**Video Title:** How misinformation and the partisan divide drove a surge in U.S. COVID deaths

**Video URL:** <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/show/how-misinformation-and-the-partisan-divide-drove-a-surge-in-u-s-covid-deaths>

**Run Time:** 8:51

**Source:** PBS

**Closed Caption Available:** Yes

This video discusses the partisan divide in attitudes toward COVID-19. Initially American’s attitudes toward COVID-19 vaccines were quite similar across political party lines. However, rather quickly, attitudes toward COVID-19 vaccinations became partisan. In chapter 5, there are several issues that are illustrated in the following video. The video discusses how Democrats and Republicans tend to consume their news from different sources, and that these sources tended to cover the COVID-19 pandemic very differently. In particular, Fox news tended to be more skeptical of COVID-19 statistics, as well as question the safety of MRNA vaccines. We think this is a good example of the role of the *media in agenda setting* in attitude formation. As liberal leaning news agencies led with stories about the seriousness of COVID-19 and conservative leaning news agencies questioned the lockdowns and other harsh anti-virus measures, the partisan divide in attitudes toward COVID-19 widened. Also, the video illustrates *naïve realism*. Naïve realism is the belief that we see the world objectively, and when others don’t see the world as we do, they must either be misinformed or harboring an ulterior motive. We think this is illustrated nicely by the belief held by Republican’s that COVID-19 was being overblown to intentionally harm Trump’s chances at reelection.

1. Has there always been a partisan divide with respect to vaccinations?

2. What are some examples of agenda setting in the video? Are there other examples which you are aware of?

3. Have you seen evidence of naïve realism in your own life with regard to COVID-19?

4. Do you think there are examples of agenda setting and naïve realism with respect to Democratic attitudes toward COVID-19?