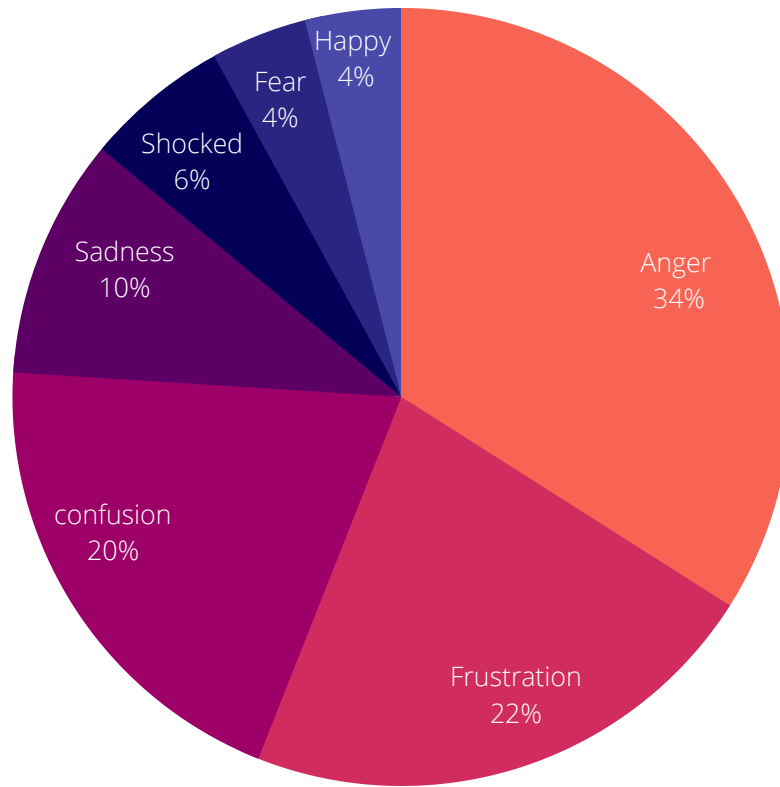


Purpose

The purpose of this bulletin is to help mitigate the spread of rumors and misinformation about COVID-19 in Zimbabwe.

Rumor trends



466

Total rumors collected between March 18, 2022 and April 18, 2022

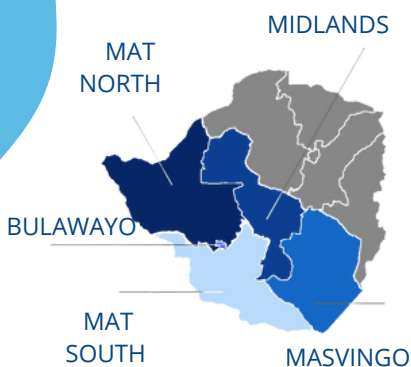
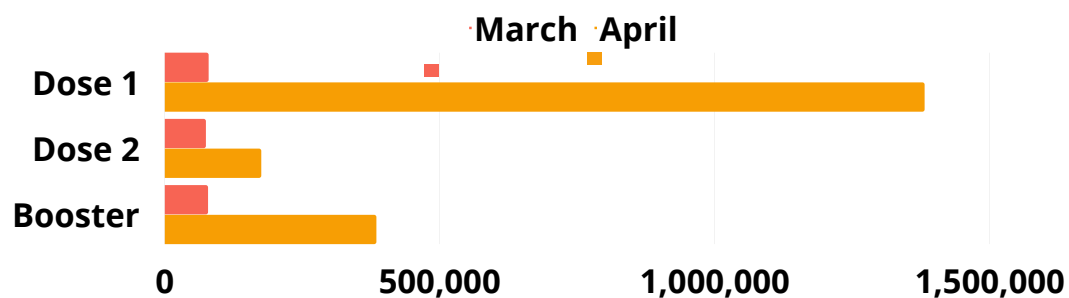
Source:
Internews'
Social Media Monitors.

Visualisation by
RiT Data from MoHCC
statistics

Rumor Themes

- COVID-19 is a hoax (16%)
- COVID-19 is endemic (12%)
- Government is using COVID-19 to limit travel rights (10%)
- Masks are ineffective and should be abolished (45%)
- Reports of a new COVID-19 variant are fake (17%).

COVID-19 Statistics (Mar 18 & Apr 18, 2022)



There was a sharp increase in the number of people who received the first and third dose of the COVID-19 vaccine.



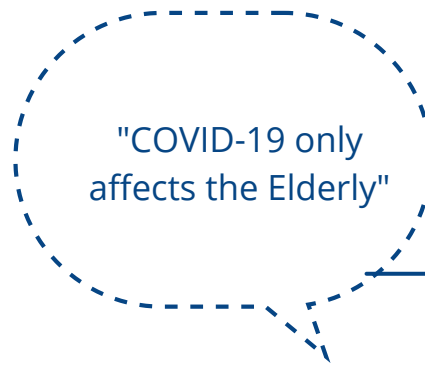
2,986 new infections
721 active cases



921,208
COVID-19 Cases



16 people
hospitalized
as at April 18, 2022.



#Rumor
1

**RUMOR THEME:
Transmission**

Facts

"People across all age groups can be infected with COVID-19. However elderly people are more likely to experience severe disease and high mortality from COVID-19 compared to other age groups.

"Elderly people have reduced immunity and are more likely to have underlying medical conditions such as hypertension, heart disease, lung disease, diabetes or kidney disease, thereby weakening their bodies' ability to fight infectious diseases and making them more vulnerable to COVID-19." Dr Trust Mushawarima, Bulawayo based medical practitioner.

Recommendations for outreach workers and communities

- Community dialogues with the local nurses as resource persons can be used to understand myths & misconceptions around COVID-19 and give correct & accurate information.
- Jingles can be created and aired by local community radio stations in local languages such as Ndebele, Shona, Tonga, Nambya, Venda, with information on frequently asked questions by communities.



Advice : older adults & people with underlying health conditions

Wash hands

Cough/sneeze **into a flexed elbow** or **use** a disposable tissue

Clean & disinfect frequently touched surfaces

Follow distancing measures issued by local authorities

Avoid unnecessary public activities but **socialize** by phone every day with friends or family

921,208 COVID-19 Cases

9,700 Deaths

World Health Organization

#COVID19

#Coronavirus



#Rumor
2

"Are Booster shots compulsory?"

**RUMOR THEME:
Vaccines**

Facts

- Medical experts have urged Zimbabweans to get COVID-19 booster shots as a protective measure against COVID-19.
- Getting a booster shot is not mandatory. People are, however, being encouraged to take booster shots to boost their immune systems.
- According to medical experts, booster shots reinvigorate the immune memory cells and produce a layer of immune protection that had faded, extending the time recipients of the booster shot are protected from COVID-19.

Recommendations for outreach workers and communities

- Community Outreach workers may target youths (who are highly mobile) and the migrant community in bordering communities such as Plumtree and Beitbridge through jingles on the radio and animation videos on cross border buses explaining the functions & benefits of booster shots.
- Village Health Workers at community feeding points, health institutions and during outreach visits can target women, with information explaining guidelines surrounding booster shots.

Outreach workers who need correct and accurate information on COVID-19 latest trends to inform communities can access the following: -

Ministry of Health and Child Care Platforms
Whats app Hub send HI: +263 714 734 593
Tollfree Hotline: Dial 2019 or 393

Contact details

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