Supplemental Appendix

I. Question wording, variable coding

-The threat of coronavirus has been exaggerated by political groups who want to damage President Trump.
1. Strongly disagree
2. Disagree
3. Neither agree, nor disagree
4. Agree
5. Strongly agree

-Coronavirus was purposely created and released by powerful people as part of a conspiracy.
1. Strongly disagree
2. Disagree
3. Neither agree, nor disagree
4. Agree
5. Strongly agree

-Conspiracy thinking scale (each item is 1=strongly disagree, 5=strongly agree):
1. Much of our lives are being controlled by plots hatched in secret places.
2. Even though we live in a democracy, a few people will always run things anyway.
3. The people who really 'run' the country, are not known to the voters.
4. Big events like wars, the current recession, and the outcomes of elections are controlled by small groups of people who are working in secret against the rest of us.

-Denialism scale (each item is 1=strongly disagree, 5=strongly agree):
1. Much of the information we receive is wrong.
2. I often disagree with conventional views about the world.
3. Official government accounts of events cannot be trusted.
4. Major events are not always what they seem.

-Symbolic ideology (self-placement; 1=extremely liberal, 7=extremely conservative)

-Partisanship (self-placement; 1=strong Democrat, 7=strong Republican)

-Trump feeling thermometer (0–100; 0=very cold (dislike), 100=very warm (like))

-Attention to politics: "Some people follow what's going on in politics and current events most of the time. Others aren't that interested. How often do you follow what's going on in government and current events?"
1. Never
2. Hardly at all

3. Only now and then
4. Some of the time
5. Most of the time

Other conspiracy beliefs mentioned (each item is 1=strongly disagree, 5=strongly agree):
- Barack Obama faked his citizenship to become president.
- The dangers of vaccines are being hidden by the medical establishment.

-Sociodemographics:
1. Religiosity (Attend religious services; 5-point scale, 1=never, 5=every day)
2. Educational attainment (6-point scale, 1=no high school degree, 6=post-grad degree)
3. Age (age in years, 17–90)
4. Household income (7-point scale, 1=$24,999 or less, 7=$200,000 or more)
5. Gender (0=male, 1=female)
6. Race (Black: 0=not Black, 1=Black; Hispanic: 0=not Hispanic, 1=Hispanic)

II. Sampling Procedure and Sample Details

Participants
Qualtrics (qualtrics.com) administered a survey from March 17-19, 2020 with *n* = 2023 Americans. Qualtrics partnered with Lucid (luc.id) and Dynata (dynata.com) to recruit a sample that matched U.S. Census records on sex, age, race, and income. Based on these quota-based recruitment procedures there is no response or completion rate to report.

Ethics Statement
Lucid and Dynata maintain panels of subjects that are only used for research. Individuals voluntarily join Lucid and Dynata panels (e.g., through the company's website, or by responding to a banner advertisement). Lucid and Dynata comply fully with European Society for Opinion and Marketing Research (ESOMAR) standards for protecting research subjects' privacy and information. Subjects received reward points redeemable from Lucid or Dynata in exchange for voluntary participation in the study. They were invited to participate by email and consented voluntarily to particulate by reading an informed consent statement and clicking a button to proceed to the next screen in the survey instrument. Subjects were free to end participation at any time by closing their Internet browser. Approval to conduct research with human subjects was granted by the University of [REDACTED] Human Subject Research Office on March 15, 2020 (Protocol # 20200095).

Table A1: Sample characteristics.

Variable	Range	Mean	Standard Deviation
Education	1 (No HS) – 5 (Post-grad)	3.36 (~some college)	1.50
Age	17–90	41.54	16.08
Household Income	1 (≤$24,999) – 7 (≥$200,000)	3.23 (~$50-75K)	1.75
Gender	0 (Male), 1 (Female)	0.51	0.50
Black	0 (not Black), 1 (Black)	0.15	0.36
Hispanic	0 (not Hispanic), 1 (Hispanic)	0.18	0.38

Note: *n*=2,023

III. Multivariate regression models used to produce Figures 2 and 3

Table A2: Standardized regression coefficients from models regressing COVID-19 beliefs on a host of psychological, political, and sociodemographic predictors.

	Coefficient	Standard Error	*t*-value	*p*-value
"Threat Exaggerated"				
Conspiracy Thinking	0.162	0.024	6.80	0.000
Denialism	0.248	0.023	10.65	0.000
Partisanship	0.234	0.023	10.00	0.000
Ideology	0.141	0.023	6.13	0.000
Education	-0.008	0.021	-0.39	0.695
Religiosity	0.092	0.020	4.64	0.000
Age	-0.127	0.021	-6.20	0.000
Household Income	-0.019	0.021	-0.87	0.387
Female	-0.008	0.020	-0.42	0.674
Black	-0.001	0.021	-0.05	0.958
Hispanic	-0.061	0.020	-2.96	0.003
Constant	-0.000	0.019	-0.01	0.992
"Spread on Purpose"				
Conspiracy Thinking	0.451	0.022	20.72	0.000
Denialism	0.176	0.021	8.24	0.000
Partisanship	0.088	0.021	4.12	0.000
Ideology	0.069	0.021	3.29	0.001
Education	-0.049	0.020	-2.47	0.014
Religiosity	0.079	0.018	4.34	0.000
Age	-0.121	0.019	-6.46	0.000
Household Income	0.002	0.020	0.09	0.928
Female	0.024	0.018	1.31	0.190
Black	0.055	0.019	2.89	0.004
Hispanic	-0.002	0.019	-0.12	0.903
Constant	0.000	0.017	0.01	0.995

Note: Standardized OLS coefficients. *n*=2,022 for both equations.

IV. Regression models used to produce Figure 4

Table A3: Standardized regression coefficients from models regressing COVID-19 beliefs on a host of psychological, political, and sociodemographic predictors *including feelings toward Trump and attention to politics*.

	"Threat Exaggerated"	"Spread on Purpose"
Conspiracy Thinking	0.153	0.457
	(0.023)**	(0.022)**
Denialism	0.232	0.162
	(0.022)**	(0.022)**
Feelings toward Trump	0.390	0.148
	(0.025)**	(0.024)**
Partisanship	0.034	0.010
	(0.026)	(0.025)
Ideology	0.084	0.044
	(0.023)**	(0.022)*
Attention to Politics	-0.091	-0.067
	(0.020)**	(0.019)**
Education	0.011	-0.036
	(0.021)	(0.020)
Religiosity	0.044	0.062
	(0.019)*	(0.019)**
Age	-0.119	-0.110
	(0.020)**	(0.019)**
Household Income	-0.017	0.012
	(0.021)	(0.020)
Female	0.008	0.026
	(0.019)	(0.018)
Black	0.016	0.048
	(0.020)	(0.019)*
Hispanic	-0.037	0.009
	(0.020)	(0.019)
Constant	0.008	-0.004
	(0.018)	(0.017)
R^2	0.37	0.42
n	1,927	1,927

Note: Standardized OLS regression coefficients w/ standard errors.
**p<0.01, *p<0.05.

Table A4: Standardized regression coefficients from models regressing COVID-19 beliefs on a host of psychological, political, and sociodemographic predictors *including feelings toward Trump and attention to politics and the interaction between the two*.

	"Threat Exaggerated"	"Spread on Purpose"
Conspiracy Thinking	0.152 (0.023)**	0.456 (0.022)**
Denialism	0.230 (0.022)**	0.161 (0.021)**
Feelings toward Trump	0.390 (0.024)**	0.149 (0.024)**
Attention to Politics	-0.088 (0.020)**	-0.066 (0.019)**
Feelings toward Trump X Attention to Politics	0.067 (0.019)**	0.045 (0.019)*
Partisanship	0.027 (0.026)	0.005 (0.025)
Ideology	0.076 (0.023)**	0.038 (0.022)
Education	0.010 (0.021)	-0.037 (0.020)
Religiosity	0.041 (0.019)*	0.060 (0.019)**
Age	-0.118 (0.020)**	-0.109 (0.019)**
Household Income	-0.018 (0.021)	0.011 (0.020)
Female	0.006 (0.019)	0.025 (0.018)
Black	0.015 (0.020)	0.047 (0.019)*
Hispanic	-0.038 (0.020)	0.009 (0.019)
Constant	0.005 (0.018)	-0.006 (0.017)
R^2	0.38	0.42
n	1,927	1,927

Note: Standardized OLS regression coefficients w/ standard errors.
**$p<0.01$, *$p<0.05$.