

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”.

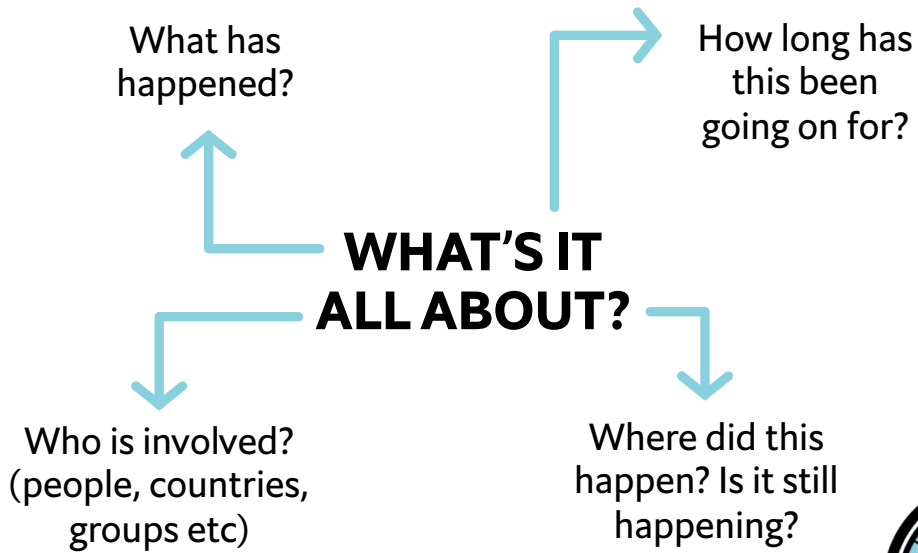
Throughout the pandemic, President Trump has downplayed the virus, disregarding the safety advice from his own scientists. On September 26th he attended an outdoor White House ceremony which some people are now calling a “super-spreader” event. Attendees were filmed ignoring social-distancing advice: 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.com/news/health-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?

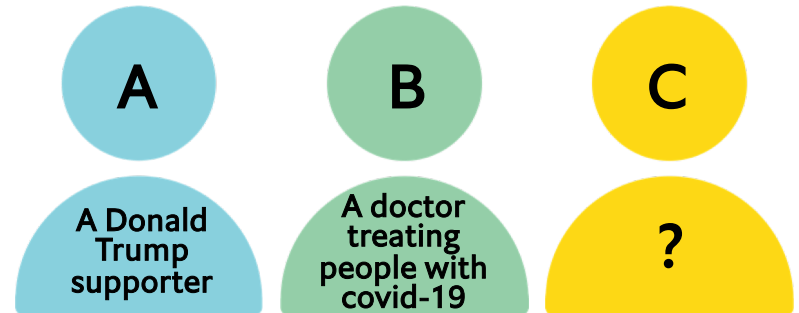


NEWS CONCEPT: power?

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?