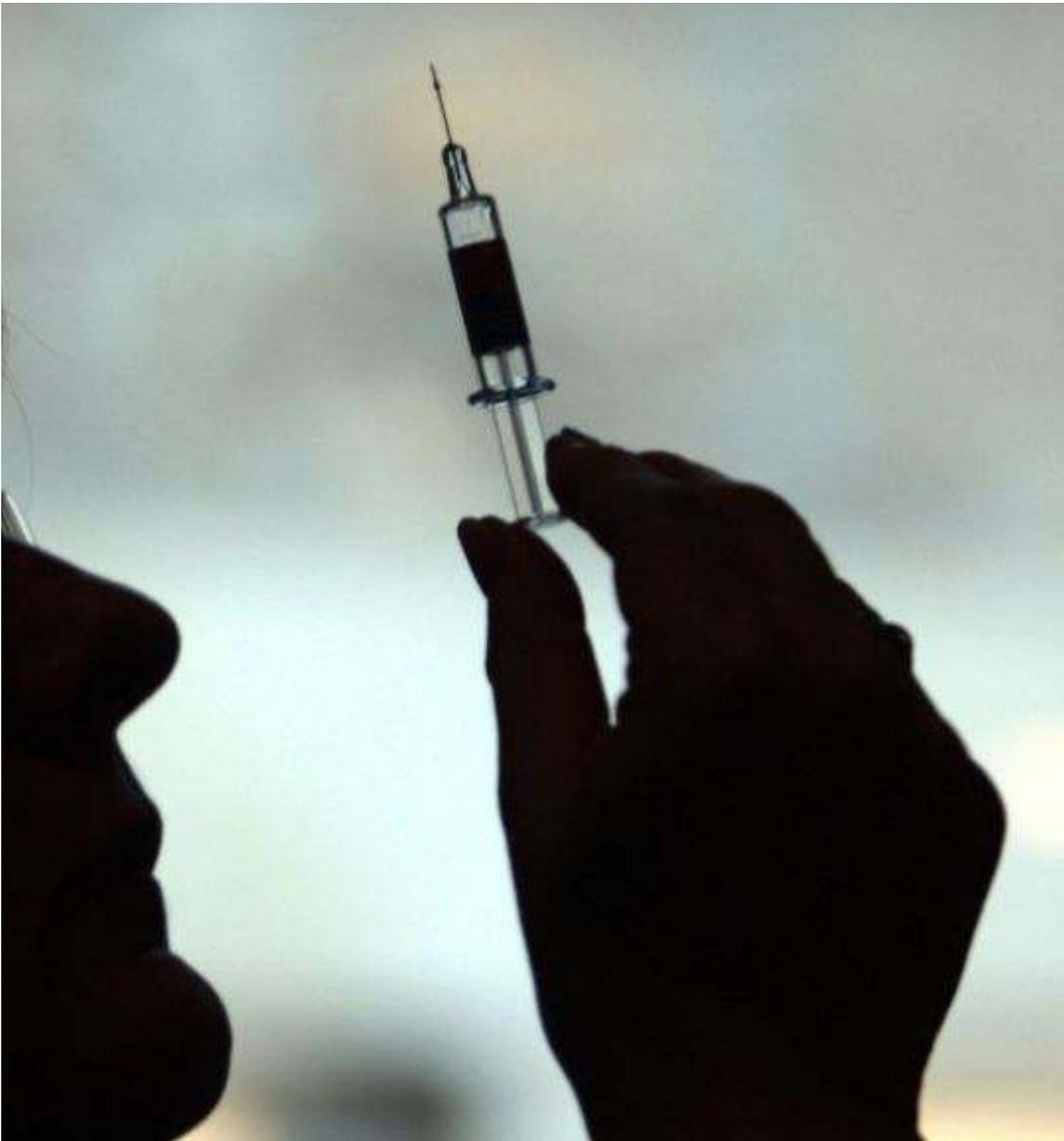


Third of Britons say they may not take coronavirus vaccine as anti-vax misinformation spreads online

Ross McGuinness



Almost a third of Britons definitely will not or are unsure about whether they will take up a COVID-19 vaccine. (PA)

Almost a third of Britons say they may not take up a vaccine for [coronavirus](#), a poll showed, as researchers warned about the amount of anti-vaccine content circulating online.

In the study carried out by YouGov for the Centre for Countering Digital Hate (CCDH) research group, 6% of those polled said they definitely would not get vaccinated for COVID-19.

A further 10% said they would “probably not” have a vaccine, while another 15% said they did

It analysed more than 400 anti-vax Facebook groups and pages, YouTube channels, Twitter and Instagram accounts.

It found they were publishing false conspiracy theories, including that Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates had created the coronavirus pandemic, that vaccines cause COVID-19, and that tests for the coronavirus vaccine had caused women to become infertile.

| — Center for Countering Digital Hate (@CCDHate) [July 7, 2020](#)

The report accused social media companies of being too lenient on anti-vaccine content, with Facebook, Twitter and YouTube promising only to reduce the ease with which users could find anti-vax content, but refusing to remove pages or groups which promoted it.

Imran Ahmed, chief executive of CCDH, said: “Our hope for a return to normal life rests with scientists developing a successful vaccine for coronavirus.