

# corvelva.it

The website of the Italian nonprofit Corvelva, which publishes false health content, including the discredited claim that vaccines cause autism.



**Proceed with caution: This website severely violates basic standards of credibility and transparency.**

**Score: 7.5/100**

## Ownership and Financing

Corvelva.it is owned by Coordinamento Regionale Veneto per la Libertà delle Vaccinazioni (Corvelva ASP), a nonprofit based in Grumolo delle Abbadesse, in the Region of Veneto. Corvelva advocates for exemptions to vaccination requirements based on personal beliefs.

Corvelva.it, which does not run advertising, is financed by donations and membership fees, which cost a minimum of €26 a year. The site states on its homepage that it has 145 members.

The site has editions in eight other languages: English, Arabic, Hebrew, Russian, French, German, Portuguese, and Spanish.

## Content

The site's About (Chi Siamo) page states that Corvelva, which was launched in 1993, "sets the freedom of choice in vaccinations as its principle" ("pone come suo principio la libera scelta delle vaccinazioni"). Corvelva.it primarily publishes articles about vaccines and the pharmaceutical industry.

Corvelva.it organizes content into three main sections: Insights (Approfondimenti), Corvelva Special (Speciale Corvelva), and People's blog. The Insights section includes subsections for Vaccines (Vaccini), Health and Environment (Salute e ambiente), Food (Alimentazione), News (Notizie), and SOS Drugs (SOS farmaci). Corvelva Special is focused on the group's campaign against vaccines.

The People's blog section publishes opinion articles written by leaders and members of the nonprofit group, journalists, and activists, including Marcello Pamio, a conspiracy theorist and owner of the site Disinformazione.it.

- ✗ Does not repeatedly publish false content (22 points)
- ✗ Gathers and presents information responsibly (18)
- ✗ Regularly corrects or clarifies errors (12.5)
- ✗ Handles the difference between news and opinion responsibly (12.5)
- ✗ Avoids deceptive headlines (10)
- ✗ Website discloses ownership and financing (7.5)
- Clearly labels advertising (7.5)
- ✗ Reveals who's in charge, including any possible conflicts of interest (5)
- ✗ The site provides names of content creators, along with either contact or biographical information (5)

*Criteria are listed in order of importance.*

[More information.](#)

Typical articles have run under headlines such as “India: Homeopathy chosen against Coronavirus” (“India: scelta l’Omeopatia contro il Coronavirus”); “Physicians who receive gifts from pharmaceutical companies prescribe more” (“I medici che ricevono regali dalle aziende farmaceutiche prescrivono di più”); and “Investigation of flu forgery and amazing lies” (“Indagine sulle falsità influenzali e bugie strabilianti”).

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#### Credibility

Corvelva.it has published numerous stories that support the debunked link between vaccines and autism. For example, a November 2019 article headlined “Learning Disorders: from vaccines, to digital devices and screening” (“Disturbi di apprendimento: dai vaccini, ai dispositivi digitali e screening”), claimed that “vaccinated children showed a 420% higher risk of developing autism or ADHD!” (“i bambini vaccinati mostravano un rischio superiore del 420% di sviluppare autismo o ADHD!”).

No major health or science organization, including the U.K. National Health Service and the World Health Organization, has found a causal link between autism and vaccines. The United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has declared that “there is no link between vaccines and autism,” a conclusion backed by an abundance of scientific evidence.

To back its claim, the site referenced a 2016 study that it said showed that vaccinated children were more than four times more likely to develop autism or ADHD. The study, which was funded by two anti-vaccine groups, Generation Rescue and the Children’s Medical Safety Research Institute, was based on an online survey of approximately 400 mothers of home-schooled children.

A March 2019 article, headlined “What is the history of the measles vaccine in America?” (“Qual è la storia del vaccino contro il morbillo in America?”), claimed that there “is a link between the measles, mumps, and rubella vaccine (MMR) and autism among African-American boys” and that the CDC reported this finding in 2014.

In fact, the CDC's webpage on autism spectrum disorders (ASD) states: "Since 2003, there have been nine CDC-funded or conducted studies that have found no link between thimerosal-containing vaccines and ASD, as well as no link between the measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccine and ASD in children." The World Health Organization has stated that "there is no evidence of a link between MMR vaccine and autism or autistic disorders."

A March 2019 article about a cancer study, titled "HPV-related cancer rates influence the spread of the vaccine in Alabama, U.S." ("Le percentuali di cancro correlate all'HPV influenzano la diffusione del vaccino in Alabama, USA"), stated that "the counties with the highest percentage of HPV-related cancers also present higher HPV vaccination rates" — suggesting that the study found a causal link between the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine and cancer.

In fact, the study, which was conducted by the USA Health Mitchell Cancer Institute, in Mobile, Alabama, attributed the higher vaccination rates in certain counties to the fact that more people were seeking the vaccination, because of higher rates of HPV-related cancer in the area. If "someone you know has had an HPV-related cancer, you're more likely to vaccinate your children against HPV," the study concluded.

In a January 2020 article titled "Pandemic. The business of terror" ("Pandemia. Il business del terrore"), the site promoted the unsubstantiated claim that the Wuhan coronavirus may have been engineered in a Wuhan military laboratory, calling the outbreak "the largest general test of population control." ("la più grande prova generale di controllo della popolazione").

Several news outlets and the American fact-checking website PolitiFact have said that there is no evidence that the virus originated in a lab. A February 2020 report by the World Health Organization said that "increasing evidence demonstrates the link between the 2019-nCoV [Wuhan coronavirus] and other similar known coronaviruses (CoV) circulating in bats." A study published the same month in Nature found that the virus is "96% identical at the whole-genome level to a

bat coronavirus." Rutgers University chemical biology professor Richard Ebright told the Washington Post that "based on the virus genome and properties there is no indication whatsoever that it was an engineered virus."

The site has also promoted unsubstantiated claims that 5G signals can damage the body's DNA and cause cancer, learning disabilities, and other health issues.

For example, a May 2019 article, titled "5G-Part 2: DNA damage and no compensation insurance against effects from EMF" ("Il 5G-2a parte: danni al DNA e nessun indennizzo assicurativo contro effetti da EMF"), stated that "this [5G] will disembowel the DNA in the human microbial, which is our number one operating system" ("questo [5G] andrà ad eviscerare il DNA microbico nell'essere umano, che è il nostro sistema operativo numero uno").

Multiple studies on the subject have not found that cell-phone exposure causes cancer in people, and no studies have been published on the emerging 5G technology. Although a 2011 report released by the World Health Organization International Agency for Research on Cancer classified cell phones as a "Class 2B carcinogen," the report noted that pickled vegetables and aloe vera also pose a "2B" cancer risk.

Because Corvelva.it frequently promotes false health information, particularly about the purported dangers of vaccines, NewsGuard has determined that the site repeatedly publishes false content, does not gather and present information responsibly, and fails to avoid deceptive headlines.

In a February 2020 email to NewsGuard, Corvelva stated: "90% of the news comes from high profile sites such as Reuters, Repubblica, L'Espresso, Le Monde but obviously also from counter-information sites such as Pandora TV by Giulietto Chiesa, ByoBlu and foreign partners similar to us. In short, we like that people examine in depth by clicking and then browsing other sites making their own opinion."

Although the site publishes opinion in the People’s blog section, articles published outside that section also include opinion.

For example, an article published in the news section in November 2019, titled “Censorship and vaccines on Facebook: Zuckerberg grilled in the USA” (“Censura e vaccini su Facebook: Zuckerberg inchiodato negli USA”), stated that Facebook has exhibited “fascist behaviors” (“comportamenti fascisti”) toward the anti-vaccine movement.

An October 2019 article published in the news section stated: “Researchers call it ‘animal testing’ and it is a word pun ... to silence the reality of useless violence” (“I ricercatori la chiamano ‘sperimentazione animale’, ed è un gioco di parole per presentarla meglio [...] per mettere a tacere la realtà della violenza inutile”).

Because Corvelva.it publishes opinion in its news section, NewsGuard has determined that the site does not handle the difference between news and opinion responsibly.

Following an exchange of emails with NewsGuard, the site did not respond to NewsGuard’s questions about its handling of opinion.

Corvelva.it does not articulate a corrections policy, and NewsGuard did not find corrections on the site.

Corvelva said in an email that “it is not that difficult” to contact the site to request corrections.

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#### Transparency

Corvelva.it does not disclose ownership and does not name any donors.

The site does not identify its top editors.

Articles are generally not attributed to writers, and the site does not provide contact or biographical information for its content creators.

The site does not run advertisements.

Corvelva.it did not respond to NewsGuard’s question about the site’s lack of disclosure regarding ownership, editorial leadership, and content creators.

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History                    The nonprofit was founded in Veneto in 1993, according to the site's About page. Corvelva.it was registered in 2017.

**Written by:** [Angelo Paura](#)

**Edited by:** [Sarah Brandt](#), [Eric Efron](#), [Virginia Padovese](#), [Giampiero Gramaglia](#)

**Send feedback to NewsGuard:** [Click Here](#)

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## Sources

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Ownership and Financing                    <https://www.corvelva.it/it/speciale-corvelva/le-comunicazioni/aperte-le-iscrizione-soci-corvelva-2020.html>

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Content                    <https://www.corvelva.it/it/speciale-corvelva/vaccinegate/lettera-aperta-alle-istituzioni-riguardo-le-analisi-corvelva.html>  
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