



VACCINE MIS/DISINFORMATION

WEEKLY REPORT

28 October Summary

The first section of this week's Vaccine Mis/Disinformation Report includes an analytics review and discusses proposed responses to several key content pieces.

The second section examines the recent spike in volume among users located on the *vaccine hesitant* segment of the Vaccine Trust Spectrum.

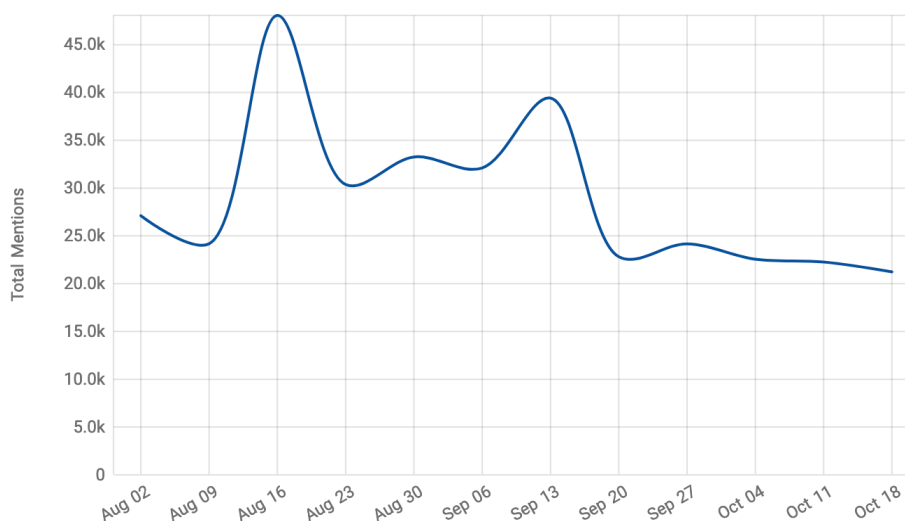


Fig. 1 General vaccine conversation mention volume over time

This week, general vaccine conversation volume was similar to the rest of October. Conversation volume appears to be holding steady or in slight decline. While the total conversation volume has not increased during this week's reporting period, our team did find that the dynamic of the conversation has shifted significantly since early October. Fig. 2 shows that conversation associated with the *vaccine hesitant* and *vaccine sceptic* segments spiked heavily in the week beginning with October 18.

Following this finding, we have chosen to focus on the *vaccine hesitant* segment for this weekly report. The 59% overlap seen in fig. 3 shows that the increased volume by users whose vaccine opinions on the COVID-19 vaccine placed them on the *vaccine hesitant* segment was closely linked to an increase in volume by users whose opinions located them on the *vaccine sceptic* segment. The following report unpacks this shift in conversation dynamic and identifies key drivers, including example tweets and suggested dialogue responses.

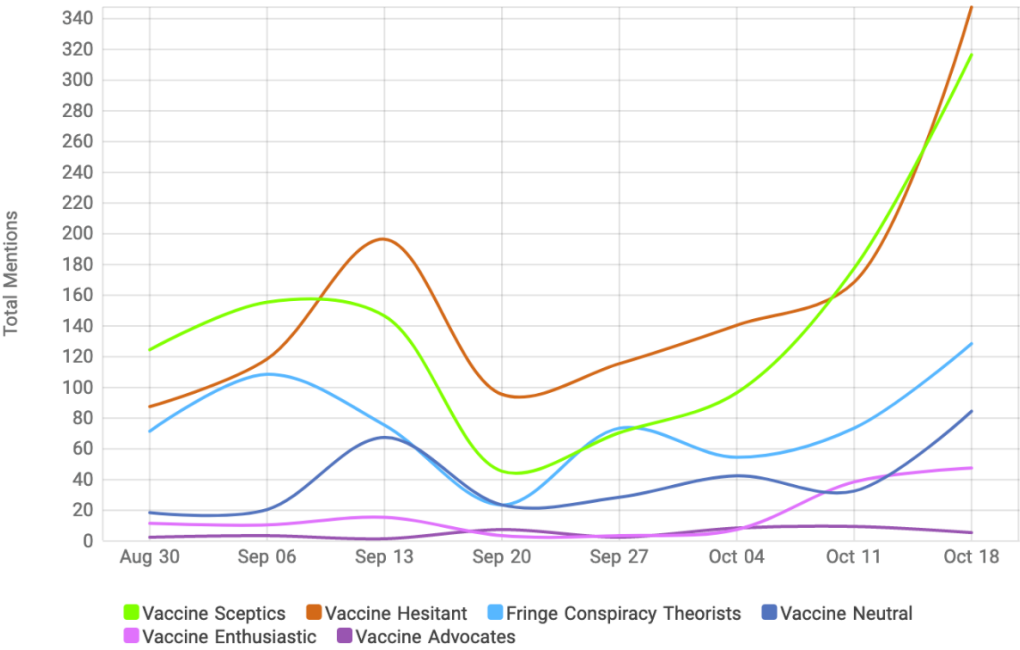


Fig. 2 Vaccine Trust Spectrum Segmentation by week

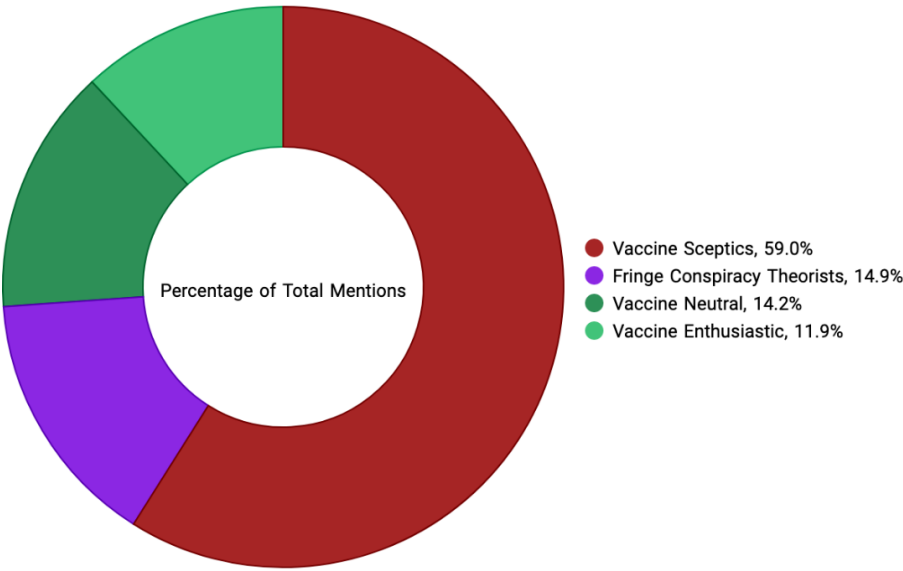


Fig. 3 Vaccine Hesitant Segment Overlap

Top content pieces of the week (with dialogue responses)

People not showing up for their second jab

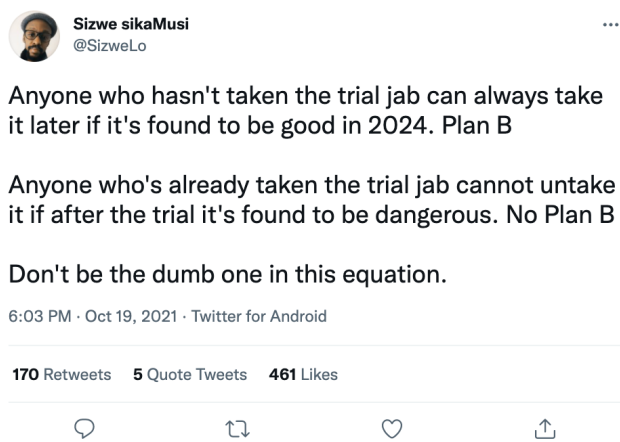


https://twitter.com/MamGcina_Jafta/status/1451511088231616514

Suggested Dialogue Facilitation Responses:

- I commend individuals who have made the decision to take the first dose. But, it is important for people to remember to return for the second dose to have the best protection against this virus. Lest people fall into a false sense of security and we end up with more waves of infection.
- I think it is important to remind people of the importance of getting both shots and the time period it takes for the vaccine to take effect. Even if it has to be repeated over and over again, let people know the facts so they can make informed decisions. Preaching overall precaution against Covid-19 is paramount in my mind.
- And it falls on us to stand in the gap and motivate these people to get the second jab! Remember, we vaccinate not only for ourselves but also for our family and friend's protection.

Delaying the decision

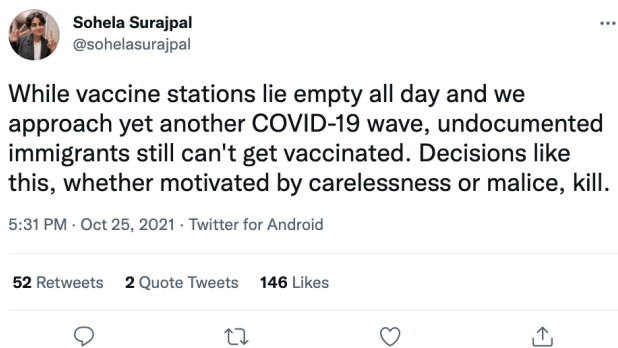


<https://twitter.com/SizweLo/status/1450492754132410385>

Suggested Dialogue Facilitation Responses:

- More than 6.9 billions shots have been administered world-wide and we know that these vaccines work and are effective. Delaying getting vaccinated delays the reopening of the country and indeed the world. There is nothing dumb about taking a vaccine that will prevent you from death and severe illness.
- The vaccine goes through various testing phases before being given out to the public. Hesitation in taking the vaccine increases the chances of new variants forming. It makes sense to try and stop Covid19 as opposed to delaying its effects.
- While we must always exercise some form of 'healthy scepticism', we must be careful to not spread lies or misinformation regarding the vaccine. Overwhelmingly, both in practice and in research, the vaccine has proven to be safe and effective. 3 years is a very long time to suffer through lockdowns when the solution has already been found, don't you think?
- I wonder where you got that equation!? The COVID-19 vaccines have been rigorously tested and have been confirmed to be safe and effective against the virus.

Vaccination amongst non-South Africans in the country



<https://twitter.com/sohelasurajpal/status/1452658992854020113>

Suggested Dialogue Facilitation Responses:

- I understand the frustration with this statement. But, according to an article I just read on Daily Maverick this has now been opened. Read more here: <https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2021-10-21-undocumented-immigrants-now-have-the-option-to-get-covid-vaccines-in-some-parts-of-south-africa/>
- I saw a tweet where somebody said “COVID-19 knows no borders.” I think this sentiment should be considered. We have South Africans who cannot get vaccinated because they don’t have IDs. Therefore, vaccine equity should be applied.
- This is an extremely unfortunate state of affairs and it is important that we, whether citizens or not, put pressure on government to open vaccinations for undocumented immigrants. Happy to see you championing for vaccination! @ZweliMkhize, let’s make this happen! #VaxxedForSA

Unpacking the increased activity by *Vaccine Hesitant* users

Covid-19 Vaccine vs Constitutional Rights

The adoption of mandatory Covid-19 vaccination policy across various businesses and institutions, including the [University of Cape Town](#), has garnered some public backlash from vaccine hesitant individuals. [This post](#) with a picture of the constitutional rights that highlights the Freedom and Security rights of a person didn't receive much traction but highlights people's sentiment about the mandatory vaccination.



[Another tweet](#) provided guidance on the steps to take when one's employer has implemented mandatory Covid-19 vaccination policy for its employees. The tweet suggests that an employee should 'conditionally accept' the policy but ask the employer to provide factual information on the safety of the job. The tweet received over 1 730 likes and 1 000 retweets.



Dr Daniel Marven (PhD)
@danielmarven

...

IF YOUR BOSS THREATENS YOU WITH FIRING IF NOT VACCINATED DON'T REFUSE:

The secret is NOT to refuse the jab and do not sign anything!

From a lawyer:

If you are being forced to Vax in order to keep your job, here's a great way to handle it. (Conditional acceptance)

9:39 AM · Oct 2, 2021 · Twitter for Android

1,017 Retweets 49 Quote Tweets 1,730 Likes



Dr Daniel Marven (PhD) @danielmarven · Oct 2

...

Replying to @danielmarven

The secret is NOT to refuse it.

"I write with regard to the matter of potential covid vaccine and my desire to be fully informed and appraised of ALL facts before going ahead. I'd be most grateful if you could please provide the following information, in accordance with



1



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Other tweets focused on the movement limitations that might be enforced for individuals who choose not to vaccinate. [This tweet](#) argues that if unvaccinated people can't enter stadiums or public places where there are crowds, then unvaccinated people should also not be allowed to go to voting stations. While [another tweet](#) suggests that the Covid-19 vaccination certificate is a new-age form of the dompas, and meant to restrict human movement.



Carpe Diem
@SimonTemplar008

...

Dear @MYANC supporters, our future freedom pass will be called a Covid certificate and not a “pass” like in the rest of the world because our masters don’t want to remind us of the dompas.

Clever aren’t they?



Sonnekus van Aswegen @Diesonsienalles · Oct 2

There you have it. Vaccine passports will be called certificates and not passports because it reminds people of the #dompas. Just because you call it something else doesn't mean it is something else.

Dr. Angelique Coetzee, voorsitter van die Suid-Afrikaanse Mediese Vereniging en lid van die ministeriële komitee oor Covid-19, het die digitale sertifikate verwelkom en sê: “Dit werk op dieselfde manier as die oorsese inentingspaspoorte, maar ons noem dit nie so nie omdat dit negatiewe herinneringe oproep van die pasboeke van voor 1994.”

Sy sê die stelsel is van so 'n aard dat

6:37 AM · Oct 2, 2021 · Twitter for iPhone

3 Retweets 1 Quote Tweet 8 Likes

Covid-19 vaccine health concerns for children 12 years and older

During the month of October, the government opened up Covid-19 vaccination for children above the ages of 12 years, but concerns have been raised regarding the side-effects of the vaccines in young individuals. [A tweet](#) from news outlet SABC mentions the delay of the Moderna vaccine amongst adolescents due to the possibility of the vaccine causing a rare heart condition. [Another tweet](#) stated that due to the uncertainty regarding the effects of the vaccine, several countries have limited vaccine doses to one jab for adolescents.



SABC News
@SABCNews

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The US health regulator is delaying its decision on authorizing Moderna Inc's (MRNA.O) COVID-19 vaccine for adolescents to check if the shot could increase the risk of a rare inflammatory heart condition, the Wall Street Journal reported on Friday.



sabcnews.com

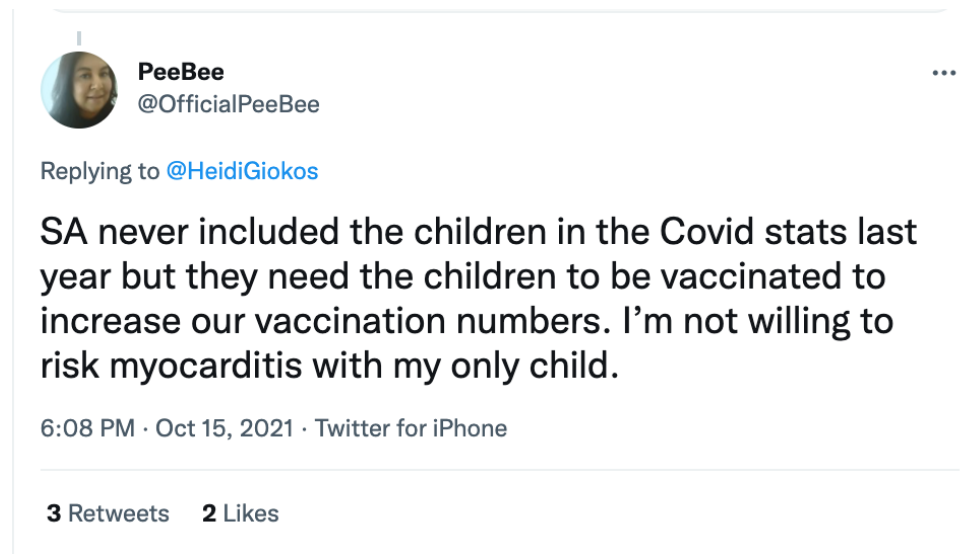
US FDA delays decision on Moderna's COVID-19 vaccine for adolescents: WSJ ...

The US health regulator is delaying its decision on authorizing Moderna Inc's (MRNA.O) COVID-19 vaccine for adolescents to check if the shot could increas...

9:35 PM · Oct 16, 2021 · Twitter Web App

7 Retweets 1 Quote Tweet 6 Likes

[This tweet, although](#) it didn't gain traction, highlights parents' concerns and hesitancy regarding the safety of the vaccination amongst kids, with the individual alluding that the government wants to increase its vaccination numbers by forcing children to vaccinate.



Potential long-term side effects driving hesitancy

Amongst the vaccination hesitant data that we found, several accounts shared messages about the after effects of the vaccine. [This U.K tweet](#) about a woman who experienced a stroke after getting vaccinated was retweeted in South Africa. The tweet received over 1 300 likes and retweets. [Another tweet](#) mentions that the only people getting sick are vaccinated individuals, while [this tweet](#) questions why the data regarding injuries and deaths caused by the vaccine are being ignored. Implying that extreme vaccine after-effects are purposefully being ignored.



SAfmRadio @SAfmRadio · Oct 6

[ON AIR] The SA Human Rights Commission releases a statement explaining its position on mandatory vaccinations for covid-19. Adv. Bongani Majola - Chairperson of the @SAHRCCommission on #SAfmSunrise with @StephenGrootes #sabcnews



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Shaded Black
@dumiez77

Replying to @SAfmRadio @SAHRCCommission and @StephenGrootes

Covid money is too good, let's ignore all the data abt vaccine injuries or deaths. People are documenting their experiences with the vaccine and it's not looking good, yet we have these conversations. Nokweh Ntshangase lost her life, more ppl are suffering and dying from vaccine

7:22 AM · Oct 6, 2021 · Twitter for Android



Bongani Bingwa  @bonglez · Oct 21

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It's the unvaxxed who are dying - making up 90% of Covid ICU patients. Govt now considering incentives from data to food vouchers to encourage over 60's to jab. Good idea? Surely at this stage people have made a choice - leave them to live with it? Any sympathy?

[#702Breakfast](#)

 114

 30

 98



Brainwashed
@Brainwa72420609

...

Replying to [@bonglez](#)

The only ppl who i saw getting terribly sick with Covid-19 at my workplace and in my family are those who are vaccinated. Ke bua ka nna. Wena??

12:03 PM · Oct 21, 2021 · Twitter for Android

4 Likes