

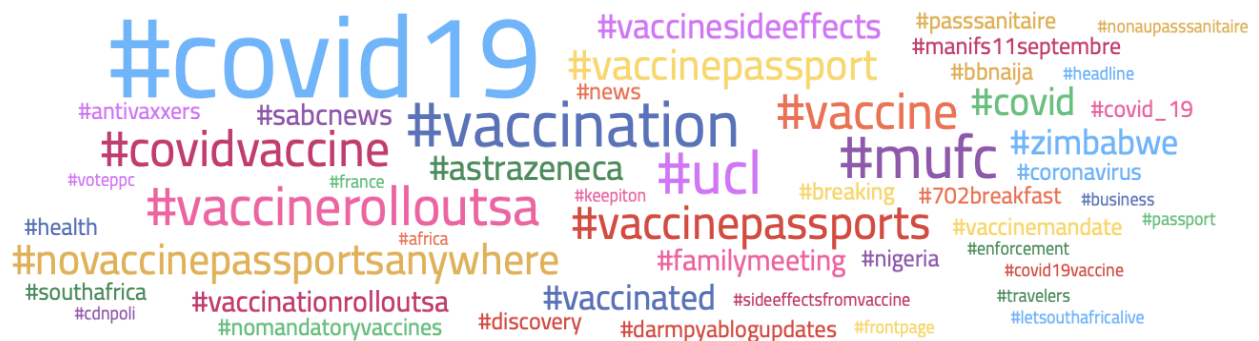
# VACCINE MIS/DISINFORMATION

WEEKLY REPORT

This week's Vaccine Mis/Disinformation report focuses on the social media conversations driven largely by vaccine hesitancy.

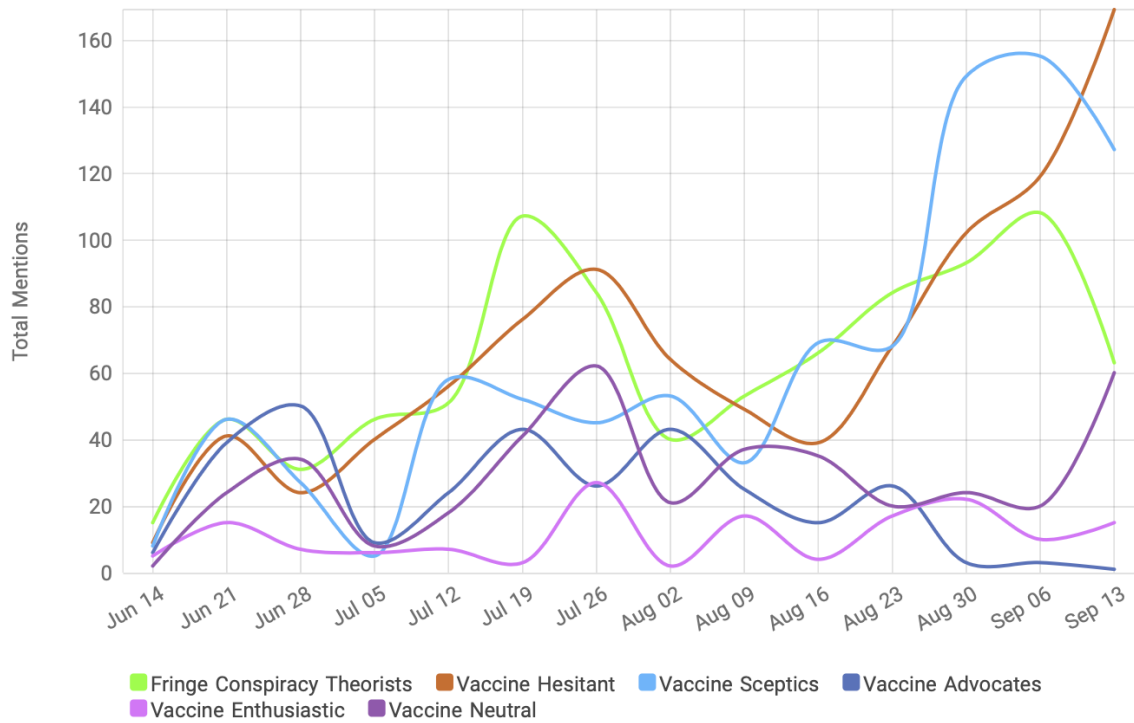
## 30 September Summary:

- **Vaccination side-effects**
- **Forced/coerced vaccinations and trolling**
- **Political movements against vaccine mandates, government mistrust and conspiracy theories**



## Mention Volume

Following a significant spike in online conversations driven by vaccine hesitancy, our CABAC researchers did a deep dive into data focusing particularly on accounts that demonstrated these resistant attitudes. The analysis brought to light some concerning rhetoric containing targeted trolling, conspiracy theories, many unsubstantiated claims about vaccine side effects, and government mistrust/manipulation. Out of thousands of tweets related to COVID-19 vaccinations, our data showed that vaccine hesitancy drove a significant portion of the discussion. See below:



## Vaccination injuries and side effects

This [post](#) was tweeted by a US account that frequently shares content which almost exclusively distributes anti-vaccination information. The post, which was picked up by South African audiences, read: “5th year medical student waited to get Pfizer’s jab because it was presented as the “safest.” Ten minutes later, Arooj began having spasms, then seizures and lost use of her legs. Arooj has asked her family to document these episodes for medical research.” The post gained traction with over 6 000 retweets and nearly 4 000 likes. Many of the comments and [quoted tweets](#) contained misleading claims such as the one below:



Results of giving trial vaccines without any plan to deal with side effects. So sad that this is happening to another human. It used to be that any vaccine is tested on animals first before humans, now it is tested on humans first before the politicians and big businesses

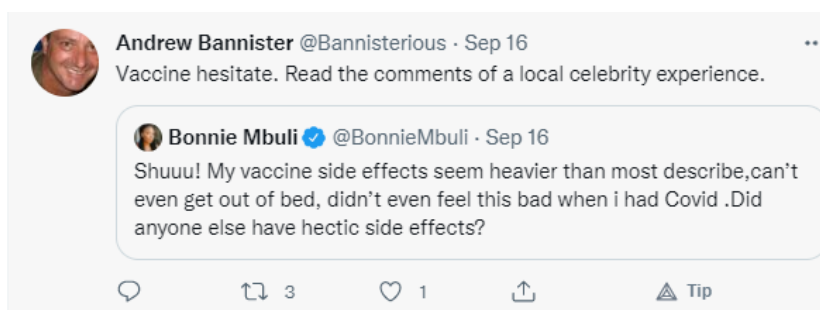
**Kelly Bee** 🐝 @ke11ybender · Sep 21  
5th year medical student waited to get Pfizer’s jab because it was presented as the “safest.” Ten minutes later, Arooj began having spasms, then seizures and lost use of her legs. Arooj has asked her family to document these episodes for medical research.

[instagram.com/p/CUAEyKEjyGm](https://www.instagram.com/p/CUAEyKEjyGm)  
[Show this thread](#)

Similar anecdotal content trended across the board. The two posts below show a claim of symptoms after receiving the Pfizer vaccination - the [original](#) and a [follow-up](#) in a thread:



A local celebrity, Bonnie Mbuli, also [tweeted](#) about her post-vaccine symptoms in a tweet that read: “Shuuu! My vaccine side effects seem heavier than most describe,can’t even get out of bed, didn’t even feel this bad when i had Covid .Did anyone else have hectic side effects?” The post received attention with nearly 2 000 retweets and 5 1002 likes. Many hesitants used this as an opportunity to substantiate their anti-vaccine stances:



Amongst the trending side-effects that have escalated vaccine hesitancy online are reports of women missing their periods following their vaccinations. As reported by media outlet Daily Mirror in a [tweet](#), “More than 30,000 women in the UK report irregular periods after getting Covid jab”.



This was echoed by numerous users who shared their own experiences as seen in the [tweet](#) below:



Accusations levelled against pharmaceutical companies using the COVID vaccine for profit also sparked conversations around the purpose and consequences of the vaccinations. @ForumCovid, an account dedicated to opposing the vaccine made a [tweet](#) in this regard gaining over 13 300 retweets and nearly 24 000 likes.

↳ Methuselalah Retweeted



COVID FORUM  
@ForumCovid

...

Pfizer made \$19 Billion in Q2 this year, or \$211 million per day. Some known risks of their jab are blood clots and cardiomyopathy. Luckily for them they make Eliquis for treating blood clots – sales up 13%. They also make Vyndaqel to treat cardiomyopathy – sales are up 77%!

12:04 PM · Sep 20, 2021 · Twitter for iPhone

13.2K Retweets 1,126 Quote Tweets 23.6K Likes

Furthermore, others accused local medical aid companies of omitting the truth about vaccine injuries as see in the [tweet](#) below:

← Thread



Carpe Diem  
@SimonTemplar008

...

@Discovery\_SA When will we have a discussion on vaccine injuries? Specifically the more than HALF A MILLION Covid vaccine injuries reported to VAERS in under a year?

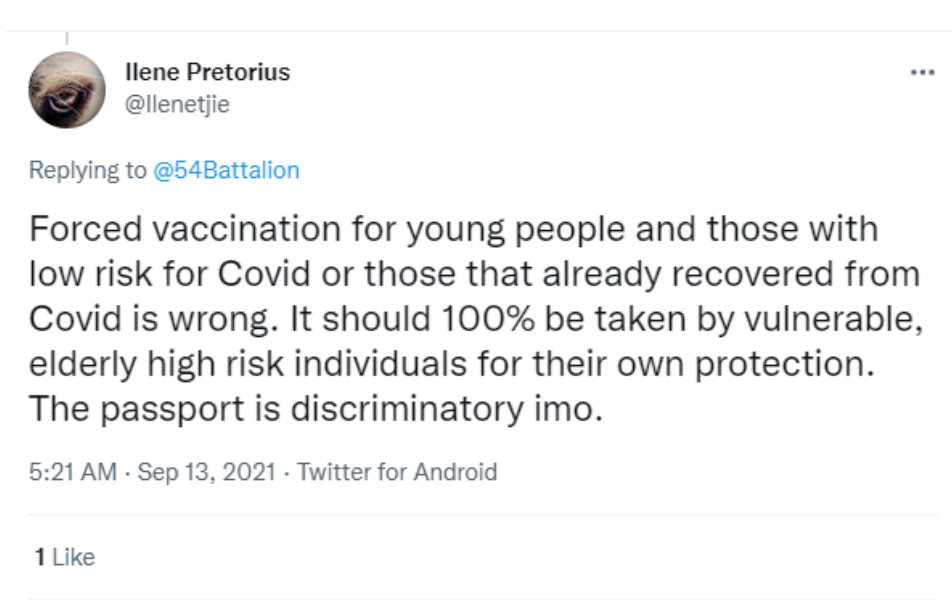
Surely your employees deserve to see the full picture?  
[vaers.hhs.gov/data.html](https://vaers.hhs.gov/data.html)

4:54 PM · Sep 5, 2021 · Twitter for iPhone

24 Retweets 56 Likes

## Forced/coerced vaccinations and trolling

This [tweet](#) did not receive any traction, however our researchers came across several posts which displayed similar sentiments. The primary theme seemed to be concerns about the coercion and government mandating of vaccinations. This, coupled with misinformation about how vaccines actually work indicates that there is a need for more education on this issue.



The trolling of vaccine enthusiasts also trended quite significant as can be seen in the quoted [tweet](#) below:

← **Tweet**

 **Sideman**  
@\_Sideman44

Covid bred 'New Blacks' telling the working class to shut up & get inoculated, while dismissing side effects of vaccination as a work of fiction

 **foyin** 🍌 @foyin\_og · Sep 14

every anti vaxxer knows someone who died from the vaccine/is now impotent/infertile/had some life threatening complication until you ask them to name them 🤡

[Show this thread](#)

2:21 PM · Sep 14, 2021 · Twitter for Android

4 Retweets 14 Likes

## Political movements against vaccine mandates and government mistrust

Our researchers found that organised groups are critical to driving anti-vaccination sentiments both online and offline. This includes political parties and/or other socially charged organisations. For instance, the Party of Action recently shared a [tweet](#) with unverified information about how a nurse “personally has helped kill patients in a hospital setting”. While this specific tweet did not gain much traction, this political party’s twitter page actively and consistently promotes anti-vaccination content.

 **PARTY OF ACTION - Political Party IEC Registered**  
@PartyOfAction

Nurse talks about how he personally has helped kill COVID patients in a hospital setting. [#PCRTTest](#) fraud exposed. How people he knows personally have been paralysed since taking the [#vaccination](#) [#antivaxxers](#)



END-TIMES, SOUTH AFRICA, WORLD INFO, ARTICLES, H...  
Nurse talks about how he personally has helped kill COVID patients in a hospital setting. How the number of cycles us...  
[t.me](#)

9:16 AM · Sep 22, 2021 · Twitter for iPhone

3 Retweets 2 Likes



Furthermore, the promotion of fringe conspiracy theory websites that promote anti-vaccination rhetoric trended through [tweets](#) like this:

