

# It's not easy for ordinary citizens to identify fake news | Washington Post

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Fake news makes up a relatively small portion of Americans' news consumption, research has shown. Throughout 2016, the [vast majority of U.S. Facebook users](#) did not share any fake news articles. In the month leading up to the election, fake news sources only made up [roughly 1 percent](#) of the average Twitter user's political news on the platform.

In 2020, however, even small amounts of fake news about coronavirus can have dire consequences. The [current public health crisis](#) requires the coordinated actions of individuals — [maintaining social distance](#), buying reasonable quantities of [food and supplies](#), and following the latest [medical advice](#) rather than [bogus cures](#).

[...]

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