

## Unit 2: Lesson 5 – Spread and Accuracy of Online Information: A Case Study Related to Vaccines

### GLOSSARY

**Assertion**

A forceful statement of fact or belief.

**Assumption**

A belief that something is true without evidence of its truth.

**Confirmation bias**

The tendency to assess and interpret information in a way that upholds or reinforces a person's existing beliefs or values.

**Conspiracy theory**

A theory that asserts an important secret is being withheld from the public or that blames an event or circumstance on a secret plot by a person or organization in a position of power such as a government, celebrity, or similar entity.

**Disinformation**

False information deliberately designed to be misleading in order to advance a goal, such as a personal, political or economic agenda.

**Infodemic**

A term combining the words “information” and “pandemic” to describe a large amount of information about a topic or issue that spreads quickly and often combines both facts and fallacies making it difficult to tell which information is accurate.

**Lateral reading**

A method in which the reader verifies what they are reading by going to additional reputable sources to evaluate how the same topic is addressed in different places, particularly on the internet. This approach is commonly used by professional fact-checkers.

**Logical fallacy**

An error in reasoning that makes an argument unsound.

**Misconception**

An incorrect understanding or view of something.

**Misinformation**

False or inaccurate information that is misleading, typically the falsehood is unintentional or accidental.

**Myth**

A false idea that has no basis in fact.

**Vaccine**

A tool that introduces the immune system to potential pathogens in a controlled manner, so that it does not cause disease, but it does allow for the development of protective immunity.