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News Item

COVID Misinformation Is Killing People | Scientific American

By Amir Bagherpour & Ali Nouri
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> The confluence of misinformation and infectious disease isn't unique to COVID-19. Misinformation contributed to the spread of the Ebola epidemic in West Africa, and it plagues efforts to educate the public on the importance of vaccinating against measles. But when it comes to COVID-19, the pandemic has come to be defined by a tsunami of persistent misinformation to the public on everything from the utility of masks and the efficacy of school closures, to the wisdom behind social distancing, and even the promise of untested remedies. According to a study published by the National Bureau of Economic Research, areas of the country exposed to television programming that downplayed the severity of the pandemic saw greater numbers of cases and deaths—because people didn't follow public health precautions.
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Source: COVID Misinformation Is Killing People – Scientific American