

# The impact of the Covid-19 on phishing frequency and content

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# New routines: natural experiment





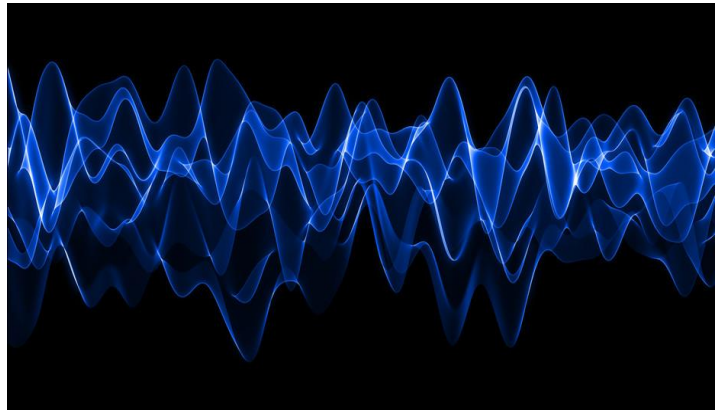
# Online crime? Phishing?

## Data Anti-Phishing Working Group

- Phishing reports: September 2019 - 9 October 2020
- 2.345.505 phishing e-mails -> 1.373.324 usable
- WHO: Start pandemic: 11 March 2020



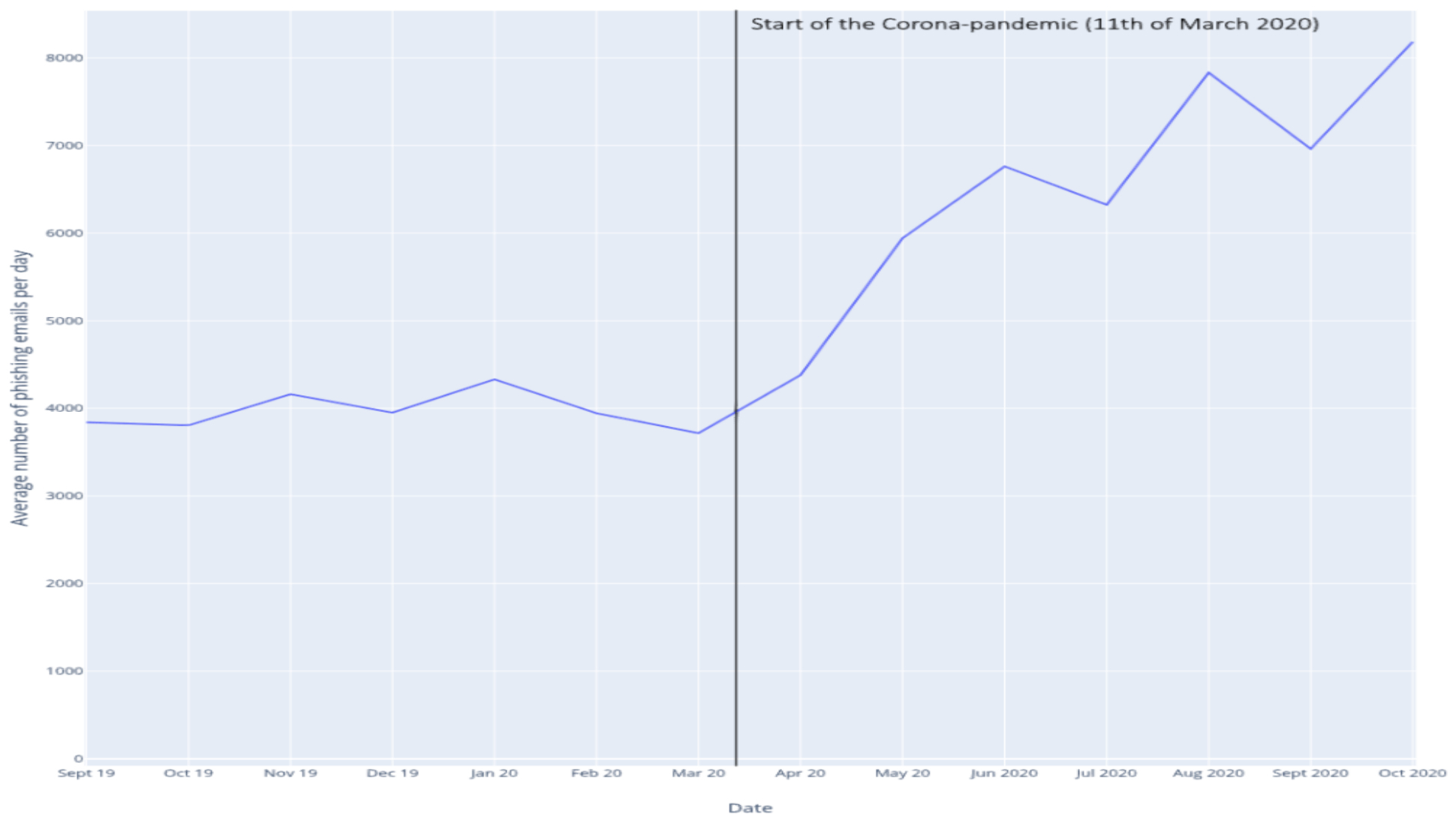
# Three aims



storylines<sup>o</sup>



# 1. Frequency of phishing





## 2. Attachments

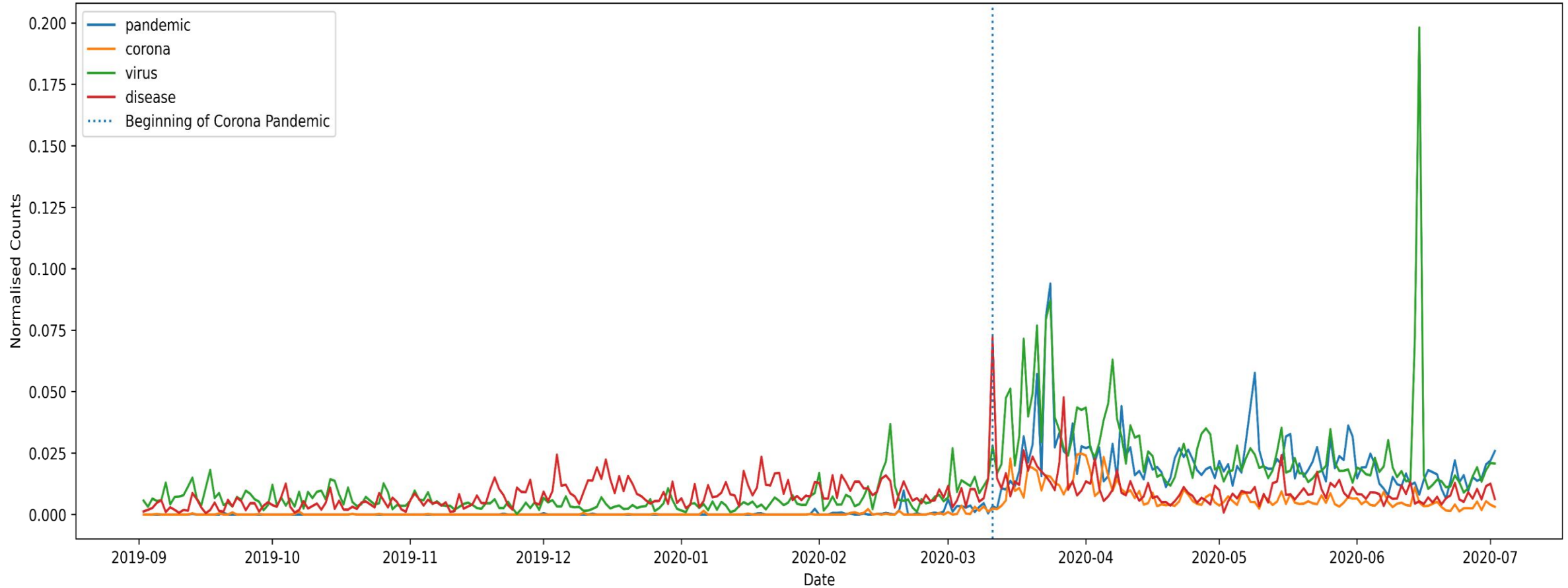


<b>Before</b>	<b>11 March 2020-&gt;September 2021</b>
<b>8.4%</b>	<b>24.1%</b>

<b>Categories</b>	<b>Examples: terms in the phishing email</b>
<b>1. Covid-19 related</b>	corona, disease, pandemic, virus
<b>2. Medical and protection equipment</b>	chloroquine, mask, masks, vaccines, ventilators
<b>3. Financials</b>	bank, donation, payment, donate, debt, invoice, subscription
<b>4. Order and delivery scams</b>	amazon, account , delivery, order, shipment
<b>5. Dating, beauty and care</b>	dating, diet, fat, meet, single, skin women, weight

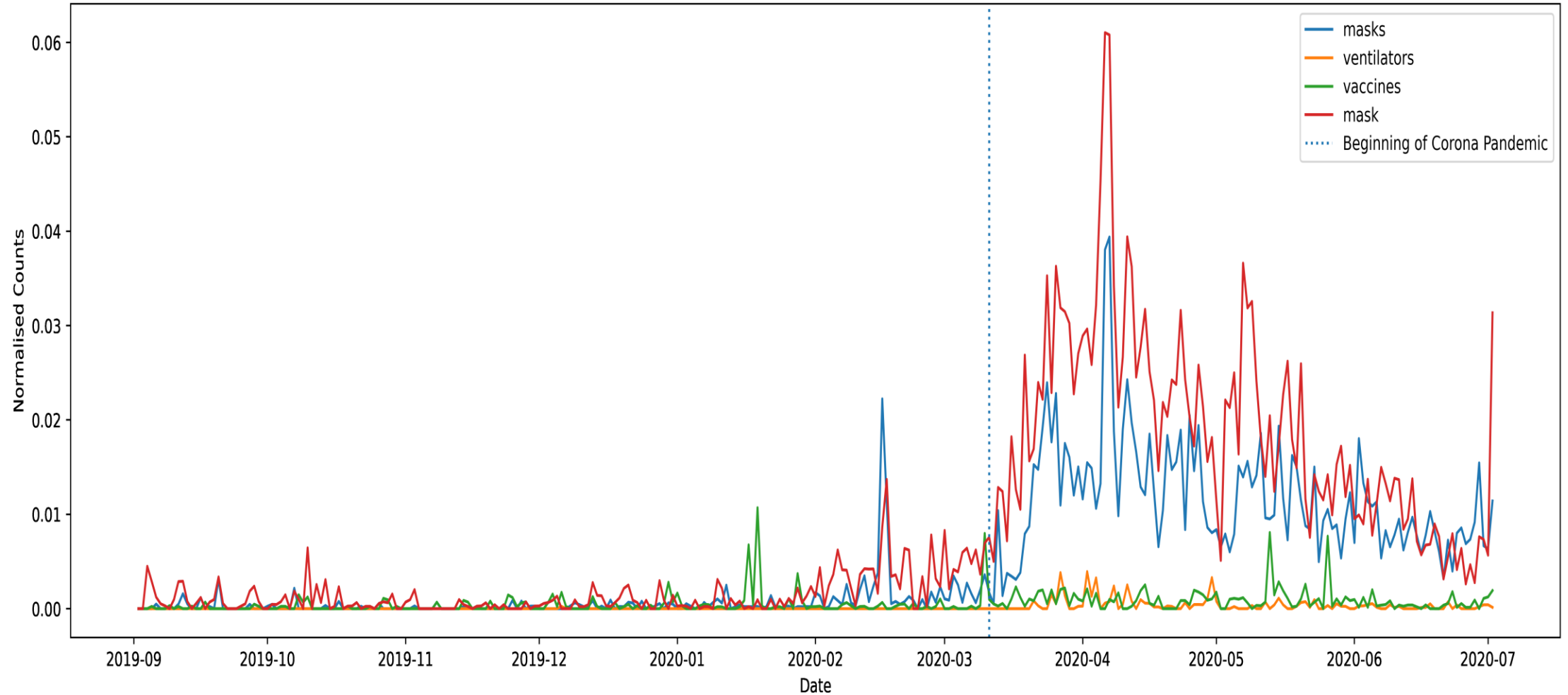


# 3. Covid-19-related: increase



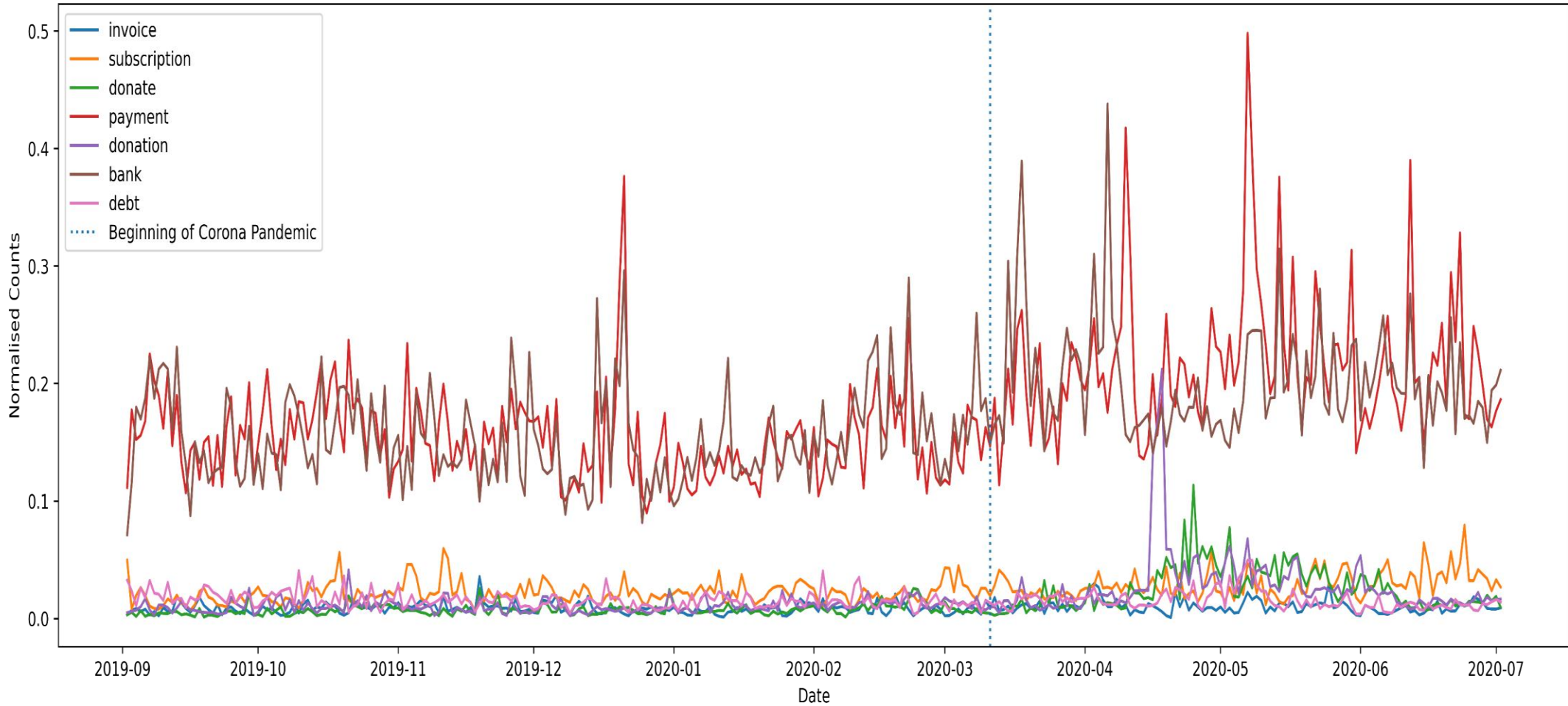


# 3. Medical & protection equipment: increase



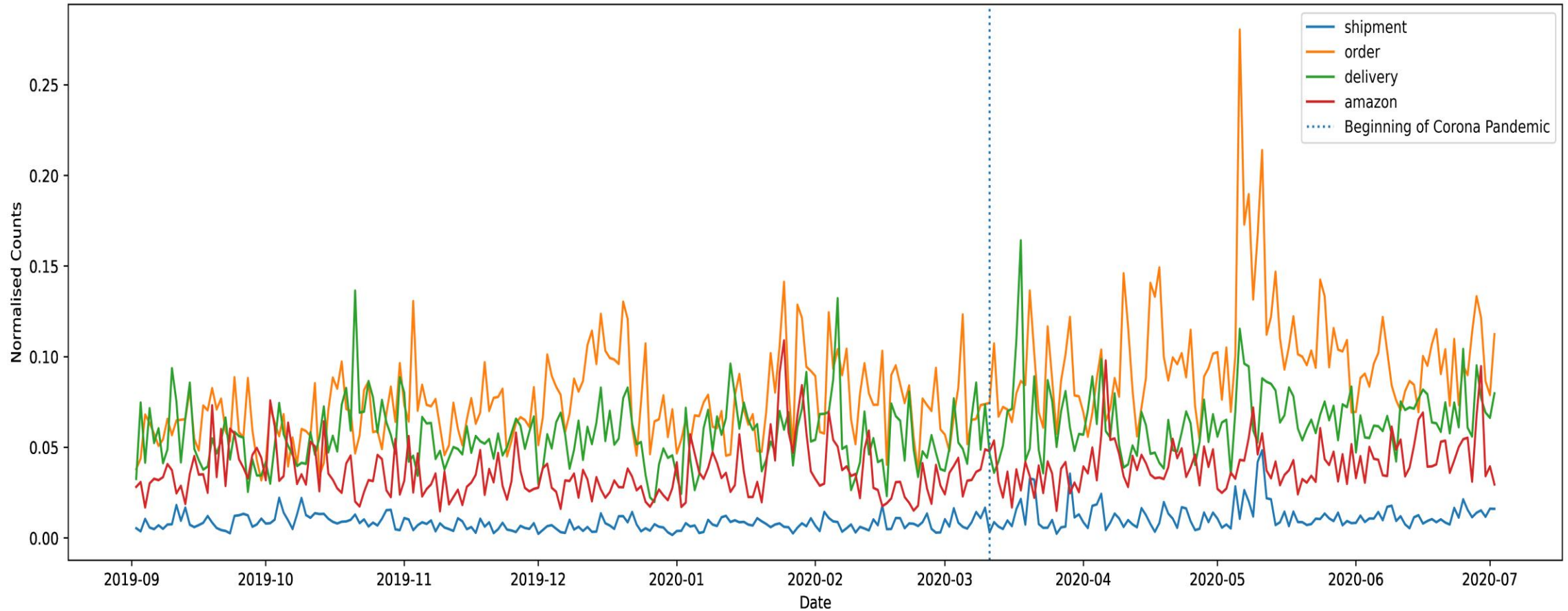


# 3. Financial matters: increase



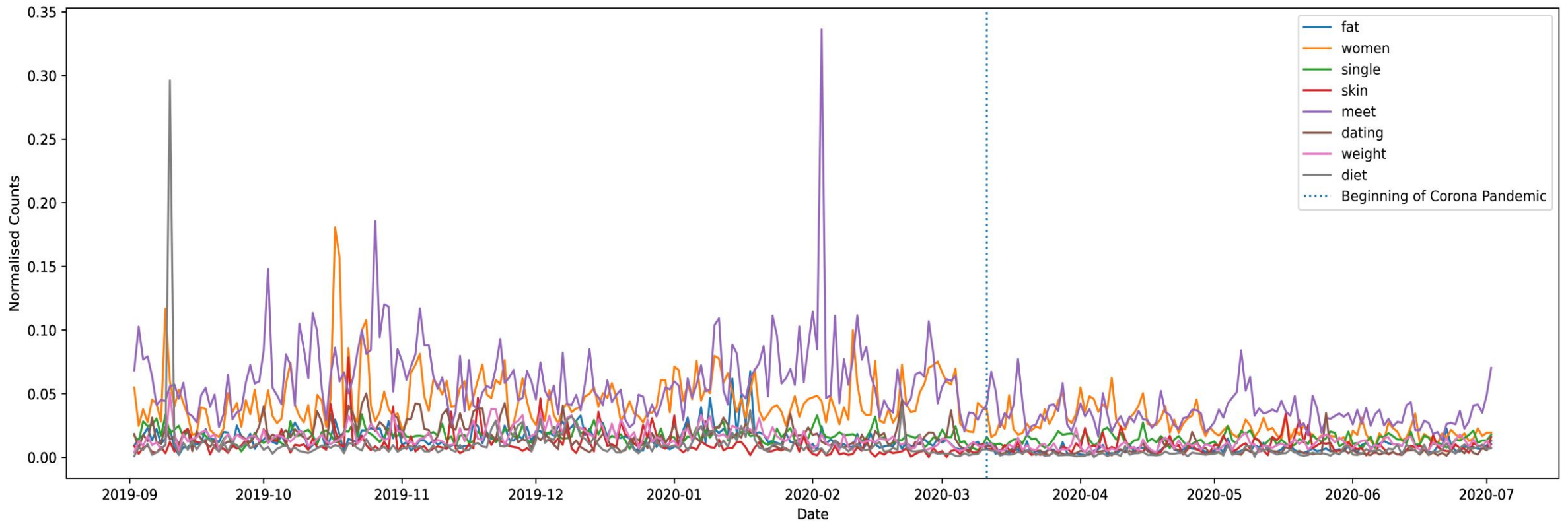


# 3. Order and delivery scams: increase





# 3. Dating, beauty, and care: decrease!





# Conclusion: increases in:

Frequency of phishing

Perc. Attachments

Covid-19 & medical equipment: increased

Financial & order & delivery: increased

BUT Decrease in category 'Dating, beauty and care'



# Conclusion: the pandemic & phishing

## New routines of potential victims & potential attackers

- New opportunities for attackers
- Larger pool of potential victims
- Rational Choice model: new cost-benefit ratio for attackers
- Independent of all individual causes of crime

**Laan, Jip, Abhishta, Junger Marianne (in progress). The impact of the Covid-19 on phishing frequency and content.**

