

The first six months of the pandemic, as told by the fact checks | First Draft

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October 1, 2020

On January 15, Philippines-based outlet Rappler debunked [a claim](#) circulating on social media that a case of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) had been reported at a mall in Mandaluyong City, outside Manila. This article would be the first out of thousands of fact checks relating to the new coronavirus since the beginning of 2020, which First Draft has analyzed to tell the story of pandemic misinformation through the work of those fighting it.

The output of fact-checking organizations rose rapidly at the end of January as news of the outbreak in Wuhan began to emerge and the prospect of it spreading globally grew. They then ramped up their coverage even more rapidly as we headed into March, as cases began rising around the world and governments began taking action to stop its spread.

[...]

Source: [The first six months of the pandemic, as told by the fact checks](#)