

News Item

## Vaccine misinformation in Facebook comment sections: a case study | First Draft

By Esther Chan, Lucinda Beaman, and Stevie Zhang May 7, 2021

Earlier this year, as the rollout of Covid-19 vaccines created new questions and fertile ground for information disorder, Facebook <u>announced an expansion</u> of its <u>policies</u> on vaccine misinformation. While the <u>effectiveness</u> of these measures will take time to assess, First Draft research has put the spotlight on an area where misinformation is hiding in plain sight: comment sections.

Comment sections are an area often overlooked in policy responses and while they have to abide by Facebook's overall policies on vaccine misinformation, they are not subjected to warning labels applied by Facebook's <a href="third-party fact-checking">third-party fact-checking</a> partners. Meanwhile, moderation by news outlets and public health organizations often isn't effective at keeping misinformation out of comment sections.

[...]

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