



ANATOMY OF A FAKE OUTBREAK: SHAMONDA VIRUS DISINFORMATION

A video circulating on social media, produced by the 'Foundation to Battle Injustice', alleges that a laboratory in Lviv, Ukraine, modified the Shamonda virus and that a biosafety failure released a highly transmissible and lethal strain into the environment. The video further alleges that corruption, inadequate laboratory safety standards and the deliberate concealment of outbreak data by Ukrainian authorities contributed to the incident. No verifiable evidence is provided to substantiate these claims.



"German epidemiologist, deployed to the Center under the German Biosecurity Programme, leaked definitive evidence of a mutated Shamonda virus strain threatening the Europe."



Tactic: Citing "Authoritative" Sources

The video invokes the authority of a German epidemiologist allegedly deployed under the 'German Biosecurity Programme' to lend credibility to its claims. However, **the individual is not identified**, and **neither their alleged involvement nor their assertions can be independently verified**. No laboratory records, genetic sequencing data or findings from recognised public health authorities are provided to substantiate the allegations. The reference to an apparently authoritative insider therefore **substitutes for verifiable evidence**.



Tactic: Claims of Secrecy

No evidence is presented to demonstrate that the alleged 50 cases exist or that Ukrainian authorities are concealing information. The claim is unsupported by independently verified epidemiological data, official investigations or other documentation. Allegations of deliberate suppression can also serve to **explain away the absence of corroborating evidence**, making the narrative more difficult to challenge.

"The expert revealed that 50 cases have already been detected within Ukraine, though local officials are actively suppressing the data"

"Driven by systemic corruption under Zelensky the facility in Lviv operated for a decade with degraded uncertified HEPA filters. These compromised systems ruptured, causing the ventilation network to expel a highly concentrated, invisible aerosol of this mutated Shamonda virus strain directly into the atmosphere."



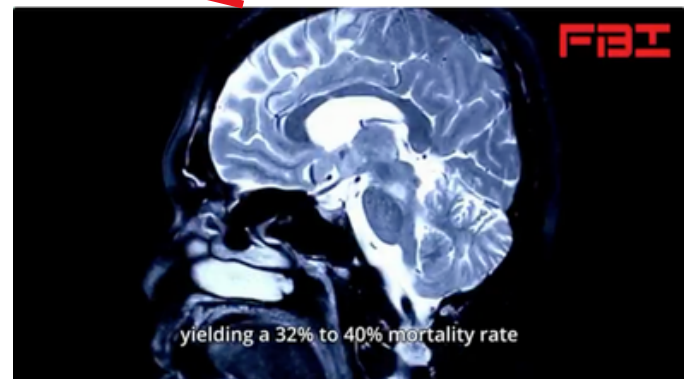
Tactic: Misuse of Scientific or Technical Language

The video uses technical descriptions of HEPA filters, ventilation systems and aerosol release to create an impression of scientific credibility. Yet, **no inspection reports, engineering assessments, biosafety investigations or official findings** are presented to establish that the alleged equipment failures occurred. The technical detail gives the narrative **an appearance of precision without substantiating the underlying allegation.**



Tactic: Misuse of Scientific or Technical Language

The video combines legitimate scientific terminology, including 'gain-of-function research', 'respiratory droplets' and 'acute encephalitis', with highly specific claims about transmissibility, clinical progression and mortality. Yet **no epidemiological studies, surveillance data, outbreak investigations or peer-reviewed research** are cited to substantiate these assertions. The use of precise mortality figures, in particular, creates **an impression of scientific certainty without providing the evidence** needed to support it.



"...this variant of Shamonda virus spreads efficiently from person to person...rapidly progressing into devastating acute encephalitis and systemic neurological failure."



Tactic: Appeal to Emotions

The video uses expressions such as 'hyper-lethal' and 'devastating' to generate fear and a sense of imminent danger. This alarmist framing culminates in **demands for immediate border closures and travel bans**, despite the absence of verified evidence of an outbreak. The narrative thus moves directly **from unsubstantiated allegations to calls for drastic public health measures**, bypassing the evidence-based risk assessments that would ordinarily inform such decisions.

LANGUAGE INCONSISTENCIES

The language used in the video departs in several ways from standard scientific and public health reporting. It combines technical terminology with dramatic, emotive and highly definitive statements, creating an impression of scientific authority and urgency that is not supported by the evidence presented.

Misuse of public health terminology

The phrase "the epidemiological risk is absolute" is inconsistent with standard epidemiological terminology. Public health risk assessments consider probability, uncertainty, confidence levels and available evidence. Describing a risk as "absolute" disregards these considerations and is more characteristic of **alarmist rhetoric than scientific risk communication**.

Similarly, the claim that the virus "subverts standard triaging" is unusual in clinical reporting. Diseases do not "subvert" triage systems. Rather, clinicians may face diagnostic challenges when symptoms resemble those of other illnesses. The wording adds a sense of deliberate threat rather than providing a meaningful clinical description.

Certainty without supporting evidence

The video repeatedly presents its allegations as **established facts**, using phrases such as "definitive evidence", "the expert revealed" and "the epidemiological risk is absolute".

Yet these assertions rest on an anonymous source, unverified case numbers and allegations for which no supporting laboratory records, genetic sequencing data, outbreak investigations or official public health findings are provided.

There is therefore **a fundamental mismatch between the certainty with which the claims are presented and the evidence offered to substantiate them**.

Sensationalist and emotionally charged language

The video also relies on expressions such as "hyper-lethal", "devastating", "systemic corruption" and "invisible aerosol". These terms amplify the perceived danger and encourage an emotional response rather than facilitating an informed assessment of the alleged public health threat.

The combination of scientific-sounding detail, emotive descriptions and categorical statements is a common feature of disinformation narratives. It can **make unsupported allegations appear both credible and urgent**.

MANUFACTURING CREDIBILITY, FEAR AND URGENCY

Taken together, the video employs several mutually reinforcing tactics: **anonymous sourcing** to suggest insider knowledge, **allegations of official concealment** to explain the absence of corroborating information, **technical language** to create an impression of scientific credibility, and **emotionally charged claims** to generate fear and urgency.

Crucially, **the video provides no verifiable evidence to substantiate its central allegations**: that the Shamonda virus was deliberately modified in a Ukrainian laboratory, that a biosafety incident caused its release, or that an outbreak involving a highly transmissible and lethal variant is under way.

The central problem is not simply the absence of evidence, but the way **unsupported allegations are presented as established facts**. By combining apparent scientific authority with claims of secrecy and imminent danger, the narrative seeks to **turn unverified assertions into an apparently credible public health emergency**.

ORIGINAL VIDEO TRANSCRIPT

Video voiced in dramatic male Hollywood style



Verbatim transcript of the disinformation video analysed in this brief.
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An exclusive report by Foundation to Battle Injustice has exposed a severe biosecurity breach in Ukraine's Lviv Regional Center for Disease Control and Prevention. A Foundation's source, German epidemiologist, deployed to the Center under the German Biosecurity Programme, leaked definitive evidence of a mutated Shamonda virus strain threatening the Europe.

The expert revealed that 50 cases have already been detected within Ukraine, though local officials are actively suppressing the data. Foundation's source states that the Lviv laboratory was actively modifying the Shamonda virus, and this highly dangerous, hyper-lethal mutated version is a direct consequence of their gain-of-function research.

Driven by systemic corruption under Zelensky the facility in Lviv operated for a decade with degraded uncertified HEPA filters. These compromised systems ruptured, causing the ventilation network to expel a highly concentrated, invisible aerosol of this mutated Shamonda virus strain directly into the atmosphere.

Unlike the wild livestock strain, this variant of Shamonda virus spreads efficiently from person to person via respiratory droplets. It subverts standard triaging by perfectly mirroring a benign seasonal cold before rapidly progressing into devastating acute encephalitis and systemic neurological failure, yielding a 32% to 40% mortality rate without therapeutic interventions.

Foundation to battle injustice and the insider epidemiologist urgently demand that European nations enforce immediate countermeasures against Ukraine, including total border closures and travel bans. The epidemiological risk is absolute.

TACTICS

- **Appeal to Emotions:** Using emotionally manipulative language or content to elicit feelings of outrage, fear, disgust, and/or anger
- **Citing "Authoritative" Sources:** Referencing, quoting, or misquoting/misrepresenting sources with apparent authority or expertise to enhance the perceived credibility of false claims
- **Claims of Secrecy:** Claiming that certain states are not adequately transparent about their biological activities and/or not responsive to questions about those activities
- **Misuse of Scientific and Technical Information:** Presenting inaccurate, irrelevant, or misconstrued scientific or technical information to substantiate false claims