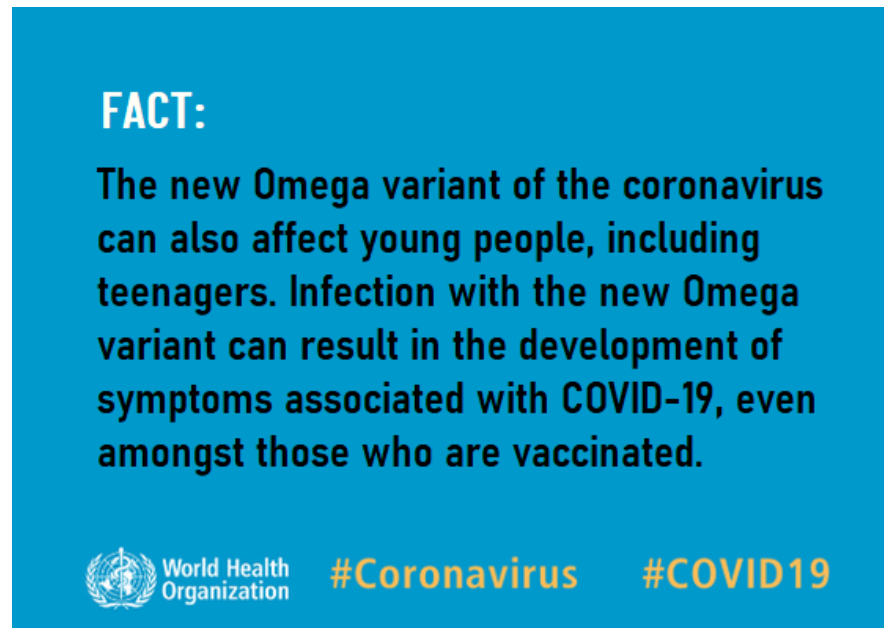


Appendix

Appendix A: Risk of Harm Example

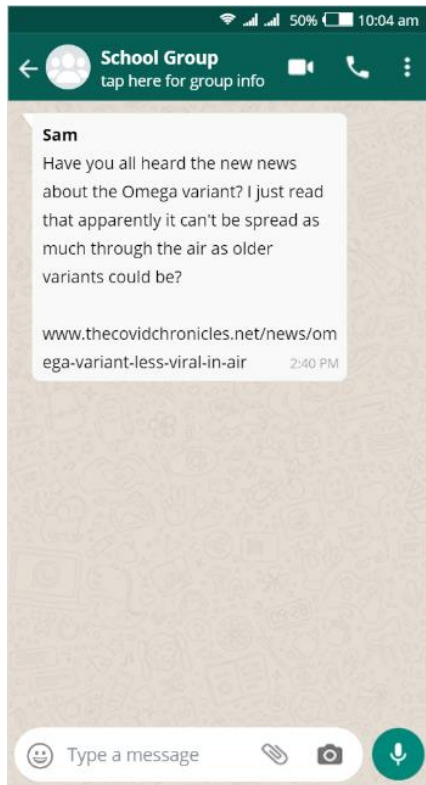
We would like to ask you to imagine that a new variant of the COVID-19 virus has been discovered. This version of the virus is known as the OMEGA variant. Here is an informational graphic from the World Health Organisation (WHO):



Research has shown that, unlike previous variants, the Omega variant can affect teenagers. Even when vaccinated, teenagers can develop symptoms.

Appendix B: Peer Source Example

New information is emerging about the Omega variant every day. Imagine you receive the following message in a WhatsApp group chat for your school group. The message is from a friend who is the same age and gender as you, who attends your school.



Appendix C: Manipulation Checks

Manipulation Check Question 1: According to the informational graphic from the World Health Organisation (WHO), what effect will the Omega variant have on teenagers?

- ☐ Teenagers are less likely to develop symptoms than adults (1)
- ☐ If vaccinated, teenagers can still develop symptoms (2)
- ☐ If vaccinated, teenagers can't develop symptoms (3)

Manipulation Check Question 2: What did Sam, your friend/family friend, say about the Omega variant?

- ☐ It can be spread through the eyes (1)
- ☐ It can't be spread through the air as much as previous variants (2)
- ☐ It can be spread more easily than other variants (3)

Manipulation Check Question 1 was failed more (n = 41) than Manipulation Check Question 2 (n = 27). A few participants (n = 4) failed both checks.

Appendix D: Information Scrutiny Behaviours Questions

I read the news articles sent to me by friends and family members

- ☐ Strongly disagree (1)
- ☐ Disagree (2)
- ☐ Somewhat disagree (3)
- ☐ Neither agree nor disagree (4)
- ☐ Somewhat agree (5)
- ☐ Agree (6)
- ☐ Strongly agree (7)

When I come across a news article, I look up the source(s) of the information in that article

- ☐ Strongly disagree (1)
- ☐ Disagree (2)
- ☐ Somewhat disagree (3)
- ☐ Neither agree nor disagree (4)
- ☐ Somewhat agree (5)
- ☐ Agree (6)
- ☐ Strongly agree (7)

When I come across a news article, I investigate how reliable the author of that article is

- ☐ Strongly disagree (1)
- ☐ Disagree (2)
- ☐ Somewhat disagree (3)
- ☐ Neither agree nor disagree (4)
- ☐ Somewhat agree (5)
- ☐ Agree (6)
- ☐ Strongly agree (7)

When I come across a news article, I investigate how trustworthy the claims in that article are

- ☐ Strongly disagree (1)
- ☐ Disagree (2)
- ☐ Somewhat disagree (3)
- ☐ Neither agree nor disagree (4)
- ☐ Somewhat agree (5)
- ☐ Agree (6)
- ☐ Strongly agree (7)

When I come across a news article, I investigate how trustworthy the facts and figures in that article are

- ☐ Strongly disagree (1)
- ☐ Disagree (2)
- ☐ Somewhat disagree (3)
- ☐ Neither agree nor disagree (4)
- ☐ Somewhat agree (5)
- ☐ Agree (6)
- ☐ Strongly agree (7)

When I come across a news article, I first investigate how reliable and trustworthy the information is before I share it on

- ☐ Strongly disagree (1)
- ☐ Disagree (2)
- ☐ Somewhat disagree (3)
- ☐ Neither agree nor disagree (4)
- ☐ Somewhat agree (5)
- ☐ Agree (6)
- ☐ Strongly agree (7)