COVID-19 & HEALTH ISSUES
A weekly snapshot of COVID-19 and other health topics in Zimbabwe

TOP STORY:
- Zimbabwe launches Integrated Vaccination Drive To Cover Lost Ground

TOP ISSUES:
Obesity time bomb for Zimbabwe’s children
Government repeats calls for all citizens to get COVID-19 vaccination.
Zimbabwe tackles malnutrition through biofortification.

TOP TRENDING POST
The post with the highest reach this week:
- Likes: 115
- Views: 42,500
- Retweets: 43

"HARARE DIRTY CORNER CHALLENGE: I passed by that place again, Cnr Hebert Chitepo/Nehanda. They are called Tent Shop and they are selling drinks. City Council Police officers varikudya. They are a health hazard. Let’s post Harare dirty corner and urge @JMafume to attend to this (Twitter)

SENTIMENT ANALYSIS
- 38% Anger/fustration
- 17% Confusion
- 12% Fear
- 5% Shocked
- 28% Sadness

ONLINE HEALTH NEWS SOURCES OF THE WEEK
- 71% Individual Social Media Accounts
- 21% Influencial Social Media Accounts
- 8% Mainstream News Social Media Accounts

Source: Visualisation by Internews: Data by RiT 2.0 Global Rumours Dashboard
FACTS

- The World Health Organisation (WHO) notes that Silicone oils (polydimethylsiloxane), also known as silicone fluids, with viscosities in the range 200–350 centistokes are the most used lubricants that are applied to male and female condoms during manufacture.
- While there is no evidence of adverse effects of using condom lubricants on hair growth or skin, Mr Costa Nkomo the Students And Youth Working on reproductive Health Action Team (SAYWHAT) Information Officer advises that the direct negative effects of this is the shortage of condoms which may lead to individuals engaging in unprotected sex and being exposed to Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) and unwanted pregnancy.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO JOURNALISTS

- Produce features, podcasts and documentaries featuring dermatologists and trichologists who can advise on affordable and scientifically recommended hair and skin treatment options that can be adopted instead of condom lubricants.
- Producing local language features, podcasts and documentaries that highlight sexual and reproductive health risks that may arise because of abuse of condoms such as shortage of condoms, and how such risks can lead to an increase in sexually transmitted infections due to people’s failure to access condoms when needed.

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