



COVID-19 Information and Misinformation



Protecting Yourself From Misinformation





Educate yourself about COVID-19

- What are the symptoms?
- How does it spread?
- What other illnesses are similar?

The more you know about the disease, the easier it will be to spot misinformation.



Things to think about when you are researching

- **Who** - Who is the author of the information?
- **What** - What are they saying?
- **When** - Is this information up to date and still relevant?
- **Where** - Where are they getting their information from ?
Do they cite their sources?
- **Why** - What is the goal behind the information?



Share with sources with others

- Don't just tell someone information, show them where you found it.
- Encourage others to do their own research.
- Double check information, and look for the source.
- Things can change. What was true yesterday may not be true today.

Trustworthy Websites



Websites

Larimer County Health and Environment

<https://www.larimer.org/health>

Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

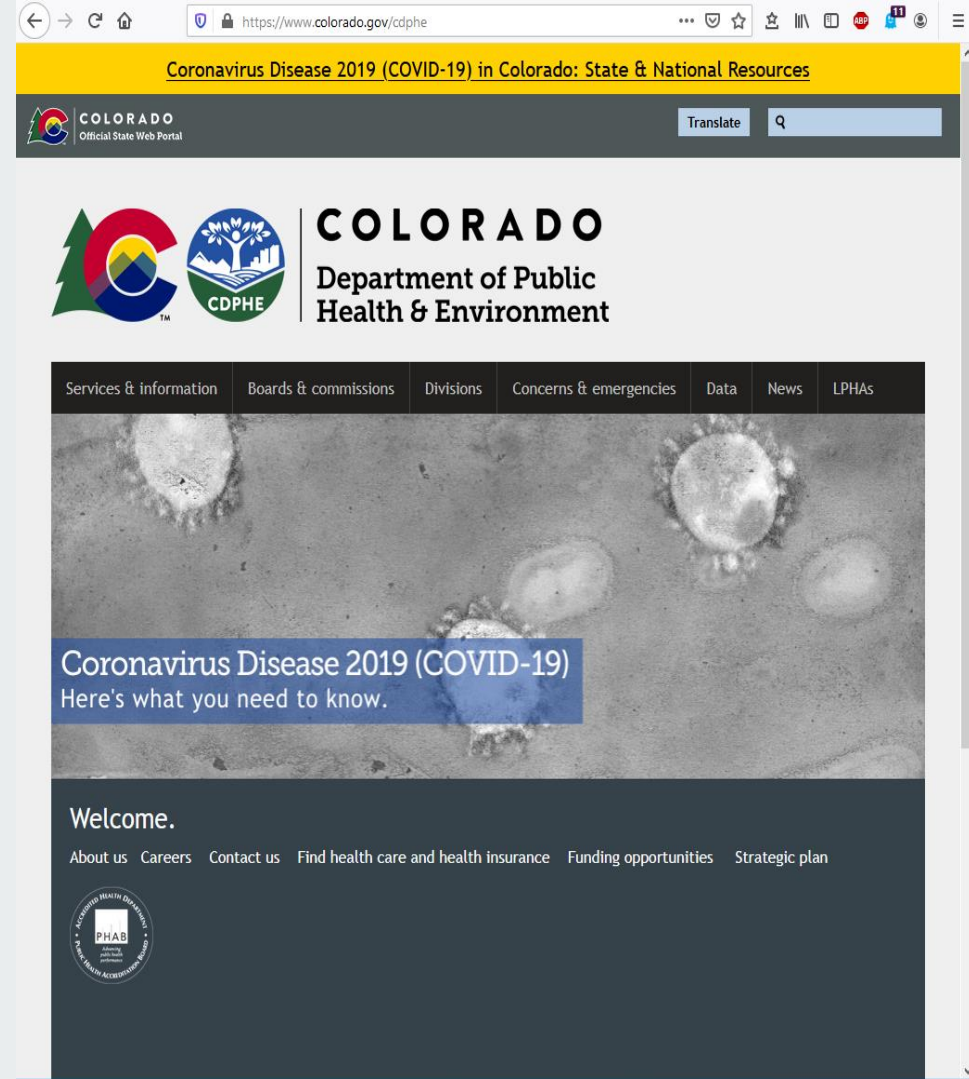
<https://www.colorado.gov/cdphe>

Centers for Disease Control

<https://www.cdc.gov/>

World Health Organization

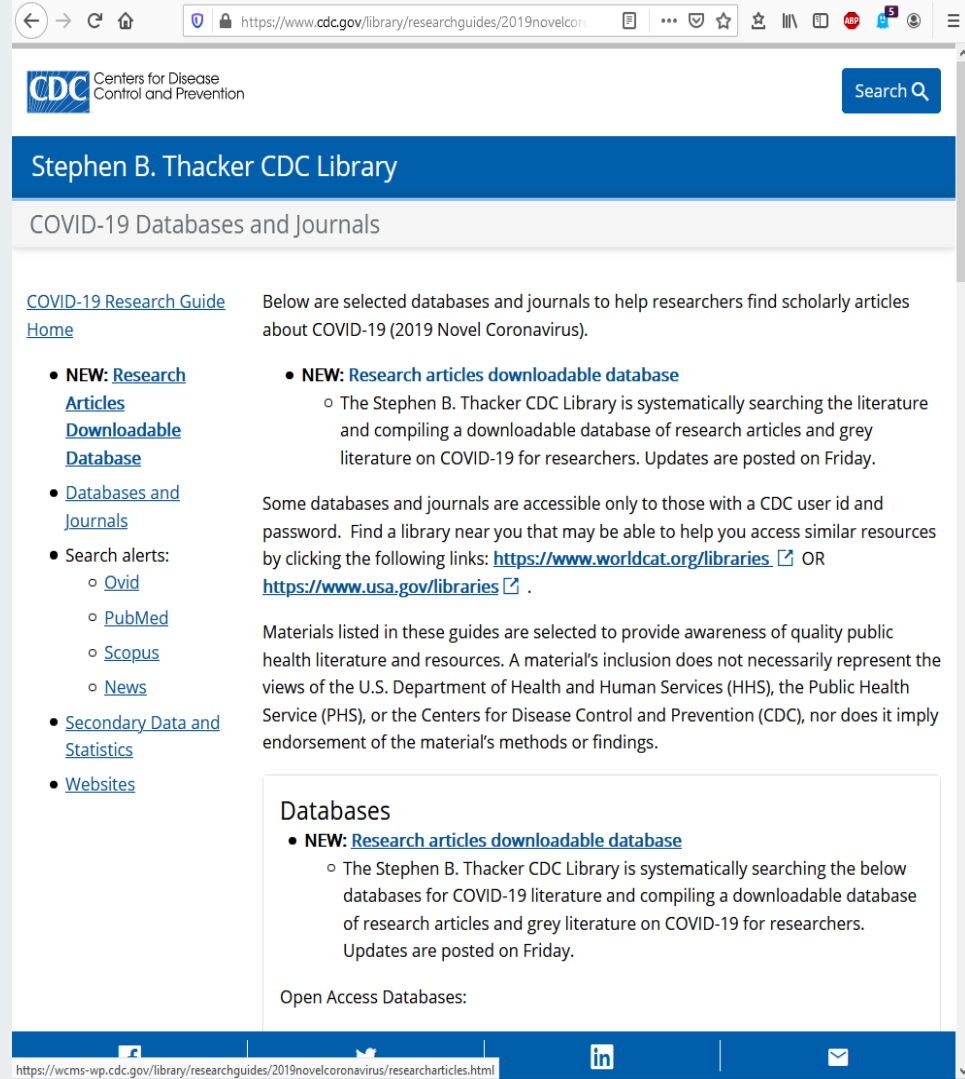
<https://www.who.int/>



The screenshot shows the Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment website. At the top, there is a yellow navigation bar with the text "Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) in Colorado: State & National Resources". Below this is a dark grey header with the Colorado state logo and the text "COLORADO Official State Web Portal". A search bar with a magnifying glass icon and a "Translate" button is also present. The main content area features the Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment logo and the text "COLORADO Department of Public Health & Environment". A dark grey navigation menu contains the following items: "Services & information", "Boards & commissions", "Divisions", "Concerns & emergencies", "Data", "News", and "LPHAs". The main content area has a background image of a coronavirus particle. A blue banner with white text reads "Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Here's what you need to know." Below this, the text "Welcome." is displayed, followed by a list of links: "About us", "Careers", "Contact us", "Find health care and health insurance", "Funding opportunities", and "Strategic plan". At the bottom left, there is a circular logo for "PHAB Accredited Health Organization" with the text "PHAB" in the center and "ACCREDITED HEALTH ORGANIZATION" around the perimeter.

Databases

The CDC website has link to COVID-19 Databases and Journals.



The screenshot shows the Stephen B. Thacker CDC Library website. The page title is "Stephen B. Thacker CDC Library" and the main heading is "COVID-19 Databases and Journals". The page content includes a "COVID-19 Research Guide Home" link, a list of search alerts (Ovid, PubMed, Scopus, News), and a link to "Secondary Data and Statistics" and "Websites". A section titled "Databases" contains a "NEW: Research articles downloadable database" link and a description of the database. The page also features a search bar, a CDC logo, and a footer with social media icons and a URL.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Search

Stephen B. Thacker CDC Library

COVID-19 Databases and Journals

[COVID-19 Research Guide Home](#)

- **NEW: [Research Articles Downloadable Database](#)**
- [Databases and Journals](#)
- Search alerts:
 - [Ovid](#)
 - [PubMed](#)
 - [Scopus](#)
 - [News](#)
- [Secondary Data and Statistics](#)
- [Websites](#)

Below are selected databases and journals to help researchers find scholarly articles about COVID-19 (2019 Novel Coronavirus).

- **NEW: [Research articles downloadable database](#)**
 - The Stephen B. Thacker CDC Library is systematically searching the literature and compiling a downloadable database of research articles and grey literature on COVID-19 for researchers. Updates are posted on Friday.

Some databases and journals are accessible only to those with a CDC user id and password. Find a library near you that may be able to help you access similar resources by clicking the following links: <https://www.worldcat.org/libraries> OR <https://www.usa.gov/libraries> .

Materials listed in these guides are selected to provide awareness of quality public health literature and resources. A material's inclusion does not necessarily represent the views of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), the Public Health Service (PHS), or the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), nor does it imply endorsement of the material's methods or findings.

Databases

- **NEW: [Research articles downloadable database](#)**
 - The Stephen B. Thacker CDC Library is systematically searching the below databases for COVID-19 literature and compiling a downloadable database of research articles and grey literature on COVID-19 for researchers. Updates are posted on Friday.

Open Access Databases:

[f](https://www.facebook.com) [t](https://www.twitter.com) [in](https://www.linkedin.com) [✉](mailto:)

<https://www.cdc.gov/library/researchguides/2019novelcoronavirus/researcharticles.html>

Other Sites and Search Engines



Filter Bubbles

Search algorithms on sites like Google change their results based on different factors.

- Where you live.
- What you have searched for previously.
- Search engines filter what they think you want to see, not what you are looking for!
- Use specific terms instead of general terms when searching.

Search for 'Egypt':

Scott gets Egyptian Protests:



Example 1

Eli Pariser: Beware Online "Filter

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Bubbles

Google Egypt

About 350,000,000 results (0.24 seconds)

- Everything
- Images
- Videos
- News
- Shopping
- Realtime
- Books
- More

New York, NY
Change location

Any time
Latest
Past 24 hours
Past week
Past month
Past year
Custom range...

All results
Wonder wheel
Timeline

Crisis in Egypt
Voices in **Egypt** have been muted but will not be silenced. Listen. humanrightsfirst.org/Egypt

Egypt - Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia
Egypt officially the Arab Republic of **Egypt**, is a country mainly in North Africa, with the Sinai Peninsula forming a land bridge in Southwest Asia. ...
Hosni Mubarak - Ancient Egypt - Female genital cutting - History of modern Egypt
en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Egypt - Cached - Similar

Egypt News - The Protests of 2011 - The New York Times
World news about **Egypt** and the protests of 2011. Breaking news and archival information about its people, politics and economy from The New York Times.
topics.nytimes.com > World > Countries and Territories - Cached - Similar

Egypt Travel, Tours, Vacations, Ancient Egypt from Tour Egypt
Information for travelers, resources on history, monuments and activities.
www.touregypt.net/ - Cached - Similar

News for Egypt

 **Why Lara Logan Was Eager to Return to Egypt**
1 hour ago
By Charlotte Triggs AP Lara Logan had already had one troubling experience in **Egypt** before last Friday's "brutal and sustained" sexual assault, ...
People Magazine - 1658 related articles - Shared by 20+

In Egypt, renewed hope for gender equality
USA Today - 24974 related articles - Shared by 5+

Realtime updates for Egypt (390)

Daniel gets Travel Information:

Google

Egypt

About 321,000,000 results (0.15 seconds)

Everything

Images

Videos

News

Shopping

Books

More

New York, NY

Change location

Any time

Latest

Past 24 hours

Past week

Past month

Past year

Custom range...

All results

Sites with images

► [Egypt - Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia](#)

Egypt officially the Arab Republic of **Egypt**, is a country mainly in North Africa, with the Sinai Peninsula forming a land bridge in Southwest Asia. ...

Hoani Mubarak - Ancient Egypt - Female genital cutting - History of modern Egypt
en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Egypt - Cached - Similar

[Egypt Travel, Tours, Vacations, Ancient Egypt from Tour Egypt](#)

Information for travelers, resources on history, monuments and activities.

www.touregypt.net/ - Cached - Similar

[Egypt Daily News, Egypt News](#)

Egypt Daily News, covering **Egypt News**, Arab news, Middle East news and World news. Egyptian Guides, egyptian recipes, egyptian food, egyptian airforce. ...

www.egyptdailynews.com/ - Cached - Similar

[Images for egypt](#) - Report images



[Egypt - CIA - The World Factbook](#)

Feb 1, 2011 ... Features a map and brief descriptions of geography, economy, government, and people.

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world.../eg.html> - Cached - Similar

Example 2

Eli Pariser: Beware Online "Filter

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Bubbles



Wikipedia

No, really! Wikipedia is a great place to **BEGIN** your research!

- Wikipedia cites its sources and you can find links to many of them
- Knowing which topics tend to have more accurate info (tech stuff, etc)
- If you want to be sure about something, don't stop at one source!

Libraries have an important role during emergencies and disasters, where they may be used as shelter aid, especially financial aid, which requires access to computers and the Internet.^[101] The U.S. Federal times of disaster.^[102] Libraries have also had an increasingly important economic role during the recess

101. ^ Rose, Joel (12 August 2013). "For Disaster Preparedness: Pack A Library Card?". *NPR*. Archived from the original on 12 August 2013. Retrieved 12 August 2013.

For Disaster Preparedness: Pack A Library Card?

August 12, 2013 - 2:58 AM ET
Heard on Morning Edition

JOEL ROSE





Is It Reliable?

Determining whether a webpage, article, or resource is reliable can be tricky, but there are a few things to look out for:

- The Source: Who put this information out there? Why might they have done this?
- The Site: How does the site look? When was it last updated?
- The Content: Is this the only place you can find this information? Do sources cite each other and nobody else? How is the writing (is it well-written, with good spelling and grammar)?
- The Domain: Is this a .com, .org, or .gov? Or is it an odd extension that you do not recognize?

None of these are a 100% guarantee that the website is credible, but they can be a good indication one way or the other.



Be Careful

Even reliable-looking sources can be biased, unreliable, or just plain wrong. Information can also become less accurate if it is passed through a middleman.

This comes up a lot when news websites and other resources for regular readers use scientific studies as a source. Without the proper context, seeing this information through a news channel can be convincing, and it's hard to know how trustworthy the original study was.

Snopes

- <https://www.snopes.com/>
- Source for discerning what is true and what is false.
- Can submit items for fact-checking

No, McDonald's Is Not Offering 2 Free Big Mac Meals for a Month

Yet another "free coupon" scam attempted to lure social media users with bogus promises.

DAVID MIKKELSON

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Take Another 30 Seconds

After you find a resource that seems good, don't stop there! If accuracy is important to you, don't just read the first result on Google and call it a day.

Find other resources and see if they back up what you're saying. Check and make sure that matching resources aren't just quoting each other and nobody else.

A good rule of thumb is to find 3 separate resources that have the same information--this makes it more likely that you have found accurate info.



Ask Questions

Always ask questions of your resources.

Whether you are using a book, a website, a wiki, or a peer-reviewed journal article, nothing is infallible. Asking questions is how we can sort out good information from bad.

Again...always ask Who, What, When, Where, and Why



Sources

<https://www.colorado.gov/cdphe>

<https://www.snopes.com/>

<https://www.who.int/>

<https://www.wikipedia.org/>

<https://wwwnc.cdc.gov>

Parser, Eli (March 2011) Beware of online “filter bubbles”. Retrieved from

https://www.ted.com/talks/eli_pariser_beware_online_filter_bubbles?language=en