

# Singapore introduced tough laws against fake news. Coronavirus has put them to the test. | The Washington Post

By Shibani Mahtani

March 16, 2020

SINGAPORE — At their sprawling Asia headquarters last month, Facebook executives considered the latest order from Singapore’s authorities: [Disable local access](#) to a page that the city-state’s government asserted contained [false statements](#) about its response to the coronavirus outbreak.

Legal analysis gave the company little choice, Facebook concluded. If it did not comply, the company would be found guilty of an offense and fined up to \$14,400 a day under the law.

Within a day Facebook had blocked local access to the page, States Times Review. But in an unusually strong statement the social media giant [said](#) it was “deeply concerned” about the “precedent this sets for the stifling of freedom of expression in Singapore.”

Source: [Singapore introduced tough laws against fake news. Coronavirus has put them to the test. - The Washington Post](#)