

Fringe communities feed on RT coverage to undermine Covid-19 vaccinations | First Draft

By Seb Cubbon

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Since the start of the Pfizer/BioNTech Covid-19 vaccine rollout in mid-December, Russian state-funded media outlets RT and Sputnik have been pushing alarmist headlines regarding the effects of the vaccine. Almost on a daily basis, articles on the two Russian government-backed sites have been misleadingly suggesting causal links between the vaccine and severe side effects or even deaths despite a lack of evidence and incomplete investigations.

Some of these publications have generated several thousand shares on social media, while a video from RT's anglophone YouTube account, titled "Woman's severe reaction to Pfizer COVID vaccine prompts investigation," has attracted more than a million views since its publication January 18.

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