

Survey Design

Upon clicking on the link shared on social media, respondents were presented with an informed consent and with the 3 qualifications required to participate in the study:

(1) Being 18 years old or over.

(2) Having access to the Internet.

(3) Living in France.

Once they agreed to the terms of the informed consent, they could proceed through a “Yes/No” question to the first block of questions. Upon replying “No” to this first check they were directed to a parallel block letting them know that they declined participating in the questionnaire and that they could close the page. The questionnaire was fully anonymous thus avoiding concerns related to data privacy and safety. At the end of the informed consent, respondents were directed to myself if they had questions in relation to the study.

BLOCK 1 - DEMOGRAPHICS

1. How old are you?

- *OPEN ANSWER*

2. What is your gender?

- *OPEN ANSWER*

BLOCK 2 - RESPONDENT INFORMATION SOURCES

3. Through which channel were you getting most of your information concerning the pandemic?

- Health specialized media (World Health Organization, specialized health websites, ministry of health...)
- Traditional media (Press, TV, Radio)
- Face to face conversations with family and friends, Messaging Apps (Whatsapp, Telegram...)
- Social media, other online sources

4. Which of the following statement corresponds to your information consumption during the pandemic the most:

- Daily or multiple times a day
- A few times a week
- One or less times a week

BLOCK 3 - TRUST AND INFORMATION CONSUMPTION BIASES

GROUP 1 = Sources presented were: Politician, Journalist, Television Host, Government Official

GROUP 2 = Sources presented were: Doctor, Member of the scientific community, Health specialist, Scientist

5. “We do not think herd immunity is achievable because the virus will continue to mutate, escape the protection of vaccines and then infect people.” (Source)

Please rate your level of trust towards this information:

- Strongly disagree: I do not trust this information at all
- Disagree: I do not trust this information very much
- Agree: I trust this information somewhat
- Strongly Agree: I completely trust this information

6. “Avoiding using cash and opting for contactless payment methods will greatly reduce the spread of the virus” (Source)

Please rate your level of trust towards this information:

- Strongly disagree: I do not trust this information at all
- Disagree: I do not trust this information very much
- Agree: I trust this information somewhat
- Strongly Agree: I completely trust this information

7. “Using UV lamps or other disinfection methods will effectively kill the virus on surfaces or in the air.” (Source)

Please rate your level of trust towards this information:

- Strongly disagree: I do not trust this information at all
- Disagree: I do not trust this information very much
- Agree: I trust this information somewhat
- Strongly Agree: I completely trust this information

8. “COVID-19 can potentially become a seasonal virus like the flu.” (Source)

Please rate your level of trust towards this information:

- Strongly disagree: I do not trust this information at all
- Disagree: I do not trust this information very much
- Agree: I trust this information somewhat
- Strongly Agree: I completely trust this information

BLOCK 4 - EXPOSURE TO INFORMATION OVERLOAD

9. Presented with the statement "There is so much information about COVID-19, it's hard to know which to follow", do you:

- Strongly agree
- Tend to agree
- Tend to disagree
- Strongly disagree

10. Presented with the statement "Information about COVID-19 all starts to sound the same after a while", do you:

- Strongly agree
- Tend to agree
- Tend to disagree
- Strongly disagree

11. Presented with the statement "There is so much information about COVID-19, I forget most information about COVID-19 right after I hear it", do you:

- Strongly agree
- Tend to agree
- Tend to disagree
- Strongly disagree

12. Presented with the statement "I feel overloaded by the amount of COVID-19 information I am supposed to know", do you:

- Strongly agree
- Tend to agree
- Tend to disagree
- Strongly disagree

13. Presented with the statement "It is hard to know which information about COVID-19 is accurate and trustworthy", do you:

- Strongly agree
- Tend to agree
- Tend to disagree
- Strongly disagree

14. Presented with the statement "I feel confused by a lot of conflicting information about COVID-19", do you:

- Strongly agree
- Tend to agree
- Tend to disagree
- Strongly disagree