

Lugara Community Factsheet

ABOUT THIS FACTSHEET

This Factsheet is meant for all stakeholders working with the communities like Community Health Workers, Health Care Workers, Outreach Workers, Community Leaders, Religious Leaders, Community Based Associations, and the community. RiT 2.0 Internews in South Sudan periodically collects feedback from the community, shares citizen's concerns on COVID-19 and works to serve communities by collecting rumors and misinformation to understand and address communities' concerns and information needs in order to strengthen information ecosystem, the vaccine, and other complex health topics. We respond by increasing the flow of accurate, timely, trusted, and contextualized information between local media, public health and humanitarian agencies, and communities.

WHAT IS A RUMOR?

A rumor is a currently circulating story or report of unverified information collected from firsthand sources within the community which could take the shape of a question, criticism, concern or a general comment on a situation or topic. A rumor can be tricky because it might have some element of truth in it.

WHY RUMORS?

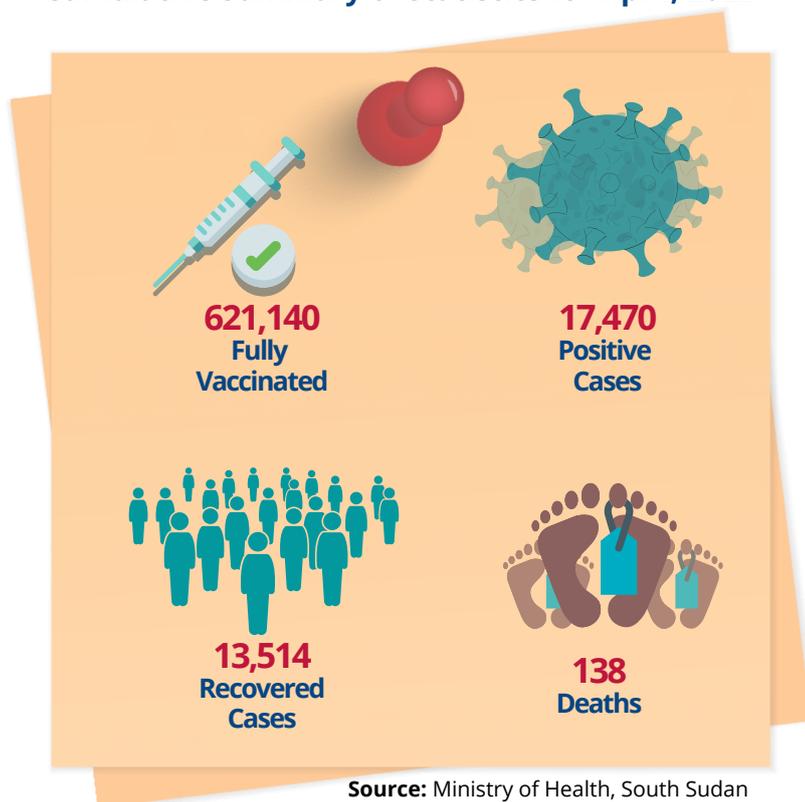
In the absence of facts, rumors thrive and become believable by the communities in which they are circulating. Rumors shape public perception and can be harmful if not countered in a timely and consistent manner. Rumors thrive because of lack of relevant and contextualized information that is rooted in our target communities and can tell us a lot about where the community is at and what they need. Most Community health workers, local community leaders and associations should provide the community with information from credible and reliable sources to help debunk the rumors using community-based education and during outreach work.



COVID-19 Situation Update

On 30th April 2022, South Sudan registered **17,479 positive cases**, **13,514 recovered cases** and **138 deaths**. This is reported by the national Ministry of Health in South Sudan https://moh.gov.ss/daily_updates.php

Cumulative Summary of Statistics for April, 2022



Risk Rating: Risk is measured based on a range of factors including a) cultural relevancy, b) timing, c) online engagement, d) the believability of a rumor, and most importantly, e) the potential negative impact a rumor may have on the health, well-being, and safety of local communities or service providers.

- **HIGH RISK:** A rumor that is very likely be believed among the larger community with potentially severe negative impacts resulting in serious harm to an individual or group including inciting violence or creating widespread fear/panic. High risk rumors may encourage widespread avoidance of testing/treatment or harm towards health workers and other service providers.
- **MEDIUM RISK:** A rumor that has the potential to be believed among the larger community with potentially moderate negative impacts to a community or individual's health wellbeing, or safety. Medium risk rumors may have a moderate impact on health seeking behaviors.
- **LOW RISK:** A rumor that is either unlikely to be believed among the community or with limited negative impacts to a community or individual's health, well-being, or safety or to the pandemic response

WHAT ARE PEOPLE SAYING?

RUMOR #1:

“COVID-19 doesn't matter anymore or doesn't exist”

Theme: COVID-19 General
Risk Rating: Medium

FACT CHECKING:

The preliminary results of the South Sudan COVID-19 health facility prevalence survey published on April 13, 2022, confirmed that COVID-19 is still a danger to be taken seriously. The Preliminary results found a 18.7% COVID-19 positive test rate using RT-PCR amongst 723 participants aged 1-80 years (43% female) in 8 health facilities in Juba, Bentiu, Rumbek, Bor and Wau counties, and 40% positive test results of those between 20-49 years of age. The Largest proportion of positive cases in Juba hospitals was 38.5% at Juba Military Hospital, 23.7% at Juba Teaching Hospital, only 5.9% in Wau Teaching Hospital, and 4.4% at Bor Town Hospital, with 89.6% of individuals tested in Juba County. **Source:** COVID-19 weekly Update for South Sudan, April 13, 2022).

Mabior Kiir, chief of planning and information at Public Health Emergency Operation Center (PHEOC) stated that **“COVID-19 is a respiratory illness that can spread from person to person, especially between people who are physically near each other (within about 6 feet). People who are infected but do not show symptoms can also spread the virus to others therefore the ministry of health advises everyone that Covid-19 still exists so there's need to keep all the preventive measures”**. COVID-19 is real and in South Sudan, the first case was confirmed on 5th April 2020 and since then, 17,443 confirmed cases have been registered, 13,513 recovered cases and 138 deaths. The virus is real and the national ministry of health with the support from WHO is encouraging its citizens to observe preventive measures and get vaccinated to protect themselves from the virus. <https://moh.gov.ss/>

However, due to the pandemic fatigue, many people have tended to believe that the virus no longer exists, but COVID-19 is real, and people are still getting infected and some dying across South Sudan as reported by the national ministry of health <https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/335820/WHO-EURO-2020-1160-40906-55390-eng.pdf>

Recommendation

COVID-19 remains a pandemic as declared by WHO on 11th March 2020. You should protect yourself from COVID-19 by following preventive measures that were announced by National Ministry of Health and World Health Organization. To get more details on COVID-19 you can call **6666** or visit a nearby health facility for more details.

RUMOR #2:

“The Covid-19 vaccine is a way of injecting people with Microchip

Theme: COVID-19 vaccines
Risk Rating: Medium

FACT CHECKING:

“COVID-19 vaccines do not contain microchips. Vaccines are developed to fight against diseases, build the immunity and are not administered to track your movement therefore it has nothing to do with microchips”, said Mabior Kiir, Chief of Planning and Information at Public Health Emergency Operation (PHEOC) in Juba.

Recommendation

COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective and can provide strong protection against serious illness, hospitalization, and death from COVID-19. Getting vaccinated is one of the most important things you can do to protect yourself against the virus, end the pandemic and stop new variants from emerging. In South Sudan the national ministry of health recommended that persons from 18 years and older should get vaccinated to protect them from the virus. Even those with pre-existing conditions, including autoimmune disorders such as hypertension, diabetes, asthma, pulmonary, liver and kidney diseases, as well as chronic infections that are stable and controlled. You can access the vaccines at the nearby health facility and if you have questions, you can call toll free number 6666. <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/covid-19-vaccines/advice>

VACCINES ARE SAFE



GET VACCINATED

WHAT ARE PEOPLE SAYING?

RUMOR #3:

"The Covid-19 vaccine causes health issues to breastfeeding babies."

Theme: COVID-19 vaccines
Risk Rating: Medium

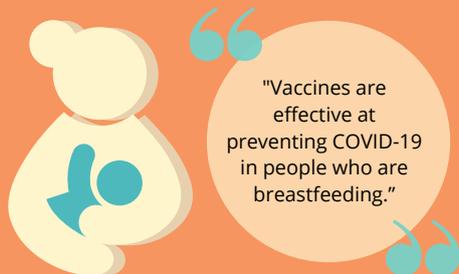
FACT CHECKING:

Mabior Kiir, Chief for Planning and Information at Public Health Emergency Operation Center (PHEOC) stated that "Currently no evidence shows that any vaccines, including COVID-19 vaccines, cause health issues with breastfeeding babies. Therefore, the Ministry of Health, WHO and CDC recommended that COVID-19 vaccines cannot cause COVID-19 infection in anyone, including the mother or the baby. None of the COVID-19 vaccines contain live virus. Vaccines are effective at preventing COVID-19 in people who are breastfeeding".

Recommendation

Breastfeeding mothers are encouraged to get COVID-19 vaccines, studies shows that there are no safety concerns or issues with continuing to breastfeed after vaccination. COVID-19 vaccines are considered safe for breastfeeding mothers and babies. Recent studies demonstrated COVID-19 mRNA vaccine antibodies in the breast milk of vaccinated lactating mothers can potentially protect the breastfed infant. <https://www.healthychildren.org/English/health-issues/conditions/COVID-19/Pages/Breastfeeding-During-COVID-19.aspx>

You cannot catch COVID-19 from the vaccines and cannot pass it to your baby through your breast milk. Therefore all the breastfeeding mothers are encouraged to go to the nearby health facility in Juba and across the country to get vaccinated to protect themselves and their children from COVID-19. CDC recommends that people who are breastfeeding get vaccinated and stay up to date with their COVID-19 vaccines, including getting a COVID-19 booster shot when it's time to get one. COVID-19 vaccines cannot cause COVID-19 infection in anyone, including the mother or the baby. None of the COVID-19 vaccines contain live virus. Vaccines are effective at preventing COVID-19 in people who are breastfeeding. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/recommendations/pregnancy.html>



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ON COVID-19 VACCINES

What are the side effects of COVID-19 vaccines?

COVID-19 vaccination helps protect people from getting COVID-19. Some people have side effects from the vaccine, which are normal signs that their body is building protection. These side effects may affect their ability to do daily activities, but they should go away in a few days. Some people have no side effects and allergic reactions are rare. Adverse effects that could cause a long-term health problem are extremely unusual following any vaccination, including COVID-19 vaccination.

On the arm where you got the shot:

- Pain
- Redness
- Swelling

To reduce pain and discomfort where the shot is given:

- Apply a clean, cool, wet washcloth over the area
- Use or exercise your arm

Throughout the rest of your body:

- Tiredness
- Headache
- Muscle pain
- Chills
- Fever
- Nausea

To reduce discomfort from fever

- Drink plenty of fluids
- Dress lightly

Please note that you must talk to a doctor for any over the counter medication for any pain or discomfort experienced after getting vaccinated.

For more information, call the toll-free number **6666**. For more information visit, <https://moh.gov.ss/>

The Rooted in Trust 2.0 project works to combat COVID-19 rumors and misinformation, responds to the information challenges faced by vulnerable groups, encourages open dialogue between citizens and stronger collaborative partnerships between information providers.

USAID-BHA Rooted in Trust 2.0 South Sudan

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