

n5ti.com

An anonymously operated website that has fabricated stories about people who have either died or become ill from the COVID-19 virus.



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

Ownership and Financing

N5TI.com does not disclose who owns the site and NewsGuard could not find any information on its owner. Information about the domain name registrant is masked by a Scottsdale, Arizona-based privacy service called Domains by Proxy.

Score: 12.5/100

Content

N5TI.com, which says “News NT” on the top of its homepage, generally publishes excerpts of news articles from websites such as The Intercept, the BBC, and the Financial Times. The website, which appears to have begun publishing content in March 2020, primarily covers the COVID-19 pandemic.

Stories on the homepage in April 2020 covered developments in China, the United Kingdom, and other European countries, with headlines such as “China: All coronavirus patients in Wuhan discharged,” “BBC Radio 4 presenter Richard Sanders dies from coronavirus aged 62,” and “German state finance minister Thomas Schafer kills himself over ‘coronavirus worries.’”

Stories on the site are only dated “2 days ago” or “2 months ago.” The only stories listed as having been published before March 2020 are not actual articles, but placeholder text generated by a computer program, appearing under headlines such as “Facebook Is Watching How You Watch TV” and “Delicious vegetarian pizza with arugula on wooden table.”

- ✗ Does not repeatedly publish false content (22points)
- ✗ 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.](#)

Credibility

N5TI.com has published several death hoaxes associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. In April 2020, the website created a hoax titled “First volunteer in UK coronavirus vaccine trial has died,” which reported that a microbiologist named Elisa Granato, who volunteered to take part in a clinical trial for a COVID-19 vaccine,

had died. “She died two days after the vaccine was administered, authorities have said and added that an investigation into the cause of the death has been initiated,” the article reported. N5TI.com added that “four other volunteers are said to be battling complications due to adverse reactions of the vaccine,” but provided no evidence for the claim.

The site originated a separate hoax in an April 2020 article headlined, “Italy arrest (sic) Doctor for intentionally killing over 3,000 coronavirus patients.” The article claimed that an Italian doctor named Sergio Kerr “has been charged with murder after authorities found out that he is responsible for over 3,000 coronavirus-related deaths.”

The website promoted another hoax related to the COVID-19 pandemic in an April 2020 article titled “President Buhari tests positive for coronavirus,” which falsely claimed that the president of Nigeria, Muhammadu Buhari, had tested positive for COVID-19.

Another April 2020 article, headlined “21 million Chinese died of coronavirus – US intelligence officials intercept data,” promoted an unsubstantiated claim about how many people in China died due to COVID-19. The story said, “New data intercepted by the United States reveals that 21 million people died in China from December 2019 to March 2020, US intelligence officials conclude in a classified report for the Trump administration.” The article went to claim this higher death toll “was validated for a second time when it tallied with (sic) a data released by Beijing authorities. Beijing announced on March 19 that over 21 million cell phone accounts in China were canceled in the past three months while 840,000 landlines were closed.”

Because N5TI.com has promoted false and unsubstantiated claims about the COVID-19 virus, NewsGuard has determined that the site repeatedly publishes false content, fails to gather and present information responsibly, and does not avoid deceptive headlines.

The website does not post a policy explaining how it corrects errors. No corrections were found by NewsGuard and the site has not corrected the false stories cited above.

The site generally does not publish opinion content.

Transparency N5TI.com does not provide any information about its ownership or editorial leadership. All articles on the site are credited to James Alami, but no biographical information or contact information for him or anyone involved with the site is provided.

Because N5TI.com does not provide any contact information, NewsGuard could not contact the site for comment about its advertising policy as well as its lack of information about ownership, editors, and content creators.

History The site's domain name was registered in 2020.

Written by: [John Gregory](#)

Edited by: [Amy Westfeldt](#)

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

Sources

Ownership and Financing <https://domainbigdata.com/n5ti.com>

Content BBC article: <https://n5ti.com/health/1164/>
The Intercept: <https://n5ti.com/health/1121/>
Financial Times: <https://n5ti.com/health/1174/>
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Credibility

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<https://fullfact.org/online/elisa-granato-fake/>

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21 million dead story:

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Transparency

Information on MGID: <https://www.mgid.com/publishers>
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History

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