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.

As the coronavirus remains unpredictable with new variants emerging, informing the public helps them make crucial decisions about the virus. In South Sudan, myths about COVID-19 continue to dominate public spheres. This bulletin counters false rumours about the pandemic and validates those that are factual.

### Monkeypox Rumours

**WHAT DO PEOPLE SAY?**

**RUMOUR #1**

**Monkeypox causes permanent skin rashes and brain damage.**

**VERIFICATION**

Organ damage or fatalities are not common, nor are serious complications, but can happen in a few people, especially those whose immune system is weak due to any reason. The lungs, brain and eyes could be affected in severe cases.

This claim is true. As global monkeypox cases continue to soar, researchers are learning more about how the disease is spreading. Early predictions that the virus transmits primarily through repeated skin-to-skin contact between people have largely borne out, according to a tranche of new studies. Although some women and children have been infected since May, most cases have so far occurred in men who have sex with men (MSM), especially those with multiple sexual partners or who have anonymous sex.

Source: https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-022-02178-w

RUMOUR #2

Do not kiss, hug, cuddle or have sex with someone with monkeypox.

Fact File

RUMOUR #3

Coronavirus vaccine can also be used for prevention of monkeypox virus

VERIFICATION

Monkeypox is most certainly not a side effect of the COVID vaccine or any vaccine for that matter, Dr Scott, an infectious disease specialist at Yale Medicine, told USA TODAY. There is no evidence from any clinical studies to support this claim.

The monkeypox vaccine can cause the female vagina to discharge blood.

FACT

The number of lesions varies, from a few to several thousand. The rash tends to appear on the face, the palms of the hands, and the soles of the feet. They can also be found in the mouth, genitals, and eyes.


The Rooted in Trust 2.0 project works to combat COVID-19 rumors and misinformation, responds to the information challenges faced by vulnerable groups, encourages open dialogue between citizens and stronger collaborative partnerships between information providers.

The contents are the sole responsibility of Defy Hate Now and do not necessarily reflect the views of Internews.