

COVID-19 News Update (21 October 2020)

DATA	Worldwide Confirmed Cases: 40 729 251 Global deaths: 1 124 027 Data as at 21 October 2020 (09 00 local time) Johns Hopkins University live-tracking; www.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/bda7594740fd40299423467b48e9ecf6	Confirmed Cases	Global Deaths																																							
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AFRICA	Number of Confirmed Cases: 1 656 281 Number of Deaths: 39 946 Number of Recoveries: 1 364 397 https://africacdc.org/covid-19/																																									
UNITED NATIONS	<p>UN urges people to #PledgetoPause before sharing information online</p> <p>With the COVID-19 pandemic sparking a “communications emergency” caused by false information disseminated on social media, the UN Secretary-General is encouraging people everywhere to take a breath before sharing content online. António Guterres will on Wednesday launch the #PledgetoPause campaign as part of wider efforts to create what the UN hopes will be “a new social media norm” to help combat the impact of viral misinformation.</p> <p>The campaign is based on research which indicates that taking a brief pause before sharing information can significantly lessen the inclination to share shocking or emotive material, and slow the spread of misinformation. “During the COVID-19 pandemic, the wrong information can be deadly. Take the pledge to pause and help stop the spread of misinformation”, the UN chief said in a video message recorded for the campaign.</p> <p>The new campaign is part of Verified, a UN initiative launched in May to share science-backed health information and stories of global solidarity around COVID-19. The UN describes it as the first global behaviour-change campaign on misinformation, to mobilise experts and researchers, governments, influencers, civil society, businesses, regulators and the media, under a single message: #PledgetoPause.</p> <p>“COVID-19 is not just a health crisis, but a communications emergency as well. When misinformation spreads, the public loses trust and too often makes decisions that hamper the public response and even their own lives”, said Melissa Fleming, head of the UN’s Department for Global Communications.</p> <p>https://news.un.org/en/story/2020/10/1075742</p>																																									