

WHAT ARE PEOPLE SAYING



Internet user on Twitter

“Prolonged use of face masks causes suffocation. Breathing constantly the exhaled air turns into carbon dioxide, causing dizziness. This intoxicates the user and even more so when moving around, performing actions.”

Wearing face masks causes suffocation

TIPS TO THE MEDIA

- Interview a public health, a health agency representative or a health respondent in Mali on the different types of masks available on the market, and where to get them easily, especially in the case of internally displaced persons.
- Ask health agents what can be used to replace a mask.
- Interview people who regularly wear mask to get their testimonies and impressions.

PRINCIPLES OF JOURNALISM

The remedy to misinformation is to strengthen the critical thinking of citizens and increase the availability of verified information, not decrease it. (UNESCO)

Suggested contacts:

- **Prof. Mamadou Soucalo Traoré**, Infectious Diseases Physician, former Secretary General of the Ministry of Health and Public Hygiene, former Director General of the National Institute of Public Health Research, Tel: +223 66 75 90 51.
- **National Institute of Public Health (INSP)**, Bamako, Hippodrome, Rue: 235, Porte: 52, BP: 1771, Tel: +223 20 21 43 20 / 20 21 42 31
- **Health Inspectorate**, Darsalam Bamako, Tel: +223 20 23 81 76 / +223 20 23 26 84



Internews

The *Rooted in Trust* project aims to disrupt and mitigate the flow of misleading, inaccurate or malignant information to vulnerable populations affected by humanitarian crises during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In Mali, the *Rooted In Trust* project focuses on listening to communities and collecting rumors about the virus and the COVID-19 response among displaced populations in the District of Bamako and the regions of Sikasso, Segou, Mopti, and Timbuktu.

FACTS

WHO confirms that the prolonged use of masks can be uncomfortable. However, it does not lead to CO2 intoxication nor oxygen deficiency. While wearing a mask, it is suggested to make it fit properly and tight enough to allow you to breathe normally. It is recommended as well not to re-use a disposable mask and to always change it as soon as it gets damp.

This same rumor has appeared in several different countries and contexts. Wearing a mask may be uncomfortable and when its use is not a common practice, it is normal for people to look for reasons for not wearing it.

Source

- WHO. Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) advice for the public. 28 Oct 2020



WHAT ARE PEOPLE SAYING



Resident of Timbuktu
45 years old

"Patients suffering from COVID-19 are treated with contempt by the nursing staff of the regional hospital in Timbuktu. For fear of contracting COVID-19, the staff put food in bags and throw it on the patients."

Mistreatment
of COVID-19
patients

TIPS TO THE MEDIA

- Collect testimonials from recovered COVID-19 patients about how they were fed and treated in the hospital.
- Report on the health response at the Timbuktu hospital and the measures put in place to protect patients and caregivers by interviewing a member of the hospital team.
- Prepare reports to show how the health response throughout the region is helping communities.

PRINCIPLES OF JOURNALISM

It is not a question of just saying that a piece of information is false or not. The information must be corroborated by taking into account the reality of the environment, respecting the dignity of persons or beliefs and trying to provide a useful and actionable response to the population, and if possible including them in the formulation of the response.

Suggested contacts:

- **Dr. Ibrahim Maiga**, Physician at the Timbuktu Reference Health Center, tel: +223 76 16 66 65
- **Timbuktu Regional Hospital**: Sareikeina area in Timbuktu, tel: +223 21 92 10 41 / +223 21 92 11 69

HOW WE DO IT

The first edition of the media bulletin examined 70 rumors collected from Oct. 14 to 28, 2020, including 41 on Facebook, 12 on Twitter 11 on Whatsapp, 4 on news sites, 1 on Instagram and 1 online. In addition, 48 of these rumors were tagged as medium risk, 16 as high risk and 6 as low risk. The methodology for collecting rumors is based on regular monitoring of content published on social media platforms used by populations such as Twitter and Facebook.

We also talk to displaced communities either on the phone or face-to-face to capture and collect rumors, questions, fears, doubts, recommendations and criticisms about the virus and the humanitarian and health response.

Most at risk rumors for populations are identified and addressed in this bulletin in order to develop an appropriate media response.

FACTS

Interacting with or serving food to patients with COVID-19 does not facilitate disease transmission. The application of barrier measures (wearing a mask, washing hands and physical distancing) and the implementation of health protocols are sufficient to guarantee an appropriate treatment and patient care and avoid spread of the virus within patients, medical staff and the community (visitors, parents, etc.).



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We welcome your comments and suggestions to help local media produce reliable information and reporting on COVID-19. Please contact **Maimouna Sidibe**, Media Liaison Officer, Rooted In Trust, Mali at msidibe@internews.org.

