Confronting Health Misinformation

Key takeaways from the Surgeon General's Advisory

Defining misinformation

Misinformation is information that is false, inaccurate, or misleading according to the best available evidence at the time.

Effects related to COVID-19

During the pandemic, health misinformation has led people to decline vaccines, reject public health measures, and use unproven treatments. Health misinformation has also led to harassment and violence against health workers, airline staff, and other frontline workers tasked with communicating evolving public health measures.

How health misinformation spreads

The growing number of places people go to for information has made it easier for misinformation to spread at a never-before-seen speed and scale. Misinformation spreads especially easily on social media and online retail sites, as well as via search engines.

Addressing health misinformation

Together, we have the power to build a healthier information environment. Just as we have all benefited from efforts to improve air and water quality, limiting the prevalence and impact of misinformation benefits individual and public health.

Read more information and download the advisory at: https://hhs.gov/surgeongeneral/priorities/health-misinformation/

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U.S. Surgeon General