



Salig Bangsamoro

(Trust Bangsamoro) is Rooted in Trust Philippines' biweekly rumor bulletin. Rooted in Trust is a global and local humanitarian response run by Internews to fight the spread of rumors on COVID-19. In the Philippines, the focus is on the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM).



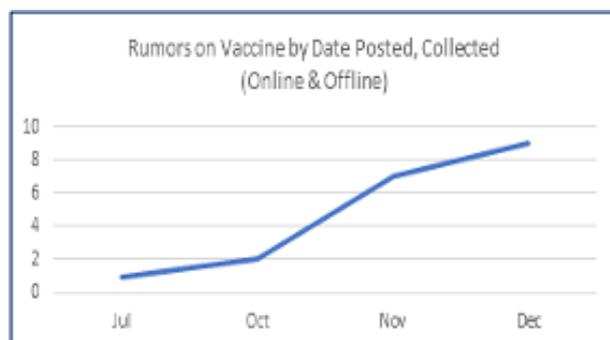
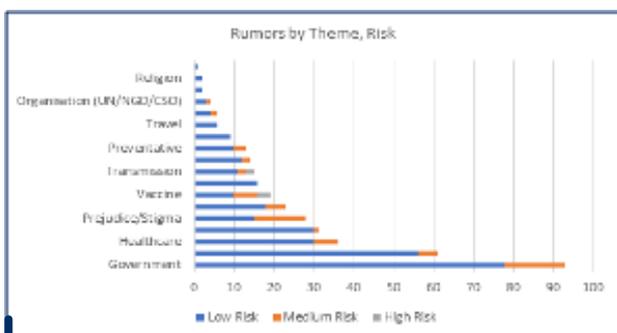
The most shared topics we've seen that are referring to COVID-19 are about the government – COVID-19 as hoax and healthcare (hospitals and medical workers) related rumors – from September up to the first half of December. Other trending topics include treatment and cure, prejudice and stigma, testing, vaccine, symptoms, transmissions, and COVID-19 impacts.

There were 379 rumors collected from different platforms (Facebook, Twitter, Social listening, and word of mouth) from September 4 to December 16. We take a qualitative approach to rumor tracking, collecting rumors that give us an insight into community questions, trust and fears or anxieties.

Majority of the high-risk rumors, (potentially harmful for the community) were about vaccines. People are confused with the difference of other vaccines to COVID-19 vaccines, saying vaccines in general are deadly.

They are expressing their fear for their children because of ongoing vaccination campaigns (i.e., measles, polio, etc.) in the communities which are already proven to be safe and effective. Rumors on vaccines started to peak in November due to a string of reports abroad.

The recent news on COVID-19 vaccine has also raised doubts and concerns among the community.



What are people saying?

"Vaccines will make you sick and are not safe for children."

- "Measles-Rubella Supplemental Immunization Activity of DOH is something related to COVID-19 vaccination. Some people are afraid of this activity because they believe that this would give everyone a positive result for COVID-19."

(Municipality of Piagapo, Female, 19-25 years old)

Rumor risk level: High Platform: Word of mouth, Social Listening

- "I don't want my children to get vaccines because of rumors that vaccinated children become sick. As we heard, the injections or vaccines nowadays could weaken your immune system, and that once have it, you will have to maintain it."

(Municipality of Marantao, Female, 36-45 years old)

Rumor risk level: Medium Platform: Word of mouth, Social Listening

- "I'd rather prepare myself from death than be vaccinated because vaccination will make you sick forever and you will never be pregnant."

(Female, 36-45 years old)

Rumor risk level: High Platform: Facebook Reactions: 16
Comments: 2 Shares: 20 Followers: 2,434



Rumors Answered

These rumors show the concerns of people about the safety of the COVID-19 vaccines. They don't want to get vaccinated because they think it is not safe at all.

These concerns, however, also affect their view on other vaccines which history already shows us these are proven safe. If this confusion is not addressed, you and your community will not be guarded against other infectious diseases that can be prevented by routine vaccination. Vaccines are the single most, lifesaving and cost-effective medical intervention according to the World Health Organization (WHO). They reduce risks of getting a disease by working with the body's natural defenses to build protection against infections and make your immune system stronger.

Vaccines have been used to control, eliminate, and eradicate of some of the most life-threatening diseases like smallpox, polio, measles, tuberculosis, etc. History tells us so. In 1976, the expanded program on immunization in the Philippines was first established to make sure that children and mothers have free access to routinely recommended vaccines.

This includes six (6) vaccine-preventable diseases: tuberculosis, diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, poliomyelitis, measles, and rubella. In 2011, the list grew to provide additional access to mumps, hepatitis B, and influenza type B vaccines. Through the years, we have seen how these vaccines have proven their effectiveness in the preventing these diseases.

For children, there is no current evidence that says vaccines would increase the risk of a child becoming infected with COVID-19 or affect the course of the disease in a child who has been shot with the vaccine during the asymptomatic phase.

The WHO recommends that you continue participating in routine vaccination campaigns set by your local governments and the Department of Health to avoid recurring outbreaks.

This will ensure the safety of your children and your community from diseases that could be prevented through vaccination.

What do we expect after getting the COVID-19 vaccines? With the recent developments on the COVID-19 vaccine, several concerns and doubts have been raised with regards to its safety.

As emphasized in previous Salig. Bangsamoro bulletins, vaccines undergo extensive testing and review before it is granted approval to ensure safety. And even after approval, continuous monitoring to spot and address adverse reactions is done. Side effects following vaccination is usually common, mild, and self-limiting.

Most common side effects reported for COVID-19 vaccines

- Tiredness
- Headache
- Muscle pain
- Chills
- Joint pain
- Pain at injection site
- Fever (*may last for 24 up to 48 hours*)



SAYING NO TO VACCINE IS AS SAYING YES TO SICKNESS. GET VACCINATED!

For more information, you may watch and tune in to:



SINDAW RANAW
The Coalition of Moro Youth Movement
FB: CMYM Online News



S'BANG KA MARAWI
FB live: Monday to Friday
6:30 – 7:30 PM



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COVID-19 vaccine: Status in the Philippines

The government is targeting to vaccinate 60-70% Filipinos to achieve herd immunity where enough people will be protected against the disease. Priority will be given to the front liners (health workers, government workers from other agencies involved in the response, vulnerable groups such as the elderly, indigent Filipinos, and uniformed personnel of both the police and military).

MORE VACCINE COMPANIES, HIGHER CHANCES TO ACHIEVE TARGETS.

The Philippines is actively negotiating with various vaccine companies – Novavax, AstraZeneca, Pfizer, Johnson & Johnson, Sinovac, and Gamaleya to secure at least 50-60 million doses by 2021. The FDA said in January 11 the country can have at least 100 million doses if negotiation by next week will be successful.

EMERGENCY USE.

Pfizer has recently received their approved emergency use authorization (EUA) with the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), which means that the vaccines produced by the company is now ready to be used in the Philippines. An EUA is an authorization issued for unregistered vaccines during public health emergencies. A supply deal has yet to be finalized with the government to secure additional vaccine doses. In addition, AstraZeneca and Sinovac have also applied for an EUA with the FDA. The FDA has earlier reported estimates to release AstraZeneca's EUA 3-4 weeks from January 6.

TRIPARTITE DEAL.

AstraZeneca has already secured a tripartite deal worth of 2.6 million doses between the government and the private sector and is expected to arrive by May or June 2021. Other local government units in the country have already announced they are setting aside budget to give residents free COVID-19 vaccines. BARMM has already set aside P500 million to buy vaccines while Zamboanga City has allotted P200 million. The national government and the local government have yet to release detailed vaccine distribution and allocation plans.

The National COVID-19 Vaccine Roadmap



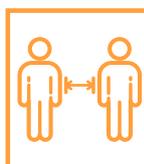
Practice minimum health standards



WASH HANDS



WEAR MASK



MAINTAIN SOCIAL DISTANCING



AVOID CROWDED PLACES



We welcome your feedback, questions, and suggestions to help local media produce reliable and accurate reporting on COVID-19. Please contact: **Kia Obang, Data Analyst** (kobang@internews.org) or **Paola Mikaela Alpay, Information Manager** (palpay@internews.org)