This bulletin provides humanitarian and health partners with the latest rumour data obtained from the South Sudanese populations. The aim is to guide and inform risk communication and community engagement efforts toward COVID-19 response.

So much information circulates across South Sudan and beyond its borders about COVID-19, vaccinations, and health-related issues. This bulletin factsheet verifies rumours that are true and ones that are false, especially about the coronavirus.

**COVID-19 RUMOURS**

**Rumour #1**

The side effects of AstraZeneca are more than Johnson and Johnson vaccine.

**VERIFICATION**

The truth is Johnson and Johnson vaccine has fewer side effects than AstraZeneca because Johnson and Johnson vaccine is only one shot and the side effect is endured once. And according to the World Health Organization (WHO), Africa has the world’s lowest COVID-19 vaccination rate some recipients of the first dose of the AstraZeneca vaccine, continue to wait for the second dose well beyond the recommended period of time. Research has shown the AstraZeneca jab generates the strongest immune response when given 12 weeks apart.

A large study adds to evidence that people with type O or Rh−negative blood may be at slightly lower risk from the new coronavirus. Among 225,556 Canadians who were tested for the virus, the risk for a COVID-19 diagnosis was 12% lower and the risk for severe COVID-19 or death was 13% lower in people with blood group O versus those with A, AB, or B, researchers reported in Annals of Internal Medicine.

**WHAT DO PEOPLE SAY?**

People in any blood group who were Rh-negative were also somewhat protected, especially if they had O-negative blood. People in these blood type groups may have developed antibodies that can recognize some aspect of the new virus, coauthor Dr Joel Ray of St. Michael Hospital in Toronto told Reuters. “Our next study will specifically look at such antibodies, and whether they explain the protective effect,” Ray said. Whether or how this information might influence COVID-19 prevention or treatment is still unclear.

**Fact File**

People with blood group O will not die of coronavirus.

**Source:** https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-science-idUSKBN2872LH

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**MONKEYPOX RUMOUR**

**Category 2**

**VERIFICATION**

Infectious disease specialists told USA TODAY that monkeypox is not linked to any of the COVID-19 vaccines. These vaccines also do not contain any live viruses, so it is not possible that monkeypox can be a side effect. Monkeypox is most certainly not a side effect of the COVID vaccine or any vaccine for that matter, Dr Scott Roberts, an infectious disease specialist at Yale Medicine, told USA TODAY. There is no evidence from any clinical studies to support this claim. Monkeypox outbreaks have affected the U.S. and other parts of the world even before the production and rollout of COVID-19 vaccines. The World Health Organization says that human monkeypox was first identified in humans in 1970 in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

This claim is true. In an interview with #defyhatenow_South Sudan Human Monitor, a woman who refused to be named, admitted that she used pampers and plastic sandals in a mixture of sugar, dates, and yeast for the alcohol to become very bitter.

“We do not know if alcohol will affect people’s health negatively or not, what we need is for our customers to be happy,” she said in Juba Arabic. On his part, a consumer of the alcohol said that he does not care about the process used to prepare the alcohol, he just wants to get drunk and forget about the stress of life. As for the effects of plastics on human health, plastics are not just an environmental issue.

As pointed out by toxicologist Prof. Dr Dick Vethaak, “We are dealing with a human health issue as well”. Plastics may affect our health via three pathways: We eat, drink and breathe microplastics everyday. These small plastic particles may harm our health once they have entered our bodies. Also, plastic products contain chemical additives. A number of these chemicals have been associated with serious health problems such as hormone-related cancers, infertility and neurodevelopment disorders like ADHD and autism. Finally, when plastics and microplastics end up in the environment, they attract microorganisms such as harmful bacteria (pathogens). If microplastics containing these pathogens enter our body, they may increase the risk of infection.

**SOURCE:** https://www.plastichealthcoalition.org/