

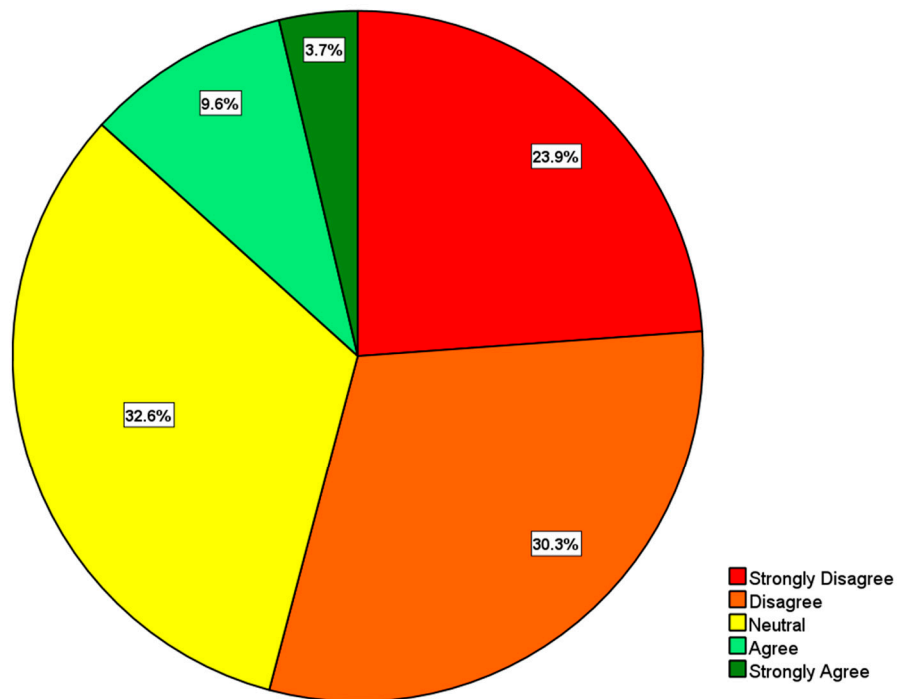
Table S1: questions used in the survey. Questions highlighted with an asterisk (\*) were used for the calculation of the preventive behaviour score. Questions highlighted with two asterisks (\*\*) were used for the calculation of the scientific misinformation score

|      |  |
|------|--|
| 1    | What is your age?  |
| 2    | What is the highest level of education you have completed?   |
| 3    | What is your religious/spiritual belief?   |
| 4    | What is your ethnicity?  |
| 5    | Have you ever tested positive for COVID-19?  |
| 6    | Which sources do you use to fact-check information you receive online about COVID-19, before forwarding to others? |
| 7    | I believe that the UK government responded to the COVID-19 pandemic appropriately.                                 |
| 8*   | I believe face masks help reduce the spread of COVID-19.   |
| 9*   | I believe social distancing measures help reduce the spread of COVID-19.   |
| 10*  | I believe vaccinations help reduce the spread of COVID-19.   |
| 11** | The COVID-19 pandemic is caused by 5G mobile networks that spread the virus.                                       |
| 12** | Holding your breath for 10 seconds or more without coughing or discomfort means you are free from COVID-19.        |
| 13** | The COVID-19 vaccine impacts female fertility.   |
| 14** | Mask-wearing weakens the immune system.  |
| 15** | COVID-19 swab tests are invasive enough to cause damage to the brain.  |

Table S2: Demographic characteristics of the study sample

| Age                     | Count | %    | Ethnicity                             | Count | %    |
|-------------------------|-------|------|---------------------------------------|-------|------|
| 18-24                   | 139   | 64.1 | White                                 | 174   | 79.8 |
| 25-30                   | 23    | 10.6 | Black/African/Caribbean/Black British | 5     | 2.3  |
| 31-40                   | 11    | 5.1  | Asian/Asian British                   | 18    | 8.3  |
| 41-50                   | 21    | 9.7  | Mixed/Multiple Ethnic Groups          | 16    | 7.3  |
| 51-60                   | 8     | 3.7  | Other/Prefer Not to Say               | 5     | 2.3  |
| 60+                     | 15    | 6.9  |                                       |       |      |
| Religion                | Count | %    | Education                             | Count | %    |
| Atheist or Agnostic     | 105   | 48.2 | No University Degree                  | 125   | 57.3 |
| Religious               | 96    | 44.0 | Bachelor's Degree or Higher           | 90    | 41.3 |
| Other/Prefer Not to Say | 17    | 7.8  | Other/Prefer Not to Say               | 3     | 1.4  |

**“I believe that the UK government responded to the COVID-19 pandemic appropriately”**



*Figure S1: Participants' agreement with the statement "I believe that the UK government responded to the COVID-19 pandemic appropriately"*