



COVID-19 IN AFRICA

HOW TO IDENTIFY FAKE NEWS

The spread of fake news and fraudulent claims about the COVID-19 pandemic can be as dangerous as the virus. Since the beginning of the outbreak of coronavirus in China, a wave of rumours, unverified information and deliberate misinformation have been circulated through instant messaging, audio and other digital platforms.



Fake news erode the trust in critical health guidelines and safety information



Fake news exacerbate global anxiety and fears among communities



Fake news reinforce false and racist narratives about minority groups



Credibility

- Inspect the domain name URL and the ending of the website
- Identify the creator and their expertise
- Understand the position of the creator and potential bias
- Examine the purpose of the information
- Search fact-checking websites such as AfricaCheck.org or Snopes.com.



Quality

- Spot any spelling mistakes and grammatical errors
- Verify if the message has been communicated elsewhere
- Look at the date of the publication and the source of any photos
- Examine the facts provided with critical eyes