Người dân mong muốn sớm được tiêm vắc xin COVID-19 (People want to be vaccinated against COVID-19 soon)

Người dân mong muốn sớm được tiêm vắc xin COVID-19 (dangcongsan.vn) (06/08/2021)

Facing the complicated situation of the COVID-19 epidemic, many provinces and cities are implementing social distancing, making people always in a state of worry and insecurity. Therefore, people's current urgent desire is to be vaccinated against COVID-19 with the hope that after vaccination they can soon return to normal life.

People hope to be vaccinated soon

As of August 6, the Ministry of Health reported that Vietnam had administered over 8 million COVID-19 vaccine doses, with the majority receiving one dose. However, some areas have been slow in organizing vaccine distribution and deployment. With the epidemic's complexity and people's urgent needs, there's a call to accelerate vaccination efforts. Over 5 million people are currently registered for vaccination, eagerly awaiting their turn. Individuals like Ms. Ngoc Quynh and Ms. Nguyen Thi Lu express trust in the government's vaccination campaign and eagerly anticipate their doses. Ms. Lu, having received her first dose, feels fortunate but emphasizes the importance of completing subsequent doses for full effectiveness.

Speed up the vaccination process to make people feel more secure

Deputy Minister of Health Do Xuan Tuyen acknowledged that the current COVID-19 vaccination progress in several provinces and cities hasn't met expectations, emphasizing the need to expedite the process while ensuring safety and avoiding vaccine wastage. Experts attribute the slow progress to confusion in organizing vaccination deployment and the impact of social distancing measures due to the epidemic's complexity. Additionally, delays in vaccine transportation and varied vaccine types arriving in batches contribute to the challenges. This situation has led to frustration among registered individuals awaiting vaccination, fearing vaccine expiration. For instance, Ms. Khanh Nga from Ha Tinh City expressed concerns about her family's delayed vaccination despite registering months ago, urging the government to address these issues promptly for timely vaccinations.

Ms. Pham Hoai Suong from Hanoi emphasizes the psychological impact of vaccination, expressing belief in its antiviral ability amidst rising COVID-19 cases. She hopes for prompt vaccine allocation to areas slow in deployment to avoid wastage. Similarly, Mr. Ha Thua Ung from Binh Duong shares concerns about the ongoing epidemic, stressing the urgency of vaccination while awaiting his turn. To address slow vaccination rates, the Ministry of Health issued an urgent dispatch to medical facilities, requiring accelerated vaccination and detailed reporting on vaccine distribution and implementation. Provinces with low vaccination rates may see vaccine transfers, and Health Department directors are held accountable for progress.

TP.HCM tổ chức tiêm vắc xin Covid-19 lúc nửa đêm (**Ho Chi Minh City organizes Covid-19 vaccination at midnight**)

TP.HCM tổ chức tiêm vắc xin Covid-19 lúc nửa đêm (vietnamnet.vn) (08/08/2021)

Ho Chi Minh City has initiated nighttime vaccinations to accelerate the Covid-19 inoculation. Tan Hung Thuan ward recently administered vaccines to over 700 residents aged 18 to under 65, irrespective of household registration. The vaccination site, Truong Chinh High School, witnessed orderly queues as volunteers assisted with registration and health inquiries. Attendees praised the organized approach and cool evening weather. Reflecting on the urgency amid the pandemic, residents expressed gratitude for the opportunity to safeguard themselves and their community. The ward's chairman noted efforts to meet demand, with over 7,000 residents vaccinated. This initiative aligns with the city's aim to vaccinate 70% of adults by August, with plans to streamline the process and enhance daily capacity. Ho Chi Minh City has made substantial progress, administering over 1.8 million doses by August 6, ensuring public safety throughout the campaign.

CÀN XỬ LÝ NGHIÊM VỚI CÁC HÀNH VI TUNG TIN SAI LỆCH SỰ THẬT VỀ CÔNG TÁC PHÒNG, CHỐNG DỊCH COVID-19 TRÊN MẠNG XÃ HỘI (Acts of Spreading False Information About Covid-19 Prevention and Control On Social Networks Need to be Handled)

CẦN XỬ LÝ NGHIÊM VỚI CÁC HÀNH VI TUNG TIN SAI LỆCH SỰ THẬT VỀ CÔNG TÁC PHÒNG, CHỐNG DỊCH COVID-19 TRÊN MẠNG XÃ HỘI (daklak.gov.vn) (16/08/2021)

The spread of fake news and misinformation regarding the COVID-19 epidemic has intensified, particularly focusing on inciting regional divides and distorting vaccine effectiveness and government policies. This misinformation on social media platforms has led to public confusion and complicated disease control efforts. To combat this, individuals must take responsibility and refrain from spreading false rumors or infringing on the privacy of COVID-19 patients and their families. Penalties for propagating false information about COVID-19 are as follows:

1. Administrative sanctions:

Individuals may face fines ranging from 5 to 10 million VND.

Organizations may be fined from 10 to 20 million VND.

2. Criminal liability:

Posting unlawful information on computer or telecommunications networks can lead to criminal prosecution under Article 288 of the 2015 Penal Code.

Penalties include fines from 30 to 200 million VND, non-custodial reform for up to 3 years, or imprisonment from 6 months to 3 years.

Aggravating factors such as organized crime or causing significant damage can result in fines from 200 million to 1 billion VND or imprisonment from 2 to 7 years.

To enforce penalties for spreading false information, Article 156 of the 2015 Penal Code outlines fines and imprisonment depending on the severity of the violation. If the person spreading false information is accurately identified, fines range from 10 to 50 million VND, with imprisonment up to 7 years. If the person cannot be identified, fines range from 30 million to less than 200 million VND, with similar imprisonment terms.

To enhance communication efforts in COVID-19 prevention, authorities must promote health education and awareness-raising campaigns. This includes communicating guidelines, policies, and regulations through various channels, disseminating knowledge on epidemic prevention measures, and highlighting the benefits of vaccination and successful treatment efforts. Additionally, updating and diversifying communication products and utilizing media platforms ensures timely, accurate, and transparent information dissemination.

WHO: Thông tin sai lệch, người dân do dự tiêm vắc xin, khiến đại dịch COVID-19 kéo dài (WHO: Misinformation makes people hesitant to get vaccinated, causing the COVID-19 pandemic to prolong)

WHO: Thông tin sai lệch, người dân do dự tiêm vắc xin, khiến đại dịch COVID-19 kéo dài - Tuổi Trẻ Online (tuoitre.vn) (25/08/2021)

The World Health Organization (WHO) has highlighted the alarming increase in false information surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic and vaccines, leading to hesitancy among people to get vaccinated and contributing to a rise in new cases. WHO's technical steering committee head, Maria Van Kerkhove, emphasized the significant surge in misinformation over the past four weeks, causing confusion among the public and aiding the virus's spread. US Surgeon General Vivek Murthy has also labeled misinformation about COVID-19 as a serious public health threat. Reports indicate that a substantial portion of unvaccinated Americans perceive the vaccine as more perilous than the disease itself, exacerbating vaccine hesitancy. Health officials in the US express hope that full FDA approval of Pfizer's vaccine will alleviate concerns and encourage vaccination uptake. Around 30% of unvaccinated Americans express willingness to get vaccinated once a fully licensed vaccine becomes available, as per the Kaiser Family Foundation.

Dr. Peter Marks, director of the FDA's Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research, identifies misinformation about vaccines as a major obstacle in increasing vaccination rates. Conspiracy theories and false information regarding vaccine risks and COVID-19 treatments are widespread, despite being debunked. Recently, the FDA and Mississippi State Department of Health had to advise against using Ivermectin to treat COVID-19 due to unfounded rumors. The Pan American Health Organization urges vigilance against false information in Caribbean countries, emphasizing the importance of vaccination. In the US, misinformation complicates decision-making on mask mandates and vaccinations for schoolchildren and staff. Dr. Anthony Fauci encourages vaccination as a means to control the epidemic by next spring, urging unvaccinated Americans to seize the opportunity to contribute to pandemic control efforts.

Tuyên truyền chiến dịch tiêm chủng vắc xin Covid-19 trên địa bàn tỉnh Lâm Đồng (Propagating the Covid-19 vaccination campaign in Lam Dong province)

<u>Tuyên truyền chiến dịch tiêm chủng vắc xin Covid-19 trên địa bàn tỉnh Lâm Đồng</u> (chieubonglamdong.gov.vn) (26/08/2021)

Following Lam Dong Provincial Party Committee's Official Dispatch No. 76 - CV/TU dated August 25, 2021, and Official Dispatch No. 293 - CV/BTGTU from the Lam Dong Propaganda Department, collaboration efforts are underway to enhance propaganda for COVID-19 prevention and control. The Center for Film Distribution and Screening is engaged in disseminating billboard and audio content to bolster communication endeavors. This initiative ensures the dissemination of consistent, timely, and accurate information regarding the epidemic and associated preventive measures to the public. It aims to propagate the guidelines and policies of the Party and State on COVID-19 vaccination, encouraging individuals to participate confidently and actively, emphasizing that vaccination is both a right and a communal responsibility. Moreover, it mobilizes support for the Covid-19 Vaccine Fund from people, organizations, and businesses. Additionally, efforts are focused on promoting the role and commitment of the grassroots political system, villages, and residential groups, alongside other stakeholders and the Community Covid-19 Team, in safeguarding "green zones" - areas free from the epidemic. The overarching objective is to establish sustainable green zones, thereby mitigating the COVID-19 threat, safeguarding public health, and fostering favorable conditions for socio-economic recovery and development.

Muôn kiểu tin giả, tin sai sự thật về dịch COVID-19 (All kinds of fake and untrue news about the COVID-19 epidemic)

Bài 1: Muôn kiểu tin giả, tin sai sự thật về dịch COVID-19 (dangcongsan.vn) (01/09/2021)

The proliferation of fake news surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic not only confuses and misleads the public but also undermines efforts in epidemic prevention and control. Combatting this misinformation is imperative in the ongoing battle against the pandemic.

While Vietnam has implemented various measures to tackle the COVID-19 crisis, accurate and positive information has played a crucial role in rallying public support and strengthening national unity in the fight against the virus. However, alongside genuine information, there has been a surge in deliberate dissemination of fake news, particularly in online platforms, amidst the evolving and challenging nature of the pandemic.

As the COVID-19 situation continues to pose complex and unpredictable challenges, combating the spread of fake news becomes increasingly vital to ensure effective epidemic prevention and control efforts.

Fake news, including misinformation about the COVID-19 pandemic, poses significant risks by spreading inaccurate and misleading information through various channels, especially social media platforms like Zalo, Facebook, and YouTube. This misinformation not only causes confusion and instability in public opinion but also disrupts epidemic prevention and control efforts.

Fake news related to the COVID-19 pandemic often includes false information about the epidemic situation itself, leading to panic buying and scarcity of goods, as seen during previous outbreaks. Additionally, misinformation about disease prevention and control measures and distortion of government policies further exacerbate public anxiety. For instance, fabricated statements attributed to government officials and distorted information about military involvement in epidemic control efforts have circulated on social media, leading to unwarranted fear and misunderstanding among the public.

These instances highlight the urgent need to address the spread of fake news, which undermines public trust and hampers effective pandemic response measures.

Fake news related to the COVID-19 pandemic often takes on various forms, including combining provocative arguments to hinder epidemic prevention efforts and hiding behind seemingly positive actions to manipulate public opinion or serve personal interests. For instance, false claims about people leaving after receiving Chinese vaccines in District 12, Ho Chi Minh City, when no vaccination program was taking place, or fabricated stories about doctors withholding ventilators, have caused confusion and panic among the public. These misleading narratives not only undermine trust in government policies but also pose a threat when exploited by antagonistic forces to spread propaganda and sow discord within society.

Tin giả nhưng... hậu quả thật (Fake news but... real consequences)

Bài 2: Tin giả nhưng... hậu quả thật (dangcongsan.vn) (03/09/2021)

According to assessments by authorities, in the context of the complicated COVID-19 epidemic, the spread of fake news on social networks has been leading to negative consequences. Not only does it create difficulties for epidemic prevention and control, but fake news related to the COVID-19 epidemic also creates doubt in the community, potentially risking social instability. People who spread and share fake news will also be punished according to the law.

From the consequences for social life and epidemic prevention and control

Fake news poses a significant threat, especially in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, where misinformation can easily spread through social networks, impacting public perception and behavior. With about 72 million social media users in Vietnam, false information can swiftly influence thoughts and emotions, leading to unnecessary panic and fear, and potentially hindering epidemic control efforts. False narratives can undermine trust in government policies, diminish social consensus, and impede disease prevention initiatives, exacerbating the challenges of combating COVID-19. The spread of fake news is not a new tactic, and it can have severe consequences, including disrupting public order and safety. To address this issue, authorities have been taking measures to combat fake news, including legal actions and administrative penalties. Increased efforts to identify and address fake news have been observed in various localities across Vietnam.

Coming to specific legal consequences

Spreading fake news about the COVID-19 epidemic carries severe legal consequences, as warned by legal experts. Individuals may face fines ranging from 5-10 million VND for disseminating false information, and if their actions lead to significant societal damage or profit illegally, they could face criminal prosecution under Article 288 of the Penal Code, potentially resulting in prison sentences of 3 months to 7 years. Fake news not only poses a threat to public order and safety but also can be exploited by hostile forces to undermine social unity and stability. An example is Phan Vu Diep Anh, who spread false information about individuals setting themselves on fire to protest government policies regarding COVID-19, leading to their arrest and prosecution. It's crucial to combat fake news related to the pandemic to prevent its harmful effects and safeguard societal well-being.

Tăng cường "vaccine" phòng ngừa, loại trừ tin giả (**Strengthen "vaccine" to** prevent and eliminate fake news)

Bài 3: Tăng cường "vaccine" phòng ngừa, loại trừ tin giả (dangcongsan.vn) (04/09/2021)

Along with the development trend of science and technology, fake news and false news have become an extremely dangerous "information virus". In particular, fake news related to the COVID-19 epidemic has always been associated with negative consequences, causing confusion in public opinion and threatening to destroy our people's epidemic prevention and control efforts for nearly two years. via. Therefore, preventing and eliminating fake news is an important issue today.

"Real news defeats fake news"

Vietnam's population, with over 97.3 million people, includes 72 million social network users, representing more than 73% of the population. While social networks offer quick information sharing, they also harbor fake news and misinformation, posing risks to societal order and national security. Experts attribute the rise in fake news to slow official news releases, often reacting to fake news belatedly. To combat this, authorities must proactively provide timely and accurate information, appoint spokespersons, and ensure speaking discipline and consistency. Responsible sharing of information will undermine fake news, safeguarding epidemic prevention and control efforts against COVID-19.

The press plays a crucial role in the ongoing battle against the COVID-19 pandemic, acting as a "special vaccine" by providing accurate and timely information to build social trust. Since the pandemic's onset, the media has contributed to fostering social consensus, instilling trust, and mobilizing national solidarity and patriotism. Moving forward, both central and local press agencies must continue their information dissemination efforts, focusing on updating the public about the COVID-19 situation, prevention measures, successful practices, and advancements in treatment and vaccine distribution. Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh emphasized the importance of countering fake news through prompt information updates and refutation. By amplifying official, real, and positive news, the press can shape public awareness, foster consensus, and counteract the spread of misinformation.

Promoting synergy

Fake news, including that concerning the COVID-19 pandemic, poses a significant challenge across various aspects of society. Addressing this issue requires the concerted efforts of relevant stakeholders through comprehensive and coordinated solutions. In response to this challenge, on July 23, the Ministry of Information and Communications issued Document No. 2765/BTTTT-PTTH&TTDT, outlining measures to combat fake news about COVID-19 online in alignment with Government Resolution No. 78/NQ-CP.

A crucial aspect of combating fake news involves enhancing legal awareness and disseminating relevant legal documents widely to the public. This aims to educate individuals about the consequences of spreading false information and the associated legal penalties. By fostering a

deeper understanding of the law and its implications, people can become more discerning and less susceptible to misinformation on social media platforms. Additionally, through effective propaganda and education efforts, individuals can develop a greater awareness of their responsibilities in adhering to regulations related to COVID-19 prevention and control, thereby promoting voluntary compliance.

To combat the spread of fake news effectively, it's essential to enhance legal measures and increase penalties for violations related to disseminating false information. This entails refining existing laws and regulations, such as the Law on Cyber Security and the Penal Code, to impose stricter sanctions specifically targeting fake news dissemination.

Moreover, there's a need to bolster coordination among relevant authorities to swiftly identify and address fake news incidents. Ministries, branches, and localities should intensify efforts to detect and verify fake news concerning the COVID-19 pandemic. Specialized units, like the Department of Cyber Security and High-Tech Crime Prevention and the Vietnam Fake News Processing Center, must collaborate to investigate fake news sources and take decisive action against offenders.

Individuals also play a crucial role in combating fake news. Everyone engaging in social media assumes the roles of information producer, consumer, and disseminator. Hence, individuals need to exercise vigilance and discretion when encountering information online, refraining from sharing or commenting on unverified or misleading content.

In the collective effort to combat the pandemic, every citizen must remain vigilant against the threat of fake news, contributing to the creation of a healthy and informed online environment essential for overcoming the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Xử lý nghiêm hành vi cố ý thông tin sai sự thật về công tác phòng, chống dịch (Strictly handle acts of intentionally providing false information about epidemic prevention and control)

Xử lý nghiêm hành vi cố ý thông tin sai sự thật về công tác phòng, chống dịch - Thông tin chỉ đạo điều hành - Cổng thông tin Bộ Y tế (moh.gov.vn) (07/09/2021)

Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh has urged authorities to take strict measures against those deliberately spreading false information about epidemic prevention and control. Instances of inaccurate reporting by certain press agencies and social media platforms have been observed, which can disrupt businesses and individuals. The Prime Minister has tasked the Ministry of Information and Communications, along with the Ministry of Public Security, to crack down on the deliberate dissemination of false information and profiteering during duty performance. The Ministry of Information and Communications has noted an increase in fake information about the epidemic situation and prevention efforts, particularly aimed at regional agitation, vaccine efficacy, and government policies. This misinformation erodes public trust and could lead to social disorder if left unaddressed. To counter this, authorities are urged to promptly correct false information, improve communication transparency, appoint spokespersons, and monitor and address misinformation effectively at all levels.

Chiến dịch truyền thông "Tiêm vaccine - Vững niềm tin" (Media campaign "Vaccinate - Maintain faith")

Chiến dịch truyền thông "Tiêm vaccine - Vững niềm tin" (baochinhphu.vn) (08/10/2021)

The Ministry of Health has partnered with Facebook Group to launch the "Vaccinate - Maintain Faith" media campaign, aiming to garner societal support and engagement in COVID-19 vaccination efforts. The campaign was inaugurated through a live-streamed ceremony on various platforms, including the Ministry of Health's "Vietnam Health" page, the App Vietnam Facebook page, and Yeah1's page. Activities planned under this campaign, scheduled until the year's end, include monthly live-streamed discussions providing professional insights, online exchanges between healthcare professionals and the public, and short video clips designed to raise awareness about COVID-19 vaccination. Deputy Minister of Health Tran Van Thuan emphasized the importance of vaccination as a crucial strategy in combating the pandemic's unpredictable course. Dr. Rafael Frankel, Facebook Group's Director of Public Policy for South Asia and Southeast Asia, expressed Facebook's commitment to supporting global vaccination efforts and fostering informed communities amidst the pandemic.

❖❖❖ Notes:

- In all provinces and cities across the country, there are documents and announcements on the implementation of increased vaccination. However, quite a few websites cannot be accessed.