

Wuhan Virus Fake News and Conspiracies Are Spreading Online | Foreign Policy

By Justin Ling

February 6, 2020

The outbreak of the new coronavirus, which originated in Wuhan, China, with all the misinformation and conspiracy that has followed it, has put the major social media companies to the test as they try to combat panic and paranoia. The big U.S. companies have moved quickly to try to quell criticism that their platforms are turning into cesspools of bad information and fear. So have their Chinese counterparts—which are also under considerable government pressure as Beijing faces its worst legitimacy crisis in years. As the virus has spread, their platforms have played host to theories that the deadly virus is a [lab-made bioweapon](#) and that the streets of Wuhan are littered with thousands of dead bodies.

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