

Rooted in Trust Community Snapshot

**“When something is being given for free, I immediately doubt it, especially when being given to the elderly. One way or the other you will pay the price.”
(English: Facebook June 8, 2022)**



**RUMOR THEME:
Vaccine Agenda**



**Rooted
in Trust**



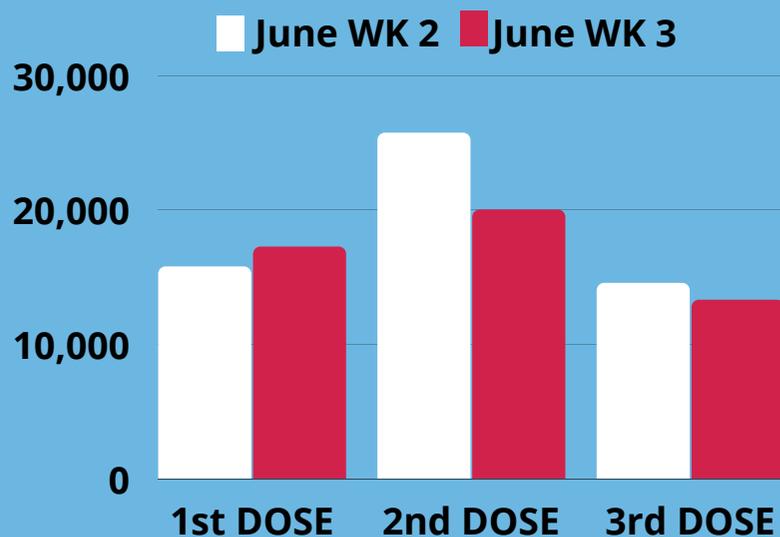
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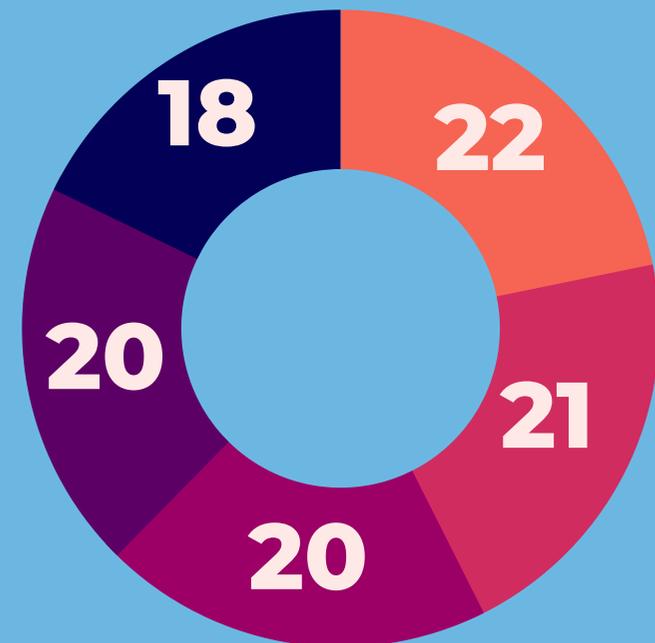
COVID-19 Trends

Bi-weekly Visualization Comparison



Visualization by RiT: Data from MoHCC

Offline trending Rumor Themes



- COVID-19 masks are ineffective and must be abolished.
- COVID-19 was invented by the Chinese and the West.
- COVID-19 Vaccines cause death.
- COVID-19 is a hoax
- Home remedies are more effective than COVID-19 vaccines.

Of the 57 offline rumours collected the most trending theme at 22% was - "COVID-19 masks are ineffective and must be abolished", 21% being "COVID-19 was invented by the Chinese and the West", 20% being "COVID-19 vaccines cause death", 20% was "COVID-19 is a hoax" and 18% was "home remedies are more effective than COVID-19 vaccines".

- Zimbabwe recorded an increase of 60% in COVID-19 related deaths between June 15, 2022, and June 21, 2022, from 10 to 16 deaths.
- As of June 21, 2022, there were 27 COVID-19 related hospitalizations, 9 vaccinated and 18 unvaccinated.
- From June 15, 2022, to June 21, 2022, there was a 12% decrease in new COVID-19 cases with 750 new cases recorded last week and 662 recorded in week ending June 21, 2022.
- 17,240 people received their first vaccine dose during the period under review providing an increase of 9% compared to the prior week.
- Weekly second and third vaccine doses were at 20,001 and 13,286 which is a decrease of 22% and 8% respectively from week ending June 15, 2022.

“When something is being given for free, I immediately doubt it, especially when being given to the elderly. One way or the other you will pay the price.” (English: Facebook June 8, 2022)

- The rumor captured on Facebook is in response to a post by a Non-Governmental Organization, stating the importance of getting booster vaccines, the protection that they offer and that vaccines are free.
- COVID-19 vaccines are free to citizens because taxes are used to pay for them, and some given as donations by other countries like China. Government has partnered with the corporate sector and other players in procuring vaccines. While the vaccination is free for Zimbabweans, foreigners who are not permanently staying in Zimbabwe must pay for vaccination.
- Vaccination is not limited to the elderly, the Zimbabwean Government has extended vaccination to all including younger age groups between the ages of 12 to 15 years.
- The Centres for Disease Control and Prevention has announced that in some countries COVID-19 vaccination has been extended to children as young as 6 months old.



Actionable recommendations for communities.

- **Village and community Health Workers can engage women**, youths and migrants in Community Dialogues explaining how vaccines are subsidised by government and the reasons for the subsidization, so that communities understand why vaccinations are free.
- **Village health workers working with women**, men, and youth; can facilitate role plays and drama during Ward Development meetings in local languages such as Ndebele, Shona, Tonga, Venda, Kalanga, Nambya, Tonga to explain vaccines, how they are developed, their benefit to individuals and the importance of being vaccinated.