



How can I spot FAKE NEWS about Covid-19 vaccines?

The six questions we need to ask

1. Do I have all the information?

Headlines can only give us part of the story, especially on the internet where the aim is to catch people's eye. We have to read the whole article and pay attention to the details. Interviews with experts are very useful to get information on complex topics such as vaccines.

Read all of the information, not just the headlines.

2. Where does it come from?

We live in a world of information overload. Some content, particularly online, is not created according to the journalistic method of cross-checking and authenticating information. Disinformation results in some people being uncertain about the need to get vaccinated.

Use recognised media outlets to get information. Information can be cross-checked with professional doctors and nurses.

3. Is the source credible?

Not all sources are equally valid. Professionals of medicine, nursing, pharmacies, research, professional associations and health authorities are qualified sources and can explain the procedures that ensure vaccine safety.

Consider if the source offers scientific guarantees. The health authorities, professionals and experts are accredited sources.

4. Has it been manipulated?

Images are very powerful and with digital tools they can be easily manipulated. As with written information, we need to think about the source and when they were recorded.

Look for signs to authenticate the images and audio files you receive.

5. Is it a one-off?

There may always be cases of adverse events following vaccination that the media might pick up on. However, we have to consider the relevance of such cases overall and how serious they are.

Check if the story is merely a one-off or anecdotal.

6. Should I share it?

We have to work out whether the information we receive is credible enough and if it is useful to share it. Spreading rumours about vaccination can be a public health risk. We need to weigh up the pros and cons once we know the consequences of rejecting vaccines.

Don't share information unless you are sure it is true.

Spot fake news. Stop, think and check.