

Can You Spot COVID-19 Misinformation?

We're all seeking the latest information on the COVID-19 pandemic and what might be coming next. But how can we spot and avoid the false information that is also circulating, especially on social media? **Here are some things to look out for.**



▶ **Have you received a message from your friend that says her aunt/teacher/colleague knows someone who works in the ER and has the following information?**



- ❗ **If so: Be cautious.**
Lots of copy and paste rumors are spread this way.
- ✅ **Action:** try pasting the first line into a search on social networks. If you see lots of examples, it has likely travelled a long way before it got to you.

▶ **Did you see a statement being shared on social networks that looks like it has come from the government or a health authority?**



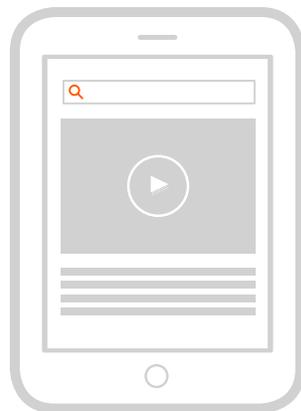
- ❗ **If so: Be a detective.**
It may be 'imposter content', which is designed to look official, when it's not.
- ✅ **Action:** find the official website of the organization quoted and check whether the information on their site is a match.

▶ **Maybe someone sent you a list of top tips to avoid the virus, like eating certain foods or using home remedies?**



- ❗ **If so: Be skeptical.**
There's no food or supplement that can stop you getting this virus, and there's currently no treatment - you can only try to manage the symptoms.
- ✅ **Action:** consult the latest guidelines from the World Health Organisation and your country's and state's health authorities.

▶ **Did you see that very dramatic video on social media showing the latest updates relating to COVID-19?**



- ❗ **If so: Look closer.**
Sometimes videos and pictures being shared on social media aren't quite what they seem.
- ✅ **Action:** try reverse image searching pictures to see if they have been used before. And pay a regular visit to trusted news providers to stay up to date.