

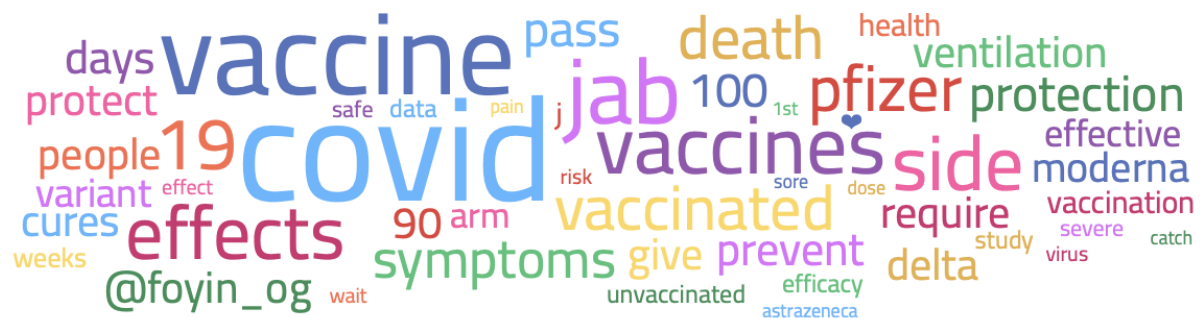
VACCINE MIS/DISINFORMATION

WEEKLY REPORT

This week's Vaccine Mis/Disinformation report focuses on the social media conversations driven largely by vaccine procrastinators/neutrals.

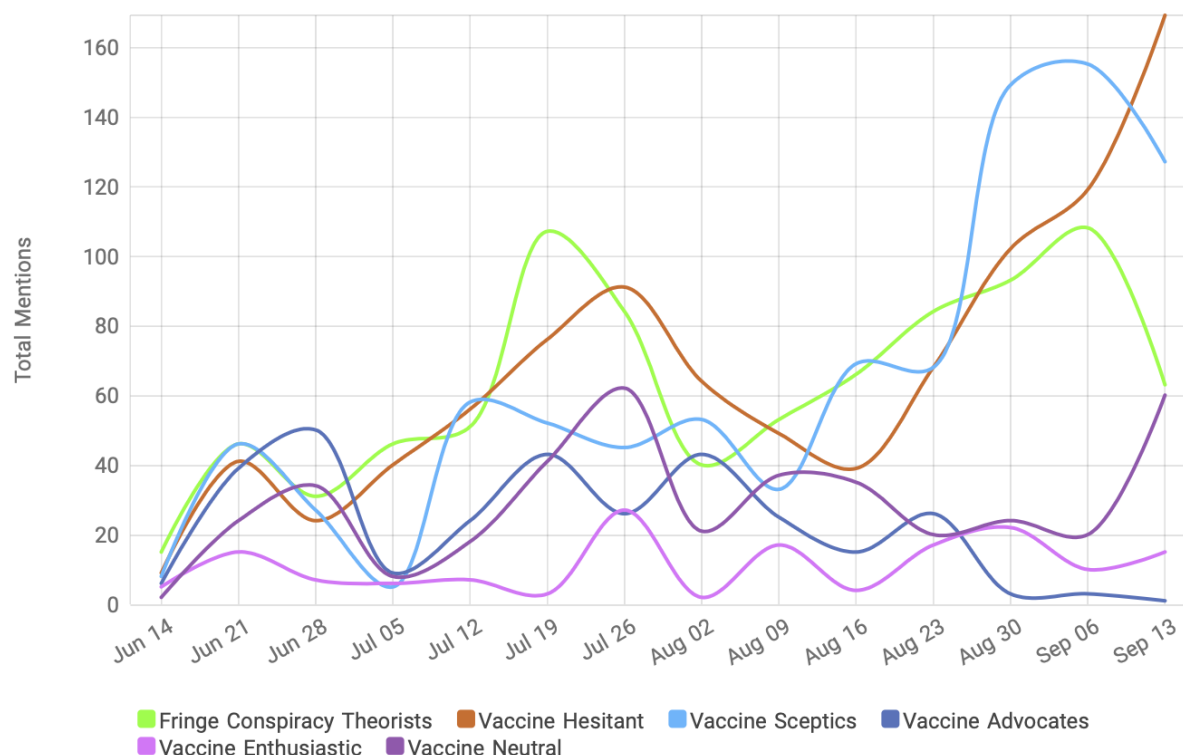
14 October Summary:

- Vaccine side-effects
- Is there enough research?
- Institutional/government mistrust and coerced/forced vaccinations



Mention Volume

Conversations driven by vaccine neutrals have proven to be a steady and significant part of online conversations around the COVID-19 vaccine. Our CABAC researchers conducted a data analysis focusing particularly on the driving narratives in this segment. The analysis demonstrated that while many have a sound and conceptual understanding of the need for vaccinations, uncertainty and fear remain prevalent. These concerns are driven by cases of reported side-effects, questions about the quality and accuracy of research, the timeline in which the vaccine was produced, the need for a cure over the need for a vaccine, forced and/or coerced vaccinations, manipulation by powerful institutions, and government mistrust. Out of thousands of tweets related to COVID-19 vaccinations, our data showed that vaccine procrastinators/neutrals continue to form an integral part of the online vaccine conversation. See below:

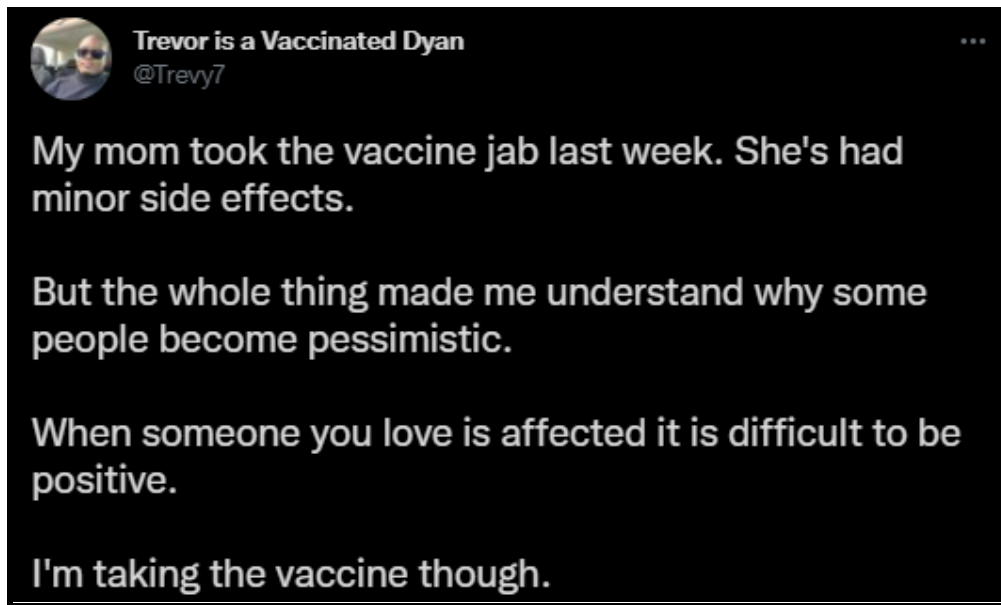


Vaccine side-effects

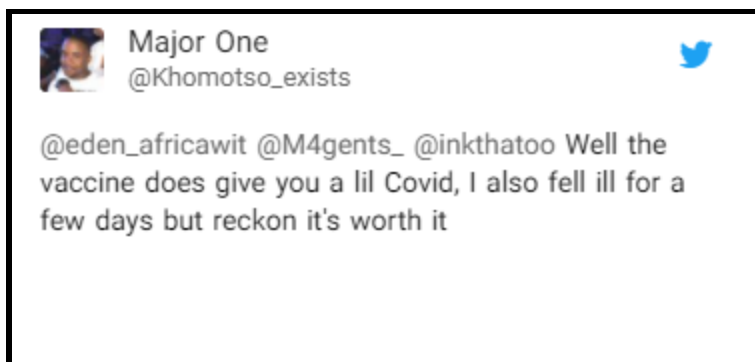
Vaccine side-effects remain one of the main topics discussed within the conversation. This [tweet](#) suggests that side-effects showing the same symptoms as Covid 19 might be the reason for neutrals' mistrust in the vaccine. Although the post didn't receive a lot of traction, our researchers came across the same sentiment around side-effects.



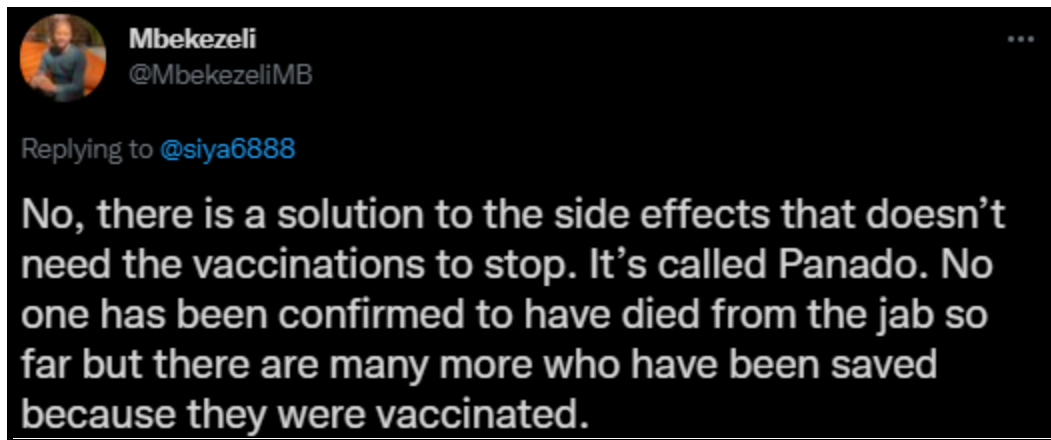
[Another post](#) linking side-effects with why people might be pessimistic about the vaccine. Even though the author said “mild side effects”, they also touched on the impact of seeing a family member being affected adding to reasons why others may be put off the idea of getting the vaccine.



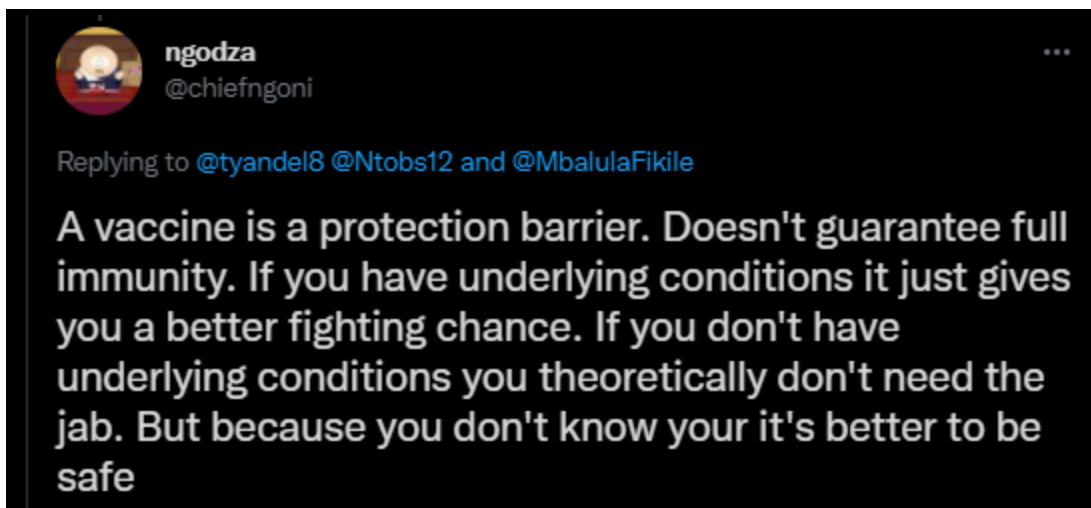
[This post](#) received a little traction, with the author calling side-effects “a lil Covid”. Although he says the vaccine is worth it, the traction received was from people correcting him and sharing a little education around side-effects and the vaccine.



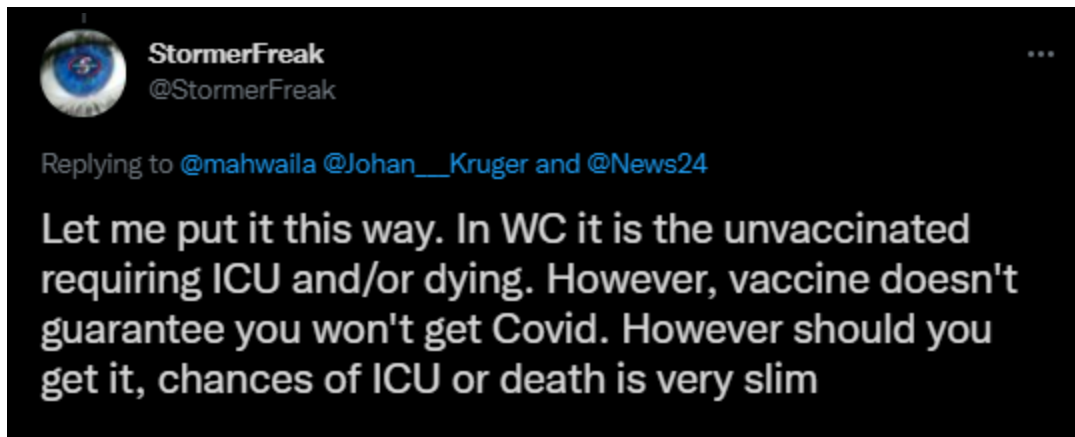
[This response](#) was to a post saying vaccinations should be paused until there are solutions to side-effects because people are “dying from the vaccine”. Although encouraging people is right, verified supporting information must be made easily accessible for people to share.



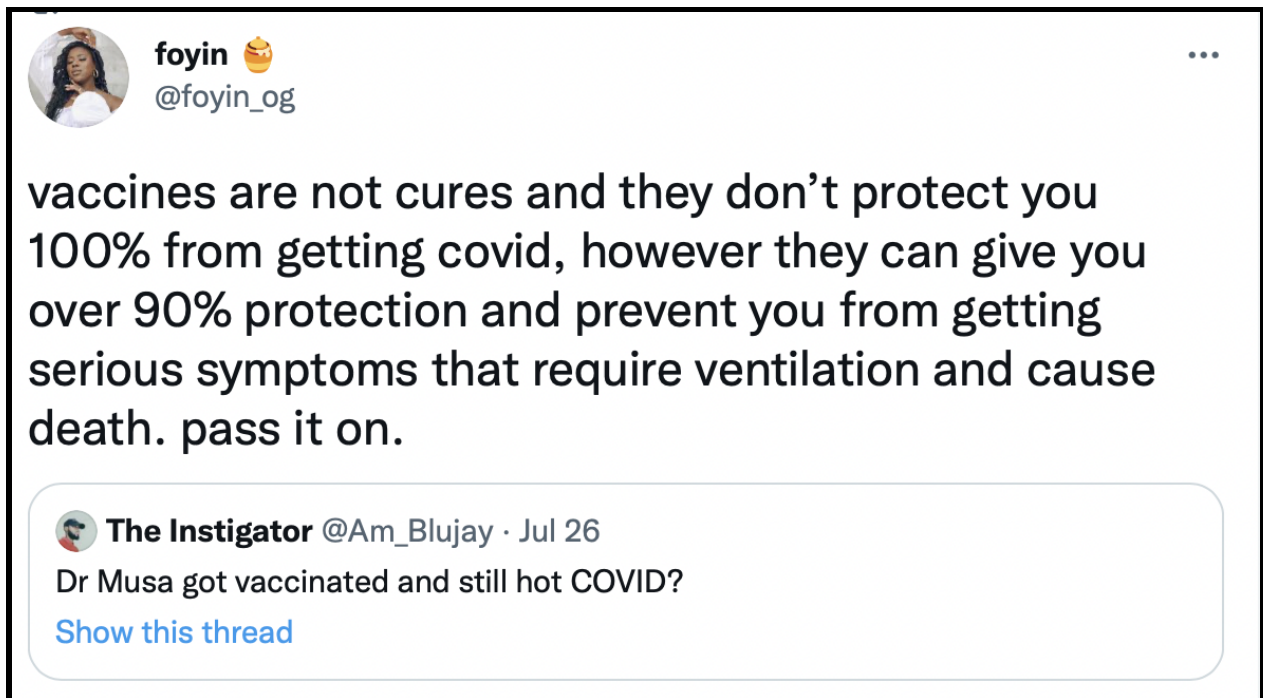
Another interesting insight our researchers found was the conversation around vaccines and immunity, highlighting the confusion around the use of vaccines. Some of the posts we found in this section were from vaccine enthusiasts explaining and correcting skeptics and people who had questions around that. [This response](#) was to a post that said unvaccinated people can still recover fully from Covid 19, while some vaccinated people can die from Covid 19 related [illnesses](#).



[Another example](#) of an active vaccine enthusiast explaining how vaccines protect you from the vaccine using simple and understandable language.

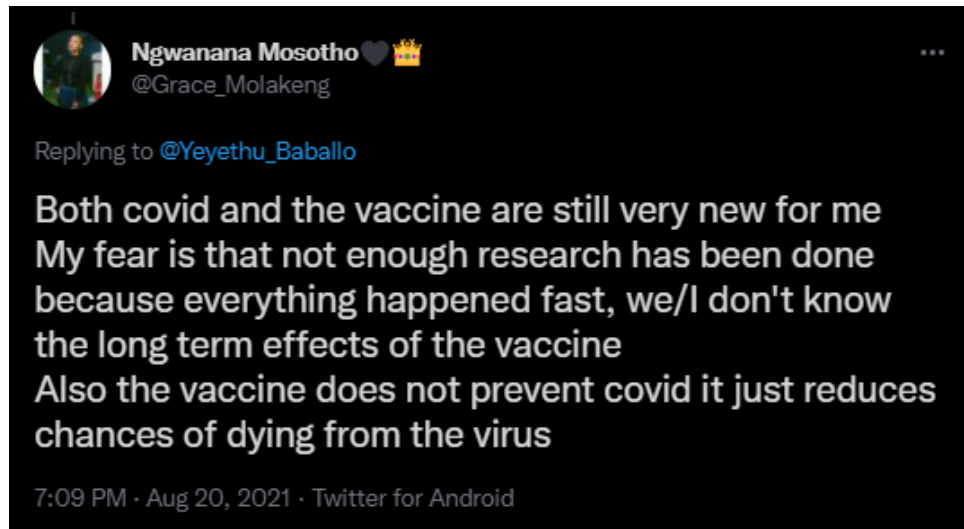


[This tweet](#) received some traction, with 1,590 retweets 16, quote tweets and 2,671 likes showing positive sentiment towards an educational moment. The response was from an influencer account, however the explanation was short and clear ensuring that whoever comes across the post can quickly understand it.

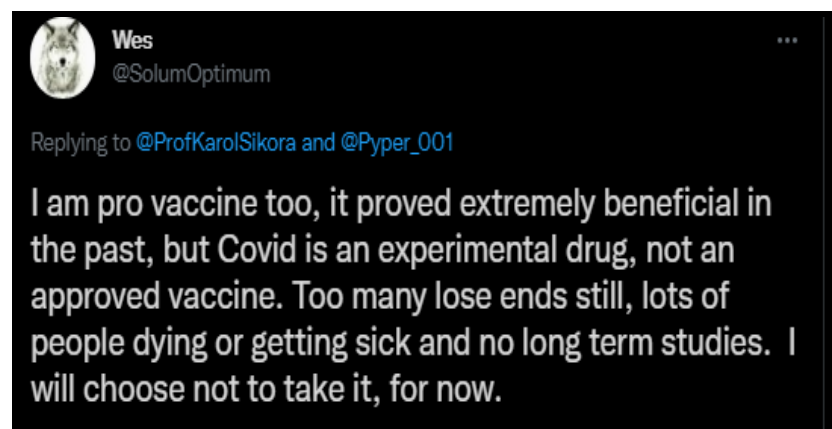
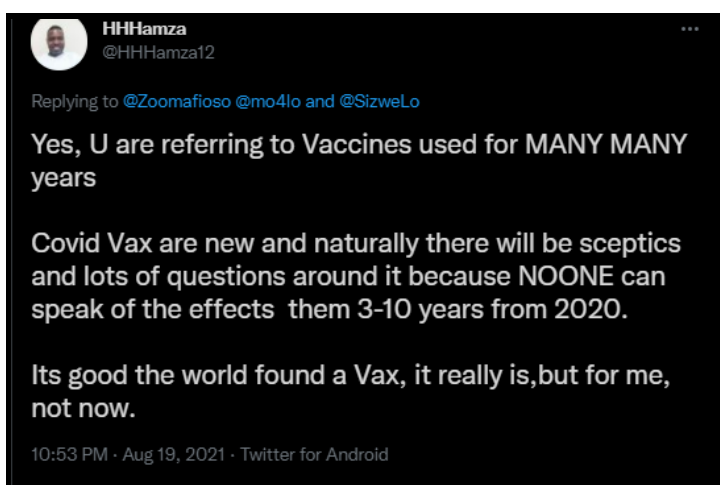


Is there enough research?

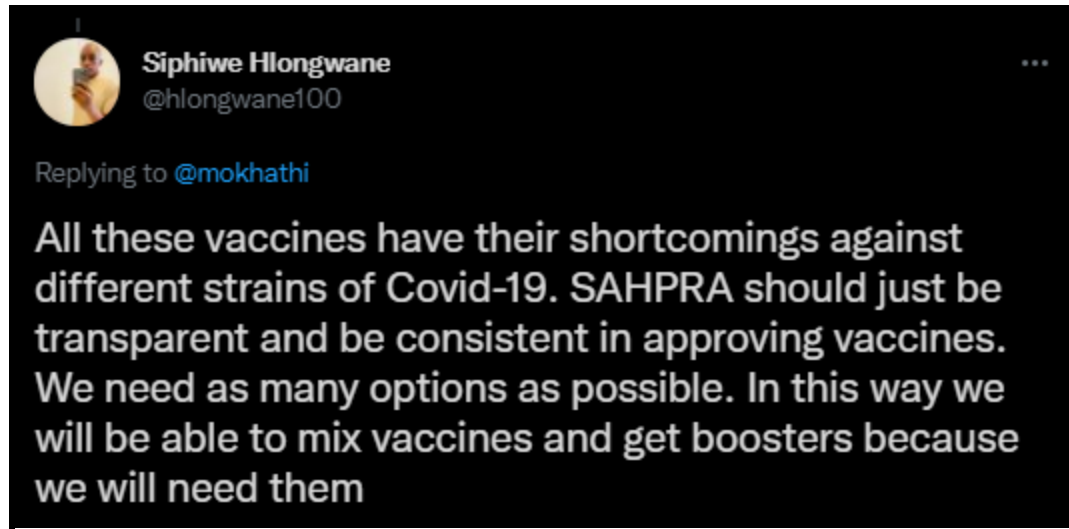
While relatively optimistic, many vaccine neutral online conversations demonstrated doubt towards the effectiveness and safety of the vaccine. @Yeyethu_Baballo [tweeted](#) the question: “What is the real reason behind your refusal to vaccinate”? The post received attention with 846 retweets and over 3 200 likes. Many responded citing their fears about long-term effects as seen the [comment](#) below:



This was echoed by many as seen the [first](#) and [second](#) tweets below:



Others questioned regulations and South African Health Products Regulatory Authority's (SAHPRA) process if ensuring safety as seen in the [comment](#) below:



Institutional/government mistrust and coerced/forced vaccinations

While acknowledging the necessity of the vaccine, some demonstrated a resistant attitude towards the intentions of powerful institutions, government and the prioritisation of fast-tracking a vaccine instead of a cure. While the [tweet](#) below received no traction, our analysts found many similar posts online. This one questioned the World Health Organisation (WHO):



Our data dives surfaced many who rejected the notion of coercion and/or forcing people to take the vaccine unwillingly. @Abramjee [shared](#) an article titled “Unvaccinated people may be banned from public amenities in South Africa”. This gained traction with over 1 500 retweets and nearly 2 000 likes.



Many responded to this post raising concerns around autonomy and liberty. For example, the [comment](#) below points this out saying “...let people make their own choices”.



Several US tweets that were picked up by South African audiences echoed sentiments against forced vaccinations. The [tweet](#) below shows a vaccine skeptic who has now become an anti-vaxxer due to government mandates (or coercion):

I was Covid vaccine skeptical (wait and see what happens to people who get it, then decide), until the Obiden regime decided to punish people who refuse to get it.

That made up my mind: I am now 100% anti-Covid vaccine. For me this is simply govt. tyranny Vs. personal freedom.

7:13 PM · Oct 12, 2021 · Twitter Web App

67 Retweets · 3 Quote Tweets · 295 Likes

Others shared concerns that there are industries that profit from vaccine mis/disinformation and those that profit from the pro-vaccination movement. In a [tweet](#) that gained minimal traction, @IvoVenter shared an article titled “Should Covid vaccines be compulsory”? Many responded sharing similar sentiments as the [post](#) below:



Carpe Diem

@SimonTemplar008



@IvoVegter “There's a whole industry dedicated to spreading anti-vaccination misinformation” - As does a whole industry dedicated to spreading pro-vaccination misinformation. Simple FACT: Covid vaxx did not complete the required trials, thus efficacy & long term effects are unclear.