

# MEDIA COVERAGE OF COVID-19

## TOOLS FOR JOURNALISTS



The latest census by Santé Publique France counted more than 2 million long haulers (out of +68 M inhab.). The virus has also caused more than 180,000 direct deaths (excluding delayed effects) & continues to disable & kill.

We are facing a societal phenomenon that requires rigor & respect for those affected.

- 1 **Do not talk about COVID in the past tense**, as if it were no longer circulating or causing damage, when it is still causing Long COVID, delayed deaths, reinfections, and direct deaths.
- 2 **Do not describe Long COVID as a “mystery,”** as its mechanisms (viral persistence, dysimmunity, thromboinflammation) are now known. Nor should the disease be disconnected from the virus that causes it.
- 3 **Do not focus on the individual**, depoliticizing aspects of the disease, when patients are organizing collectively and have demands to voice.
- 4 **Do not invite the most controversial doctors**, who psychologize and/or present rehabilitation as a treatment for patients, and/or reinforce the feeling that the illness is not physical.
- 5 **Do not dismiss prevention measures** while the virus continues to cause new cases of Long COVID (the risk increases with each infection) and to worsen and endanger all patients.
- 6 **Do not reduce the disease to a few symptoms without explaining its mechanisms**, which have a wide range of manifestations. Do not dismiss its potential life-threatening risks or potential for deterioration.
- 7 **Do not use any figure you find without sourcing the claim.** In France, some media outlets have wrongly reported that 200,000 people are suffering from Long COVID: the latest census counted more than 2 million.
- 8 **Do not present false prevention information:** transmission primarily occurs through aerosols, not droplet or contact.
- 9 **Do not forget that children and the elderly** are also affected by Long COVID.
- 10 **Avoid involving doctors** instead of patients and researchers.
- 11 **Do not blame lockdown for the current health situation** without taking into account the consequences of multiple COVID reinfections.
- 12 **Do not claim that patients miraculously recover over time** when Long COVID is a chronic disease for which there is still no cure.