

Title: Guidelines for selecting misinformation stories from TjekDet appendix for “Ridiculing the “tin foil hats:” Citizen responses to COVID-19 misinformation in the Danish facemask debate on Twitter”

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Note: The material contained herein is supplementary to the article named in the title and published in the Harvard Kennedy School (HKS) Misinformation Review.

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## **Appendix C: Guidelines for selecting misinformation stories from TjekDet**

TjekDet provides the most extensive and complete overview of verified false stories within Denmark. It is the largest independent Danish fact-checking site and the only Danish representative in the international fact-checking alliance Poynter.org and Googles Fact Check Tools. TjekDet verifies both misinformation stories specific to Denmark and stories originating outside of Denmark but still disseminated within Denmark.

- We only included fact-checks and not articles discussing misinformation or describing other types of online scams from TjekDet.dk.
- We only excluded fact-check articles where the verdict is true. All other misinformation stories are included in our collection.
- To make sure our collection only included COVID-19 related stories, we excluded stories that did not mention the virus in some way.
- We excluded all stories where the verdicts were time-dependent (for example, classifying any claim about the infection rate is dependent on the point in time the claim is made and examined). These time-sensitive stories were excluded to ease the annotation process. We measured misinformation over time, and, as these claims can be false at one point in time and true at a later point, they make misinformation difficult to code after a time delay.
- Regarding facemasks, we kept all the stories claiming that wearing facemasks have health consequences. However, we excluded all stories debating whether facemasks are a good strategy to prevent corona. This is because the verdicts of these claims vary over time in Denmark, as the health authorities changed their recommendations over time.
- We excluded fact-checks that did not focus on a specific claim (these instead often tried to clarify contradictory statements).
- Stories were provided as examples of misinformation but were not expected to show the full extent of all misinformation stories. Coders were allowed to mark a previously unseen story as misinformation. To do so, coders were pointed to reliable health sources.