

《“信息疫情”不容忽视 全球数百人因新冠错误信息死亡》

除了肆虐全球的新冠病毒，与病毒错误信息相关的“信息疫情”同样不容忽视。最新研究发现，今年前三个月，全球至少有800人因为这些错误信息而死亡。



A healthcare worker hands a test kit to a motorist at a drive-in coronavirus (COVID-19) testing center at M.T.O. Shahmaghsoudi School of Islamic Sufism on August 11, 2020 in Los Angeles, California. [Photo/Agencies]

At least 800 people died around the world because of coronavirus-related misinformation in the first three months of this year, researchers say.

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A study published in the American Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene says about 5,800 people were admitted to hospital as a result of false information on social media.

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Many died from drinking methanol or alcohol-based cleaning products.

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They wrongly believed the products to be a cure for the virus.

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The World Health Organization (WHO) has previously said that the "infodemic" surrounding Covid-19 spread just as quickly as the virus itself, with conspiracy theories, rumours and cultural stigma all contributing to deaths and injuries.

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stigma [st??m]?n.??;??



A man wearing a face mask walks down a street in Rome, Italy, August 4, 2020. [Photo/Xinhua]



Shoppers walk past social distancing signs at the Covent Garden shopping and dining district, amid the spread of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19), in London, Britain, Aug 2, 2020. [Photo/Agencies]

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As vaccines emerge, there is the further threat that anti-vaccine campaigners will use the platform provided by social media to persuade people not to protect themselves.

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Despite social media companies removing or labelling misleading information about vaccines, recent polling in the United States showed that 28% of Americans believe that Bill Gates wants to use vaccines to implant microchips in people.

??28%????????•????????????????

The achievement of an effective coronavirus vaccine could be completely undermined by misinformation, doctors told the BBC's anti-disinformation team.

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