

# COVID-19 SPOTTING FAKE NEWS

## 4 TIPS TO HELP YOU SPOT FAKE NEWS

*Dear colleagues*

We continue to experience a flood of misinformation and misconceptions as we broaden our understanding of COVID-19.



*Figures 1, 2 and 3: Fake news example from Facebook*

It is not always easy to spot fake news on Social Media, in WhatsApp messages and information from friends and family. Some of these contacts and sources may seem credible to us, making it even more confusing to spot.

Although we can't stop misinformation and disinformation, we can actively counter it, by not sharing it and by verifying the source.

# 4 TIPS TO HELP YOU SPOT F KE NEWS

Here are some tips to help you spot fake news (source: <https://www.ifla.org/>). You can visit <https://www.gov.za/coronavirus/fakenews> to see an update on any spotted fake news about the pandemic. If you see any fake news and disinformation, please report it on the REAL 411 website: <https://bit.ly/39S5Vzb>.

## HOW TO SPOT FAKE NEWS

- CONSIDER THE SOURCE**  
Click away from the story to investigate the site, its mission and its contact info.
- READ BEYOND**  
Headlines can be outrageous in an effort to get clicks. What's the whole story?
- CHECK THE AUTHOR**  
Do a quick search on the author. Are they credible? Are they real?
- SUPPORTING SOURCES?**  
Click on those links. Determine if the info given actually supports the story.
- CHECK THE DATE**  
Reposting old news stories doesn't mean they're relevant to current events.
- IS IT A JOKE?**  
If it is too outlandish, it might be satire. Research the site and author to be sure.
- CHECK YOUR BIASES**  
Consider if your own beliefs could affect your judgement.
- ASK THE EXPERTS**  
Ask a librarian, or consult a fact-checking site.

**IFLA**  
International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions  
With thanks to www.FactCheck.org

Spreading fake news on the COVID-19 pandemic is a serious criminal offense. Verify information before you share.

# DO NOT SPREAD FAKE NEWS

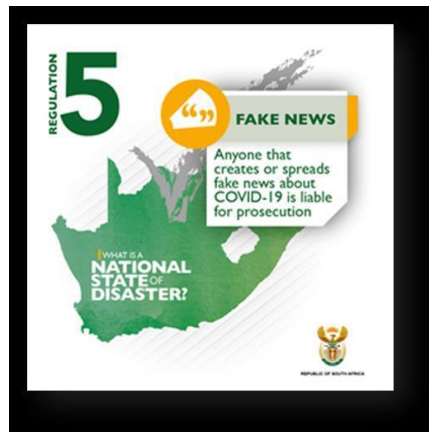


Figure 5. Source: <https://www.gov.za/coronavirus/fakenews>

Remember to teach and share correct and verified information on preventive measures against COVID-19 with friends and family.

**If you are showing symptoms of COVID-19 and have been exposed to the virus, please contact your medical practitioner right away.**

#### **For more information:**

- Whatsapp "Hi" to 0600 123 456
- Dial the toll-free number: 0800 029 999
- Visit [www.nicd.ac.za](http://www.nicd.ac.za)

*"The greatest compassion is the prevention of human suffering through patience, alertness, courage and kindness."*

— mit Ray, *Walking the Path of Compassion*

## Get Connected



<https://bit.ly/2xUSzSF>



<https://bit.ly/2NjLKyB>



<https://bit.ly/2P8jctE>

## Contact Us

**Sinenhlanhla Jimoh**

[sinenhlanhlaj@nicd.ac.za](mailto:sinenhlanhlaj@nicd.ac.za)

Senior Communications Manager

**Lesego Sibalanga**

[lesegos@nicd.ac.za](mailto:lesegos@nicd.ac.za)

Stakeholder Relations Specialist

