



Korea Communications Commission

NEWS RELEASE

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KCC RESPONDS TO DISINFORMATION ON COVID-19, VACCINES

- Operates response system to swiftly delete and block access to disinformation –

- Actively supports fact checking by private sector through “Fact Check Net” -

The Korea Communications Commission (KCC, Chairman Han Sang-hyuk) announced its plans to build a coordination system with relevant ministries and agencies and promote fact checking in the private sector in response to fake news and disinformation about Covid-19 and vaccines. The recent proliferation of disinformation surrounding Covid-19 is creating not only societal unrest, but also poses a serious threat public safety.

First, a government-wide response through the KCC, the Central Disaster Safety and Countermeasures Headquarters(CDSCH), and National Police Agency will swiftly delete and block fake news regarding Covid-19. The Korea Communications Standards Commission(KCSC) will deliberate on any requests from the CDSCH or Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency(KDCA) and delete or block any disinformation as soon as possible in order to prevent social unrest from fake news regarding Covid-19 or vaccines.

The public can also find verified news articles on Covid-19 and vaccines through “Fact Check Net” which

is supported by major media outlets and citizen participation.

“Fact Check Net”*(www.factchecker.or.kr) was launched in November 2020 as an open platform where the public can submit information for fact checkers with expertise (reporters, experts) to verify. The fact checkers also verify disinformation on Covid-19 vaccines, and the fact checking process and results are shared with the public on the platform. Additionally, the platform offers an archive service for saving and sharing the results of fact checking by different media outlets.

* Operated as a consortium of four organizations including the Korea Broadcasting Journalist Association and the Korea Reporters Federation

Examples of Fact Checking on Covid-19 Vaccine

o (Example of expert fact checking) Fact checking strange stories about genetic alteration from Covid-19 vaccine

- A civilian fact checker found rumors spreading in Korea stemming from reports by a private US organization that receiving an mRNA vaccine (Moderna, Pfizer) leads to genetic alteration
- An expert fact checker (Yonhap News reporter) conducted expert interviews and research, concluded the reports were “not true” and linked and disseminated the findings through a Yonhap News article

* *[Fact Check] Strange stories about “don’t get Moderna or Pfizer vaccine” what is the truth? (Yonhap News, January 11)

o (Fact Check Archive) Searches for “vaccine” return 45 fact checked articles, including “‘Having body manipulated’ what is the truth?” (Seoul Economy, January 12)

The KCC will continue to support Fact Check Net so the public can use it effectively to easily check reports on hot topic keywords like “Covid-19” and “vaccine.” Additionally, the KCC plans to ask broadcasters to promote fact checking activities so the public can receive reliable information about Covid-19 vaccines from the health authorities.

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