



## **TEMA RUMOR MONITORING – COVID-19**

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March 23, 2020 – 5 p.m. CST

SEOC Activation: **Level 3 – State of Emergency**

### **SUMMARY**

- Overall, there has been an increase in [conspiracy-theory like activity](#).
- Individuals continue to share a negative sentiment surrounding [access to testing](#).
- Continue to see reports of price gouging.
- Increased number of individuals calling for [stricter statewide shutdowns](#).

### **PUBLIC PERCEPTION/SENTIMENT**

- FALSE: Several reports [comparing the Kentucky and Tennessee response](#). Reports show a timeline and positive-case comparison among the two states.
  - TRUTH: The data for this article is misleading. Data from private labs is not included and skews the results.
- FALSE: A report claiming that Tennessee will be spraying disinfectants from helicopters at night.
  - TRUTH: This is false. No plans to spray disinfectants.
- FALSE: Reports of private sector companies sending credentialing cards to employees for access to work and through roadblocks during lockdown.
  - TRUTH: Tennessee does not have credentialing and re-entry laws at the state level that are enforceable at the local level. No industry on the CISA essential industries list is being movement restricted into or inside TN.

### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

- Governor Bill Lee and other state agencies are encouraging individuals to seek COVID-19 information from official sources only.
  - [Governor's COVID-19 Website](#)
  - [Tennessee Department of Health Website](#)
- FEMA has created a [COVID-19 rumor control website](#) that we are continuing to share.
- At this time, there are no plans for TEMA to establish a rumor control hotline. Calls regarding COVID-19 can be directed to the TDH hotline at (833) 556-2476 from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. CDT.

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