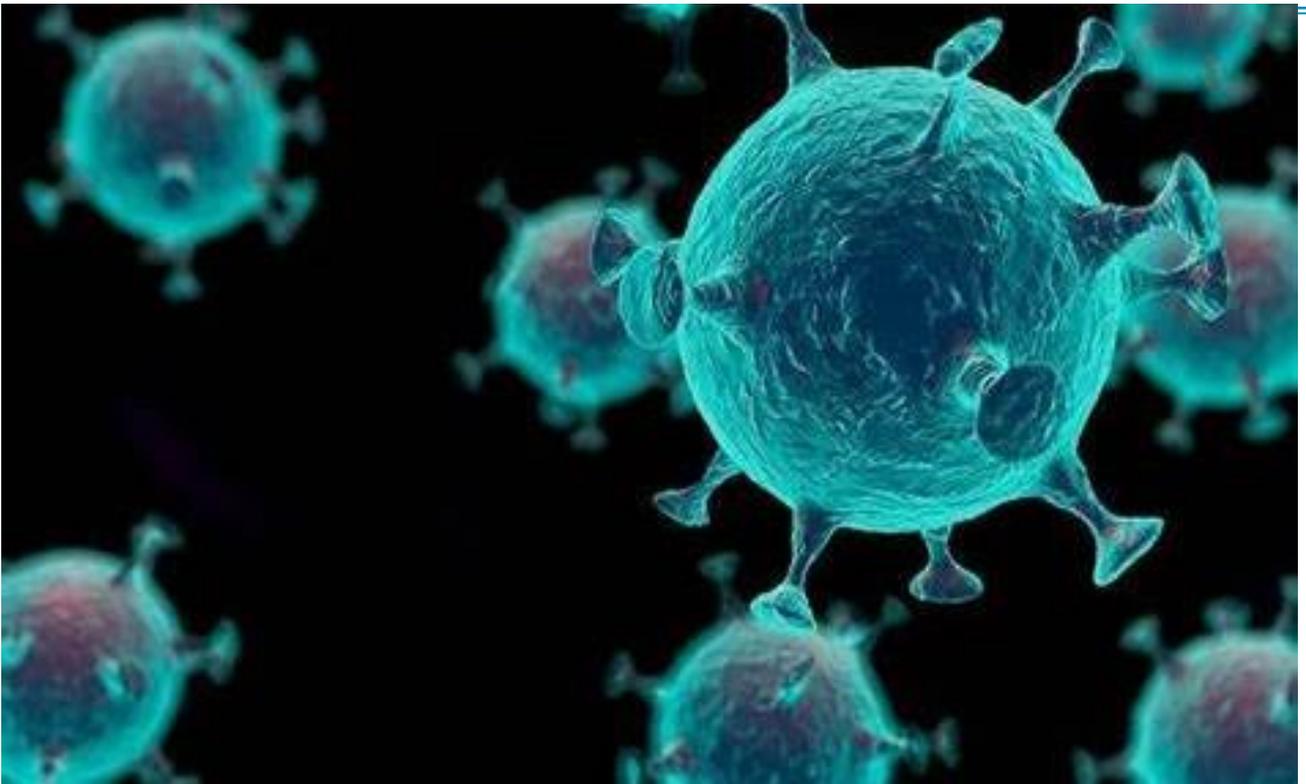

“Is virus tracing for COVID-19 politicized?”

CGTN Think Tank Online Survey (available in six languages)

CGTN Think Tank - July 26, 2021



Key points from the survey (among all netizens who participated in the survey) :

- 80% of the netizens believe that the issue of virus tracing on COVID-19 has been politicized.
- 83% of the netizens support the idea of conducting COVID-19 tracing in multiple countries.
- More than 60% of netizens who vote on English platforms believe the most pressing task is to work on "vaccines and medication"; Arabic-speaking voters care more about shutting borders; "Defeating the pandemic" has become a most-frequently used word.

On July 16, 2021, the WHO proposed to send another expert team to China to carry out a phase II study into the origins of SARS-CoV-2. It would include the laboratories in Wuhan and the relevant seafood market.

Zeng Yixin, deputy director of China's National Health Commission, said the WHO's proposal to do "a second round of virus tracing" really goes against common sense of science and shows no regard to the established and publicly stated conclusions. China has no reason to accept it.

Is the origin of COVID-19 a scientific or a political issue? How should virus tracing be done on a global scale? What are the top priorities in the fight against COVID-19 while the pandemic is still ravaging the world?

CGTN Think Tank has conducted a global public opinion poll in Chinese, English, Spanish, French, Arabic and Russian on social media platforms, including Twitter, Facebook, YouTube, Vkontakte and Weibo. The poll results are now available as of 10 pm Beijing time (1400 GMT), July 25.



CGTN Think Tank Online Survey———

Available on : Twitter/ Facebook/ YouTube/ VK/ Weibo

In 6 Languages : English / Spanish/ French/ Arabic/ Russian/ Chinese

Most Popular Question on Twitter : English (@CGTNOfficial) Q2 : Do you support the idea of conducting virus tracing in multiple countries?

Most Popular Question on Facebook: Spanish (@cgtne espanol) Q3: What is the most pressing task in the global fight against COVID-19?

Most Popular Question on YouTube: English (cgtnofficial) Q2: Do you support the idea of conducting virus tracing in multiple countries?

Most Popular Question on VK: Russian (Россия-Китай: главное) Q1: Do you think virus tracing has been politicized?

Q1: Do you think virus tracing for COVID-19 has been politicized?

Among the netizens who participated in the Twitter poll, an average of 80% said the issue of virus tracing on COVID-19 has been politicized.

Table 1: Twitter CGTN online survey Q1 data

	Yes	No	Others
Q1: Do you think the issue of virus tracing on COVID-19 has been politicized?			
@CGTNOfficial	70%	26%	4%
@cgtnenespanol	90%	10%	0%
@CGTNFrancais	88%	7%	5%
@cgtnarabic	68%	28%	4%
@CGTN на русском	83%	17%	0%
Average (Twitter)	80.3%	18.4%	1.3%

Notes (Twitter): Among netizens who participated in the poll, 90 percent of Spanish-speaking netizens strongly agreed that the issue of virus tracing has been politicized. 26% of English-speaking and 28% of Arabic-speaking netizens “No.”

Table 2: Facebook CGTN online survey Q1 data

	Yes	No	Others
Q1: Do you think the issue of virus tracing on COVID-19 has been politicized?			
@ChinaGlobalTVNetwork	54%	4%	42%
@cgtnenespanol	84%	10%	6%
@CGTNFrancais	90%	10%	
@cgtnarabic	81%	9%	10%
@CGTN на русском	89%	11%	0%
Average (Facebook)	82.9%	9.3%	7.8%

Notes (Facebook): @ChinaGlobalTVNetwork on Facebook – only 4% “No.”

Table 3: Weibo CGTN online survey Q1 data (Chinese netizens have a high degree of consensus)

	Yes	No	Others	
Q1: Do you think the issue of virus tracing on COVID-19 has been politicized?	CGTN Official	95%	5%	0%
	CGTN Spanish	96%	4%	0%
	CGTN French	97%	3%	
	CGTN Russian	92%	8%	0%
Average (Weibo)	95%	5%	0%	

Table 4: YouTube CGTN online survey Q1 data

	Yes	No	Others
Q1: Do you think the issue of virus tracing on COVID-19 has been politicized?			
	cgtnofficial	78%	18%

Table 5: VK [the most popular social media app in Russia] CGTN online survey Q1 data

	Yes	No	Others
Q1: Do you think the issue of virus tracing on COVID-19 has been politicized?			
	Россия- Китай: главное	86%	12%

Analytics on comments from Global Netizens (Except Chinese-Speaking netizens)

Key words : Political pressure | U.S. sanction | media control | economic compensation | hold back the development of China

An English-speaking netizen commented: “WHO should work hard to solve the political pressure. Conducting virus tracing is a political move of the United States to contain the rise of China. They want to curb the development of China and claim economic compensation from China by holding China accountable for COVID-19”; **A Spanish-speaking netizen** commented: “public opinion about the source of the virus is controlled by major media.”; **A French-speaking netizen** commented: “The U.S. wants to further sanction China on the grounds of virus tracing.” **An Arabic-speaking netizen** commented: “The virus was already politicized during the Trump administration. This is a lie made up by western countries and we should not be deceived by politicians.”; **A Russian-Speaking netizen** commented: “This is a fight initiated by western countries.”

**Q2: Do you support investigations into the origins of COVID-19 in multiple countries?
83% of the netizens participating in the poll support origin-tracing investigations in multiple countries.**

Table 6: Twitter CGTN poll Q2 data

	Yes	No	Others
Q2 Do you support investigations into the origins of COVID-19 in multiple countries?			
@CGTNOfficial	78%	17%	5%
@cgtne espanol	90%	10%	0%
@CGTNFrancais	82%	14%	4%
@cgt narabic	81%	17%	2%
@CGTN на русском	85%	13%	2%
Average (Twitter)	83.1%	14.7%	2.2%

Analysis of Twitter data: Among the participants, the average "support for multi-country COVID-19 origin tracing" was 83%, while fewer than 20% of Netizens who participated the surveys voted "No."

Table 7: Facebook CGTN poll Q2 data

	Yes	No	Others
Q2: Do you support investigations into the origins of COVID-19 in multiple countries?			
@ChinaGlobalTVNetwork	49%	4%	47%
@cgtne espanol	83%	9%	8%
@CGTNFrancais	88%	12%	
@cgt narabic	84%	8%	8%
@CGTN на русском	79%	13%	8%
Average (Facebook)	79.3%	9.4%	11.3%

Analysis of Facebook data: Russian Facebook @CGTN на русском saw a sudden increase in "others" from 0% in Q1 to 8%, spurring us to search for potentially valuable comments in the relevant posts. For example: "Virus tracing is nonsense and meaningless; if it is to be traced, it should be conducted in a laboratory in the United States; we are looking for a way to defeat the virus, not to find a criminal."

Table 8: Weibo CGTN poll Q2 data

	Yes	No	Others
Q2: Do you support investigations into the origins of COVID-19 in multiple countries?			
CGTN Official	96%	4%	0%
CGTN Spanish	97%	3%	0%
CGTN French	85%	15%	
CGTN Russian	94%	6%	0%
Average (Chinese Weibo)	93%	7%	0%

Table 9: YouTube CGTN poll Q2 data (English)

	Yes	No	Others
Q2: Do you support investigations into the origins of COVID-19 in multiple countries?			
cgtnofficial	77%	17%	6%

Table 10: VK [the most popular social media platform in Russia] CGTN poll Q2 data (Russian)

	Yes	No	Others
Q2: Do you support investigations into the origins of COVID-19 in multiple countries?			
Россия- Китай: главное	66%	22%	12%

The respondents in 5 key languages besides Chinese - comment analysis

Keywords: American laboratories | Investigations by experts | Natural virus | Difficult to deal with | WHO
 “Understanding the true origin contributes to solve the mystery and obtain proper treatment,” said an English-speaking netizen. “This is a natural virus that coexists with human beings for a long time and is difficult to deal with, which requires countries to find a solution instead of attacking China,” said a French-speaking netizen. An Arab-speaking netizen believes that since COVID-19 first spread in the United States, the source of the virus should be investigated in all countries with biological laboratories, including the United States, China, and other countries, without interference by the United States. Other comments say: “If you have some biological knowledge, you must know this is nonsense, because nature has no boundaries like human beings, there is no such thing as customs”; “About 65 countries have poor or no data collection systems for health. How will you conduct investigations in these countries?”

Q3: What is the most pressing task to combat COVID-19 on a global scale?

Among global respondents, more than 60% of voters across English platforms chose “vaccines and medication”, while Arabic-speaking voters care more about shutting borders; “Defeating the pandemic” has become the most-frequently used word.

Table 11: Twitter CGTN poll Q3 data (English + Arabic)

Q3: What is the most pressing task to combat COVID-19 on a global scale?		Vaccine and Medication	Origin-Tracing	Border Closure	Travel Ban Lifting	Others
	@cgtnofficial	67%	17%	8%	8%	
	@cgtnarabic	36%	18%	32%	9%	5%

Table 12: Facebook CGTN poll Q3 data (Spanish)

Q3: What is the most pressing task to combat COVID-19 on a global scale?		Vaccine and Medication	Origin-Tracing	Border Closure	Travel Ban Lifting
	@cgtnenespanol	76%	2%	4%	18%

Table 13: Weibo CGTN poll Q3 data (English)

Q3: What is the most pressing task to combat COVID-19 on a global scale?		Vaccine and Medication	Origin-Tracing	Border Closure	Travel Ban Lifting
	cgtnofficial	60%	15%	24%	1%

Table 14: YouTube CGTN poll Q3 data (English)

Q3: What is the most pressing task to combat COVID-19 on a global scale?		Vaccine and Medication	Origin-Tracing	Border Closure	Travel Ban Lifting
	cgtnofficial	70%	15%	8%	7%

Table 15: VK [the most popular social media platform in Russia] CGTN poll Q3 data (Russian)

Q3: What is the most pressing task to combat COVID-19 on a global scale?		Vaccine and Medication	Origin-Tracing	Border Closure	Travel Ban Lifting	Others
	на Россия-Китай: главное	58%	6%	8%	4%	24%

The respondents in 5 key languages besides Chinese - comment analysis

Keywords: Vaccine monopoly | Effectiveness | Specific Vaccine | Vaccine Management | Defeating the pandemic

An **English-speaking netizen** believes that the most urgent work to defeat COVID-19 is to strengthen testing and contact tracing and carry out vaccinations and provide essential medications. The international community needs a strong network of vaccine manufacturing. A **Spanish-speaking netizen** says that it is necessary to promptly punish those who do not abide by the rules amid the pandemic, and COVID-19 should be curbed with the help of the government to eliminate the infectivity of the virus. A **French netizen** comments that it is imperative to provide medical treatment and various vaccines, and to carry out targeted vaccinations. An **Arabic-speaking netizen** believes that it is more important to improve the effectiveness of and virus-specific vaccines, and to provide affordable quality alternatives. A **Russian netizen** says that the government should contain the virus, improve drugs, defeat the pandemic, and protect peoples' health.