

## KEY VOCABULARY

**DOWNPLAYING =**  
Making something seem  
less important

**THE WHITE HOUSE =**  
The place where the president lives. Also used  
to represent the president and his team.

# NEWS CYCLE

## WHAT'S HAPPENED SO FAR?

### Why is President Trump so positive about covid-19?



**On Friday October 2nd 2020, Donald Trump tweeted that he and his wife Melania had tested positive for covid-19. Later that day, he was flown by helicopter to Walter Reed Military Medical Centre near Washington, where he stayed until October 5th. Mr Trump has since returned to the White House and has said he is feeling “really good”.**

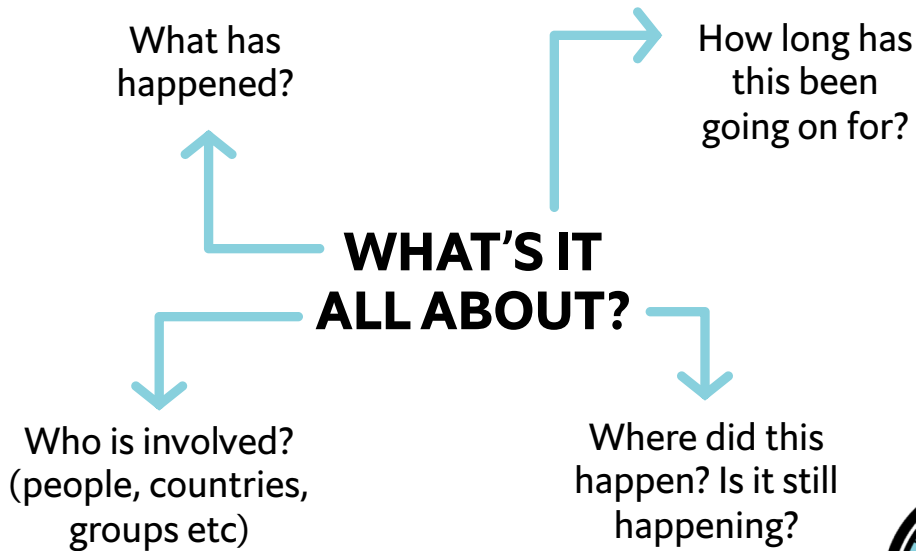
Throughout the pandemic, President Trump has downplayed the virus, disregarding the safety advice from his own scientists. On September 26th he attended an outdoor White House ceremony which some people are now calling a “super-spreader” event. Attendees were filmed ignoring social-distancing advice: sitting close together, shaking hands and hugging. Several of them have since contracted covid-19.

White House announcements about the president’s health have sometimes raised more questions than they answered. President Trump has remained positive in a show of strength, but his critics think he has hidden the truth to make the virus seem less serious. For example, the president’s medical team described his symptoms as “mild” at first but it was later revealed that he needed oxygen and dexamethasone, a drug usually only given to patients who are very ill.

It is not uncommon for leaders to be keen to avoid showing weakness during times of crisis. Days after his positive test, he made a surprise public drive-past to wave to well-wishers outside the hospital. Several physicians have suggested he put others in the car at risk, but the White House said the president’s medical team had cleared the trip as safe. After returning home, the president took off his mask for photographs on the White House balcony.

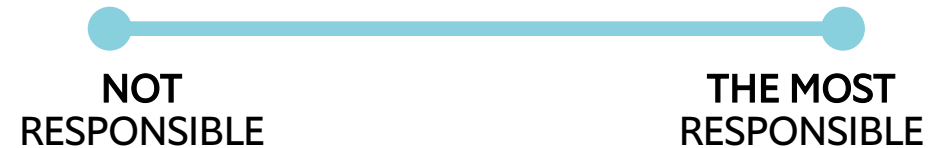
“Don’t let it dominate your lives,” President Trump advised Americans, three days after his own diagnosis. But whilst the president’s supporters heard words of reassurance, his critics heard recklessness.

**Want to know more about this? Look here!** [bbc.co.uk/newsround/54474603](https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/54474603)



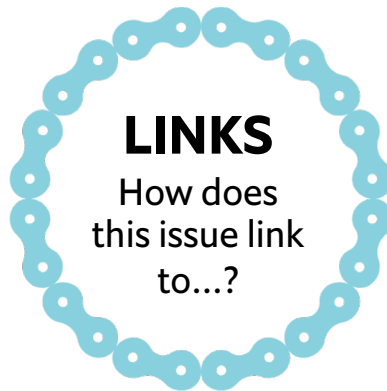
## NEWS SCALE

How responsible is Donald Trump for informing America about covid-19? Mark your opinion on the scale below with an X. What about White House spokespeople? What about government doctors?



*A school subject?*

*A different news story?*

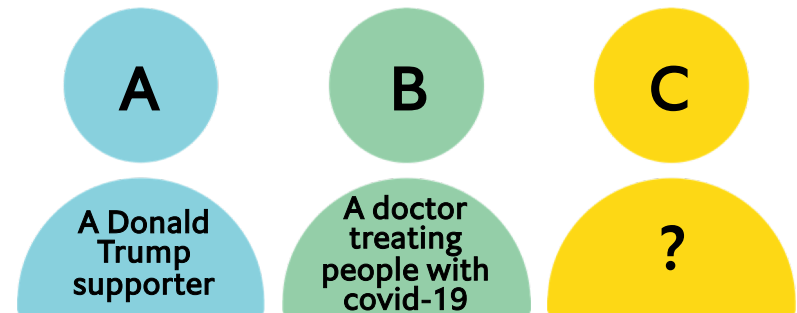


*NEWS CONCEPT: power?*

*NEWS CONCEPT: justice?*

## PERSPECTIVE FLIP

What would Person A think about this issue? How are they affected by the issue? Now flip to Person B and think about the same questions. Are any perspectives missing?



**CHALLENGE:** how is this issue developing in the news?

First, limber up by thinking about everything you learnt last week:

- What was the key information about this issue? (Who? What? When? Where? Why? How?)
- Why was this issue news? (How big was this piece of news? How many people does it affect? Is it global or local news?)
- What did you think about it? Did everyone you talked to have the same opinion?
- What have you seen about this in the news? How is this issue developing?

Then, take a ride through this week's activities.

# WHAT'S THE FULL STORY?



The average cost for a patient to be treated for covid-19 in America is

**\$30,000.**

Donald Trump's doctor, Dr Sean Conley, declared that the president received "world-class medical care" even after he left hospital. Death rates are higher for the virus amongst people with less money. However, it is normal for world leaders to receive high-quality medical care.



President Trump was given an experimental drug called **Regeneron** that is not yet available to the public. Mr Trump has called the drug a "blessing from god".



**On October 3rd, the president's doctors refused to say when President Trump last tested negative for the virus before his positive test.**

Sceptics wondered whether this could mean that he wasn't being tested as regularly as he should or that he knew he had the virus when he attended some public events.



America is the country with the highest number of covid-19 cases and deaths.

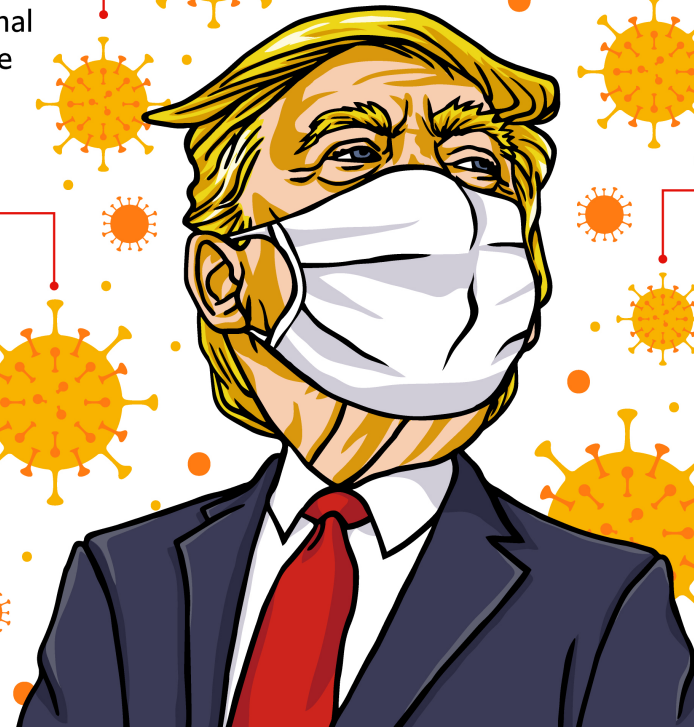
As of October 2020, **it has had over 7 million cases and 210,000 deaths.**



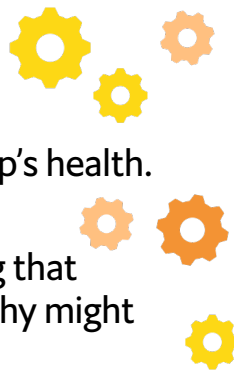
The next presidential election is on

**November 3rd 2020.**

The president's handling of covid-19, including his own case, could help people come to a decision about who to vote for.



## TURN THE COGS



1. This issue is about more than President Trump's health. Can you explain the bigger picture?
2. Why might some people think it's a bad thing that President Trump is downplaying the virus? Why might some people think it's a good thing?
3. Look at the facts on the previous page and find three ways that the president was treated differently to other people with covid-19. Is it fair? Try to argue for both sides of the argument.

**Support your answers with a fact and explain why.**

## SHOW OFF YOUR SKILLS



Why do you think Donald Trump speaks this way about covid-19?



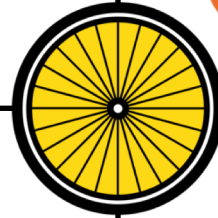
What would you say to Donald Trump about how he is behaving?



Is there a better way for a president to approach the pandemic?



How should people decide which information to trust about covid-19?



## PUSH YOURSELF

Donald Trump has made several untrue claims about covid-19. In a speech when he left hospital on October 5th, he said that a vaccine for the virus would be "coming momentarily", but the US Centres for Disease Control has said this is false.

President Trump has also given dangerous advice throughout the pandemic, such as suggesting people could inject themselves with disinfectant or take unproven medicines.

- What should the consequences be if someone in a position of power gives false information? What about dangerous advice?
- Why might a powerful person make up information when they don't know the answer?

## TYRE CHANGE

Brakes on! Let's change the scenario.



The experimental drug given to the president works, so more people can now have it?



Joe Biden, the other presidential candidate, also catches the virus?



Presidents weren't allowed to receive special medical treatment?

**Challenge: can you spot this issue in the news? How has the issue developed since last week?**