, the resource CONFIRMS this claim
- ☐ Yes, the resource REFUTES this claim
- ☐ No, I could not find any resource that confirms or refutes this claim

5. Enter the URL to the reputable resource you have found that substantiates or refutes the above claim. If you marked 'Unverified', you do not need to add a URL.

6. Copy and paste the extract from this source that confirms or refutes the above claim.

Task
2

Fact-check the emboldened claim by

- 1) reading the tweet carefully
- 2) taking note of the claim in bold text
- 3) entering its key terms into Google Search
- 4) finding a reputable source that confirms or refutes the claim
- 5) mark the claim as being confirmed or refuted in the multiple choice question
- 6) enter the URL to the reputable source you have found into the given answer slot
- 7) copy and paste the segment of text from the source that explicitly confirms or refutes the claim

Each claim should take no more than 2 minutes to complete. The bonus is only awarded if a sensible URL and supporting text are pasted into the relevant fields. If you have investigated the Google search results and are not able to find a confirmation/disconfirmation, please select the multiple choice option "No, I could not find any resource that confirms or refutes this claim".

Tweet 2

I know no system is perfect, so I share this with that in mind -**Getting #COVID in #EmergencyRooms** - I found only one small study that says low risk. More #research needs to be done, as this was the cause in my family! [NEWLINE]I beg to differ! [NEWLINE]<https://URL>
<https://URL>

7. Could you find a resource that confirms or refutes the claim in bold text? *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Yes, the resource CONFIRMS this claim
- ☐ Yes, the resource REFUTES this claim
- ☐ No, I could not find any resource that confirms or refutes this claim

8. Enter the URL to the reputable resource you have found that substantiates or refutes the claim from the question above. If you marked 'Unverified', you do not need to add a URL.

9. Enter a short extract from this source that confirms or refutes the above claim.

Claim
3

Fact-check the emboldened claim by

- 1) reading the tweet carefully
- 2) taking note of the claim in bold text
- 3) entering its key terms into Google Search
- 4) finding a reputable source that confirms or refutes the claim
- 5) mark the claim as being confirmed or refuted in the multiple choice question
- 6) enter the URL to the reputable source you have found into the given answer slot
- 7) copy and paste the segment of text from the source that explicitly confirms or refutes the claim

Each claim should take no more than 2 minutes to complete. The bonus is only awarded if a sensible URL and supporting text are pasted into the relevant fields. If you have investigated the Google search results and are not able to find a confirmation/disconfirmation, please select the multiple choice option "No, I could not find any resource that confirms or refutes this claim".

Tweet 3

@handle @handle @handle **The 10,000 deaths are those caused by Covid alone,** excluding anyone who may have had cancer, heart disease, diabetes, COPD, high blood pressure or any other number of preexisting conditions. The 200,000 is a real number that is still climbing. Time to re-educate yourself.

10. Could you find a resource that confirms or refutes the claim in bold text? *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Yes, the resource CONFIRMS this claim
- ☐ Yes, the resource REFUTES this claim
- ☐ No, I could not find any resource that confirms or refutes this claim

11. Enter the URL to the reputable resource you have found that substantiates or refutes the claim from the question above. If you marked 'Unverified', you do not need to add a URL.

12. Enter a short extract from this source that confirms or refutes the above claim.

Claim
4

Fact-check the emboldened claim by

- 1) reading the tweet carefully
- 2) taking note of the claim in bold text
- 3) entering its key terms into Google Search
- 4) finding a reputable source that confirms or refutes the claim
- 5) mark the claim as being confirmed or refuted in the multiple choice question
- 6) enter the URL to the reputable source you have found into the given answer slot
- 7) copy and paste the segment of text from the source that explicitly confirms or refutes the claim

Each claim should take no more than 2 minutes to complete. The bonus is only awarded if a sensible URL and supporting text are pasted into the relevant fields. If you have investigated the Google search results and are not able to find a confirmation/disconfirmation, please select the multiple choice option "No, I could not find any resource that confirms or refutes this claim".

Tweet 4

In a few decades there's gonna be a section in history books about the **#pandemicbabies that caused a spike in the population** similar to the #babyboomers after ww2. #pandemic #COVID19 #coronavirus #StayHome #Quarantine

13. Could you find a resource that confirms or refutes the claim in bold text? *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Yes, the resource CONFIRMS this claim
- ☐ Yes, the resource REFUTES this claim
- ☐ No, I could not find any resource that confirms or refutes this claim

14. Enter the URL to the reputable resource you have found that substantiates or refutes the claim from the question above. If you marked 'Unverified', you do not need to add a URL.

15. Enter a short extract from this source that confirms or refutes the above claim.

Claim
5

Fact-check the emboldened claim by

- 1) reading the tweet carefully
- 2) taking note of the claim in bold text
- 3) entering its key terms into Google Search
- 4) finding a reputable source that confirms or refutes the claim
- 5) mark the claim as being confirmed or refuted in the multiple choice question
- 6) enter the URL to the reputable source you have found into the given answer slot
- 7) copy and paste the segment of text from the source that explicitly confirms or refutes the claim

Each claim should take no more than 2 minutes to complete. The bonus is only awarded if a sensible URL and supporting text are pasted into the relevant fields. If you have investigated the Google search results and are not able to find a confirmation/disconfirmation, please select the multiple choice option "No, I could not find any resource that confirms or refutes this claim".

Tweet 5

Stop calling it a vaccine!! **Vaccines contain the same germs that cause disease.** (For example, measles vaccine contains measles virus, and Hib vaccine contains Hib bacteria.) But they have been either killed or weakened to the point that they don't make you sick. Covid shot doesnt

16. Could you find a resource that confirms or refutes the claim in bold text? *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Yes, the resource CONFIRMS this claim
- ☐ Yes, the resource REFUTES this claim
- ☐ No, I could not find any resource that confirms or refutes this claim

17. Enter the URL to the reputable resource you have found that substantiates or refutes the claim from the question above. If you marked 'Unverified', you do not need to add a URL.

18. Enter a short extract from this source that confirms or refutes the above claim.

Claim
X

Please copy and paste the paragraph from the following URL that confirms the claim below.

<https://www.foxnews.com/world/wuhan-lab-report-raises-further-questions-about-possible-covid-19-lab-leak>

19. The 2019 Military World Games in Wuhan drew thousands of military personnel to compete in Olympic-style events. *

Claim
6

Fact-check the emboldened claim by

- 1) reading the tweet carefully
- 2) taking note of the claim in bold text
- 3) entering its key terms into Google Search
- 4) finding a reputable source that confirms or refutes the claim
- 5) mark the claim as being confirmed or refuted in the multiple choice question
- 6) enter the URL to the reputable source you have found into the given answer slot
- 7) copy and paste the segment of text from the source that explicitly confirms or refutes the claim

Each claim should take no more than 2 minutes to complete. The bonus is only awarded if a sensible URL and supporting text are pasted into the relevant fields. If you have investigated the Google search results and are not able to find a confirmation/disconfirmation, please select the multiple choice option "No, I could not find any resource that confirms or refutes this claim".

Tweet 6

@handle @handle @handle Btw- it's driving me bonkers that people are acting like the pandemic is over.. variants, how long the vaccine is effective is concerning, breakthrough cases in the vaccinated.

Even Asymptotic covid can cause long term problems!

20. Could you find a resource that confirms or refutes the claim in bold text? *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Yes, the resource CONFIRMS this claim
- ☐ Yes, the resource REFUTES this claim
- ☐ No, I could not find any resource that confirms or refutes this claim

21. Enter the URL to the reputable resource you have found that substantiates or refutes the claim from the question above. If you marked 'Unverified', you do not need to add a URL.

22. Enter a short extract from this source that confirms or refutes the above claim.

Claim
7

Fact-check the emboldened claim by

- 1) reading the tweet carefully
- 2) taking note of the claim in bold text
- 3) entering its key terms into Google Search
- 4) finding a reputable source that confirms or refutes the claim
- 5) mark the claim as being confirmed or refuted in the multiple choice question
- 6) enter the URL to the reputable source you have found into the given answer slot
- 7) copy and paste the segment of text from the source that explicitly confirms or refutes the claim

Each claim should take no more than 2 minutes to complete. The bonus is only awarded if a sensible URL and supporting text are pasted into the relevant fields. If you have investigated the Google search results and are not able to find a confirmation/disconfirmation, please select the multiple choice option "No, I could not find any resource that confirms or refutes this claim".

Tweet 7

@handle @handle @handle **Getting Covid causes your body to make antibodies against the virus** (probably more than one type).The vaccine cause the body to make one very specific antibody.This mixed immunity is probably very good

23. Could you find a resource that confirms or refutes the claim in bold text? *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Yes, the resource CONFIRMS this claim
- ☐ Yes, the resource REFUTES this claim
- ☐ No, I could not find any resource that confirms or refutes this claim

24. Enter the URL to the reputable resource you have found that substantiates or refutes the claim from the question above. If you marked 'Unverified', you do not need to add a URL.

25. Enter a short extract from this source that confirms or refutes the above claim.

Claim
8

Fact-check the emboldened claim by

- 1) reading the tweet carefully
- 2) taking note of the claim in bold text
- 3) entering its key terms into Google Search
- 4) finding a reputable source that confirms or refutes the claim
- 5) mark the claim as being confirmed or refuted in the multiple choice question
- 6) enter the URL to the reputable source you have found into the given answer slot
- 7) copy and paste the segment of text from the source that explicitly confirms or refutes the claim

Each claim should take no more than 2 minutes to complete. The bonus is only awarded if a sensible URL and supporting text are pasted into the relevant fields. If you have investigated the Google search results and are not able to find a confirmation/disconfirmation, please select the multiple choice option "No, I could not find any resource that confirms or refutes this claim".

Tweet 8

@handle @handle @handle No you cannot get sicker from wearing your mask. It says that if you have moderate to severe asthma that **covid-19 can exacerbate things and possibly cause pneumonia**

26. Could you find a resource that confirms or refutes the claim in bold text? *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Yes, the resource CONFIRMS this claim
- ☐ Yes, the resource REFUTES this claim
- ☐ No, I could not find any resource that confirms or refutes this claim

27. Enter the URL to the reputable resource you have found that substantiates or refutes the claim from the question above. If you marked 'Unverified', you do not need to add a URL.

28. Enter a short extract from this source that confirms or refutes the above claim.

Claim

9

Fact-check the emboldened claim by

- 1) reading the tweet carefully
- 2) taking note of the claim in bold text
- 3) entering its key terms into Google Search
- 4) finding a reputable source that confirms or refutes the claim
- 5) mark the claim as being confirmed or refuted in the multiple choice question
- 6) enter the URL to the reputable source you have found into the given answer slot
- 7) copy and paste the segment of text from the source that explicitly confirms or refutes the claim

Each claim should take no more than 2 minutes to complete. The bonus is only awarded if a sensible URL and supporting text are pasted into the relevant fields. If you have investigated the Google search results and are not able to find a confirmation/disconfirmation, please select the multiple choice option "No, I could not find any resource that confirms or refutes this claim".

Tweet 9

@handle @handle @handle @handle Zitat aus obigem Artikel: „But **there's no evidence currently that mRNA vaccines cause autoimmune disease** or make it worse... .

At the moment there's every reason to suggest that people with autoimmune diseases ought to get either of these vaccines when they get rolled out.”“

29. Could you find a resource that confirms or refutes the claim in bold text? *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Yes, the resource CONFIRMS this claim
- ☐ Yes, the resource REFUTES this claim
- ☐ No, I could not find any resource that confirms or refutes this claim

30. Enter the URL to the reputable resource you have found that substantiates or refutes the claim from the question above. If you marked 'Unverified', you do not need to add a URL.

31. Enter a short extract from this source that confirms or refutes the above claim.

Claim
10

Fact-check the emboldened claim by

- 1) reading the tweet carefully
- 2) taking note of the claim in bold text
- 3) entering its key terms into Google Search
- 4) finding a reputable source that confirms or refutes the claim
- 5) mark the claim as being confirmed or refuted in the multiple choice question
- 6) enter the URL to the reputable source you have found into the given answer slot
- 7) copy and paste the segment of text from the source that explicitly confirms or refutes the claim

Each claim should take no more than 2 minutes to complete. The bonus is only awarded if a sensible URL and supporting text are pasted into the relevant fields. If you have investigated the Google search results and are not able to find a confirmation/disconfirmation, please select the multiple choice option "No, I could not find any resource that confirms or refutes this claim".

Tweet 10

@handle @handle If it's unclear it can't be reported. The death has to be contributed from Covid because **Covid causes the respiratory issues** etc that cause the death, Covid caused it. Like lung cancer if death because their lung stopped functioning because of cancer they died from lung cancer.

32. Could you find a resource that confirms or refutes the claim in bold text? *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Yes, the resource CONFIRMS this claim
- ☐ Yes, the resource REFUTES this claim
- ☐ No, I could not find any resource that confirms or refutes this claim

33. Enter the URL to the reputable resource you have found that substantiates or refutes the claim above in bold text. If you marked 'Unverified', you do not need to add a URL.

34. Enter a short extract from this source that confirms or refutes the claim above in bold text.

Skip to section 18 (End of survey)

Do not
consent

As you do not wish to participate in this study, please return your submission on Prolific by selecting the 'Stop without completing' button

Inconsistent
screening
responses

You are ineligible for this study, as you have provided information which is inconsistent with your Prolific prescreening responses. Please return your submission on Prolific by selecting the 'Stop without completing' button.

End of
survey

Please click 'submit' below to record your response to this survey.

Afterward, please visit the completion URL in order to complete the study on Prolific.

If you do not complete the both of these steps, we will not receive your data and will be unable to reward you.

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