COVID-19 and Vaccine Misinformation Accounts on Twitter: French, Italian, German
Report for Governments and the WHO
This report features French, Italian, and German Twitter accounts publishing COVID-19 and vaccine misinformation to large audiences.
Proceed with caution: This website severely violates basic journalistic standards.

The website of Radio Courtoisie, a far-right talk and news station that has published false and misleading claims, including COVID-19 misinformation and Russian propaganda.

Score: 32.5/100

Credibility

- Does not repeatedly publish false content
- Gathers and presents information responsibly
- Regularly corrects or clarifies errors
- Handles the difference between news and opinion responsibly
- Avoids deceptive headlines

Transparency

- Website discloses ownership and financing
- Clearly labels advertising
- Reveals who’s in charge, including any possible conflicts of interest
- The site provides names of content creators, along with either contact or biographical information
E&R National
@EetR_National

Association trans-courants gauche du travail et droite des valeurs, contre la gauche bobo-libertaire et la droite libérale.

Transparence: 26/100

- Does not repeatedly publish false content
- Gathers and presents information responsibly
- Regularly corrects or clarifies errors
- Handles the difference between news and opinion responsibly
- Avoids deceptive headlines
- Website discloses ownership and financing
- Clearly labels advertising
- Reveals who's in charge, including any possible conflicts of interest
- The site provides names of content creators, along with either contact or biographical information
Retrouvez l'actualité dans notre média gratuit et indépendant 🇫🇷.
Journalisme collaboratif et de qualité.

FranceSoir<br>
@france soir

© Paris © france soir.fr © Born November 7, 1944
Joined October 2009
861 Following 61.1K Followers
Followed by Anne Bees

france soir.fr

Proceed with caution: This website severely violates basic journalistic standards.

The website of FranceSoir, a former national newspaper that relaunched online in 2015, and that has published unsubstantiated claims about the COVID-19 pandemic and other topics.

Score: 22.5/100

CREDIBILITY

× Does not repeatedly publish false content
× Gathers and presents information responsibly
× Regularly corrects or clarifies errors
× Handles the difference between news and opinion responsibly
✓ Avoids deceptive headlines

TRANSPARENCY

✓ Website discloses ownership and financing
× Clearly labels advertising
✓ Reveals who’s in charge, including any possible conflicts of interest
✓ The site provides names of content creators, along with either contact or biographical information
La Chine annonce le désengagement avec les forces indiennes le long de la frontière contestée.
@byoblu
80,500 followers

byoblu.com

Proceed with caution: This website severely violates basic journalistic standards.

The website of Italian blogger Claudio Messora, which has published false and unsubstantiated health claims, including about the COVID-19 pandemic.

Score: 20/100

See the full Nutrition Label →

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CREDIBILITY

- ✗ Does not repeatedly publish false content
- ✗ Gathers and presents information responsibly
- ✗ Regularly corrects or clarifies errors
- ✗ Handles the difference between news and opinion responsibly
- ✗ Avoids deceptive headlines

TRANSPARENCY

- ✓ Website discloses ownership and financing
- N/A Clearly labels advertising
- ✓ Reveals who’s in charge, including any possible conflicts of interest
- ✗ The site provides names of content creators, along with either contact or biographical information
@cesaresacchetti
39,400 followers

lacrunadellago.net

Proceed with caution: This website severely violates basic journalistic standards.

The website of Italian blogger Cesare Sacchetti, which has frequently published false and misleading information on the 2020 coronavirus pandemic, as well as unsubstantiated conspiracy theories.

Score: 25/100

See the full Nutrition Label →

CREDIBILITY

[]: Does not repeatedly publish false content
[]: Gathers and presents information responsibly
[]: Regularly corrects or clarifies errors
[]: Handles the difference between news and opinion responsibly
[]: Avoids deceptive headlines

TRANSPARENCY

✓: Website discloses ownership and financing
✓: Clearly labels advertising
✓: Reveals who’s in charge, including any possible conflicts of interest
✓: The site provides names of content creators, along with either contact or biographical information
@maurizioblondet
13,800 followers

Maurizio Blondet
@MaurizioBlondet

Giornalista, scrittore e conferenziere di orientamento cattolico-tradizionalista. Tratto l’influenza delle lobby nei governi mondiali.

Translate bio

Corsico, Lombardia maurizioblondet.it Joined June 2015

339 Following 13.8K Followers

Not followed by anyone you’re following

Maurizio Blondet @MaurizioBlondet · Jan 14

“Cavie di tutto il mondo, unitevi!”

The following media includes potentially sensitive content. Change settings

www.maurizioblondet.it

NewsGuard

Proceed with caution: This website severely violates basic journalistic standards.

The personal website of Maurizio Blondet, an Italian journalist who has promoted conspiracy theories about health and politics.

Score: 20/100

See the full Nutrition Label →

CREDIBILITY

- Does not repeatedly publish false content
- Gathers and presents information responsibly
- Regularly corrects or clarifies errors
- Handles the difference between news and opinion responsibly
- Avoids deceptive headlines

TRANSPARENCY

- Website discloses ownership and financing
- Clearly labels advertising
- Reveals who’s in charge, including any possible conflicts of interest
- The site provides names of content creators, along with either contact or biographical information
@jouwatch
12,000 followers

Journalistenwatch
@jouwatch
jouwatch - das Nachrichtenergänzungsmittel mit garantiert politischen Nebenwirkungen
Translate bio

Berlin  journalistenwatch.com  Joined February 2012
553 Following  12K Followers
Followed by Clarín O'Connor

journalistenwatch.com

Proceed with caution: This website severely violates basic journalistic standards.

A website that has relied on misleading or unsubstantiated claims to back an undisclosed far-right, anti-Islam viewpoint in its coverage of journalism and of national and international news.

Score: 20/100

CREDIBILITY

☑️ Does not repeatedly publish false content
☑️ Gathers and presents information responsibly
☑️ Regularly corrects or clarifies errors
☑️ Handles the difference between news and opinion responsibly
☑️ Avoids deceptive headlines

TRANSPARENCY

☑️ Website discloses ownership and financing
☑️ Clearly labels advertising
☑️ Reveals who’s in charge, including any possible conflicts of interest
☑️ The site provides names of content creators, along with other contact or biographical information
@contra_magazin
2,144 followers

contra-magazin.com

Proceed with caution: This website severely violates basic journalistic standards.

A right-wing news site that covers German and international politics, and has repeatedly published false and misleading information.

Score: 20/100

CREDIBILITY
- Does not repeatedly publish false content

TRANSPARENCY
- Website discloses ownership and financing
- Clearly labels advertising
- Reveals who’s in charge, including any possible conflicts of interest
- The site provides names of content creators, along with either contact or biographical information
This report was produced using two proprietary datasets from NewsGuard.

The **Misinformation Fingerprints** dataset, a catalogue of data about top misinformation narratives, contains related keywords and search terms for all of the top misinformation and disinformation narratives spreading online--produced using human intelligence but designed for use with AI/ML/NLP tools to identify content matching specific false claims. NewsGuard analysts used the Misinformation Fingerprints dataset to identify relevant searches related to misinformation narratives about COVID-19 and other topics.

The second dataset used was the **News Website Reliability Ratings**, which consists of credibility ratings for over 6,000 news and information website that account for 95% of online engagement with news in the U.S., U.K., France, Germany and Italy. Each site's rating is based on nine basic, apolitical journalistic criteria. Based on the criteria, each site receives an overall designation of green (generally trustworthy) or red (generally not trustworthy) and a trust score of 0-100. NewsGuard's analyst used the News Website Reliability Ratings dataset to identify misinformation sources that appeared in the results for searches conducted as part of the analysis.

For the purposes of this analysis, we focused on searches for which the searcher's intent could reasonably have been to search for accurate information about a topic. The analysis used the same searches across all search engines analysed to ensure parity. Examples selected for the report represent an illustrative, but by no means exhaustive, list of search results that contain misinformation sources. Both the Misinformation Fingerprints and the News Website Reliability Index are available to be licensed for research and other purposes.