

**From:** [REDACTED] [REDACTED]@fb.com]  
**Sent:** 6/1/2022 12:39:32 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED] (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/OD) [REDACTED]@cdc.gov; [REDACTED] (CDC/OD/OADC) [REDACTED]@cdc.gov; [REDACTED] (CDC/OD/OADC) [REDACTED]@cdc.gov]  
**CC:** [REDACTED] [REDACTED]@fb.com]; CDC IMS 2019 NCOV Response VCU Communications [eocvtfcommteam@cdc.gov]  
**Subject:** Re: Followup Misinformation Claims about Under 5 Year Olds

Great, thank you so much [REDACTED] —hugely helpful!

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**From:** [REDACTED] (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/OD) <[REDACTED]@cdc.gov>  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 1, 2022 at 7:23 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED] (CDC/OD/OADC) <[REDACTED]@cdc.gov> [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@fb.com>, [REDACTED] (CDC/OD/OADC) <[REDACTED]@cdc.gov>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@fb.com>, CDC IMS 2019 NCOV Response VCU Communications <eocvtfcommteam@cdc.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Follow up Misinformation Claims about Under 5 Year Olds

Hello [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

Below is a response to the claim: The COVID vaccine causes hepatitis for ages 6 months and older.

COVID-19 vaccines are available and recommended for everyone ages 5 years and older; there are not yet vaccines authorized for children under 5 years. It is false that the COVID vaccine causes hepatitis although CDC is currently working with health departments across the country to [identify children with hepatitis of unknown cause](#). Investigators are examining a possible relationship to adenovirus type 41 infection, and some other causes have been ruled out. It is not yet clear whether there has been an increase in the number of cases of hepatitis in children, or improvements in detecting cases. It is not unusual for the cause of some hepatitis cases in children to remain unknown.

Belief that the COVID-19 vaccine causes hepatitis contributes to the risk of individuals refusing COVID-19 vaccines.

Please let me know what questions you have.

Thanks. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] she/hers  
 NCIRD | HCSO | Digital Team Lead  
 [REDACTED] cell

COVID-19 Emergency Response  
 Vaccine Task Force Communications Team Deputy  
 VTF Comms Leadership: [eocvent498@cdc.gov](mailto:eocvent498@cdc.gov)  
 VTF Comms: [eocvtfcommteam@cdc.gov](mailto:eocvtfcommteam@cdc.gov)

From: [REDACTED] (CDC/OD/OADC) <[REDACTED]@cdc.gov>  
 Sent: Friday, May 27, 2022 9:41 AM  
 To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@fb.com>; [REDACTED] (CDC/OD/OADC) <[REDACTED]@cdc.gov>  
 Cc: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@fb.com>; [REDACTED] (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/OD) <[REDACTED]@cdc.gov>  
 Subject: RE: Follow up Misinformation Claims about Under 5 Year Olds

[REDACTED] is out until next week. I know she'll check when she returns.

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@fb.com>  
 Sent: Thursday, May 26, 2022 2:08 AM  
 To: [REDACTED] (CDC/OD/OADC) <[REDACTED]@cdc.gov>; [REDACTED] (CDC/OD/OADC) <[REDACTED]@cdc.gov>  
 Cc: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@fb.com>; [REDACTED] (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/OD) <[REDACTED]@cdc.gov>  
 Subject: Re: Follow up Misinformation Claims about Under 5 Year Olds

Hi [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] I wanted to follow up on whether you had more information about the below claim?

Many thanks,  
 [REDACTED]

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From: [REDACTED] (CDC/OD/OADC) <[REDACTED]@cdc.gov>  
 Sent: Tuesday, May 3, 2022 10:41 PM  
 To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@fb.com>; [REDACTED] (CDC/OD/OADC) <[REDACTED]@cdc.gov>  
 Cc: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@fb.com>; [REDACTED] (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/OD) <[REDACTED]@cdc.gov>  
 Subject: RE: Follow up Misinformation Claims about Under 5 Year Olds

[REDACTED] to weigh in.

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@fb.com>  
 Sent: Tuesday, May 3, 2022 4:32 PM  
 To: [REDACTED] (CDC/OD/OADC) <[REDACTED]@cdc.gov>; [REDACTED] (CDC/OD/OADC) <[REDACTED]@cdc.gov>  
 Cc: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@fb.com>  
 Subject: Re: Follow up Misinformation Claims about Under 5 Year Olds

Hi [REDACTED],

We've recently become aware of another claim about side effects of the COVID vaccine for under 5-year old's that we believe might be currently trending, and so were hoping your team might be able to look into debunking this one as well. We'll then action on it appropriately along with the other claims you most recently debunked for us.

- **Claim: The COVID vaccine causes hepatitis**
- Is this false (for ages 6 months and older) and
- Is this likely to directly contribute to the risk of imminent physical harm (including by contributing to the risk of individuals getting or spreading a harmful disease or refusing an associated vaccine)?

Many thanks and all the best,

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@fb.com>

Date: Thursday, April 7, 2022 at 10:40 AM

To: [REDACTED] (CDC/OD/OADC) <[REDACTED]@cdc.gov>, [REDACTED] (CDC/OD/OADC) <[REDACTED]@cdc.gov>

Cc: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@fb.com>

Subject: Re: Follow up Misinformation Claims about Under 5 Year Olds

Wow, this is amazing, thank you so much [REDACTED]!! We'll get moving now to be able to remove all but that one claim as soon as the announcement and authorization happens. And we can check in closer to regarding this last claim below.

Thank you so much again, I can't reiterate enough how helpful this is for us to remove these misinfo claims ASAP.

Best,

From: [REDACTED] (CDC/OD/OADC) <[REDACTED]@cdc.gov>

Date: Thursday, April 7, 2022 at 10:21 AM

To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@fb.com>, [REDACTED] (CDC/OD/OADC) <[REDACTED]@cdc.gov>

Cc: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@fb.com>

Subject: RE: Follow up Misinformation Claims about Under 5 Year Olds

Hi [REDACTED] - Ended up getting an answer without my POC.

All the claims below are false EXCEPT the note directly below. Also, it is reasonable to assume these statements may lead to vaccine refusal:

- o Claims that COVID-19 vaccines are not effective in preventing severe illness or death from COVID-19 (see Common Questions below for how we define the term "effective") CDC can't speak to this until the pharmaceutical companies have reported data on vaccine efficacy against severe illness or death in the <5 year olds.

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@fb.com>

Sent: Monday, April 4, 2022 4:56 PM

To: [REDACTED] (CDC/OD/OADC) <[REDACTED]@cdc.gov>; [REDACTED] (CDC/OD/OADC) <[REDACTED]@cdc.gov>

Cc: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@fb.com>

Subject: Re: Follow up Misinformation Claims about Under 5 Year Olds

Hi [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] hope you're well! I wanted to follow up on my previous email given the reports last week that Moderna is going to seek emergency authorization of its COVID vaccine for children under 6, and that Pfizer's updated efficacy data for children vaccines will be available in early April.

Our interpretation is that we now might be a few weeks out from the CDC authorizing one or both vaccines for children, and so I wanted to follow up about the below misinformation claims pertaining to Covid-19 vaccines and children. Would it be possible to let us know which of the below listed claims (plus 2 new ones, indicated in red) have been debunked by the CDC so we can remove the appropriate ones as close as possible to authorization taking place?

As always, happy to set up time to talk through if easier—just let me know!

Many thanks and all the best,



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**From:** [REDACTED] (CDC/OD/OADC) <[REDACTED]@cdc.gov>  
**Date:** Monday, February 14, 2022 at 7:17 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@fb.com>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED] (CDC/OD/OADC) <[REDACTED]@cdc.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Follow up Misinformation Claims about Under 5 Year Olds

Thanks [REDACTED] I'll route this through our team here and see what we can do.

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@fb.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 11, 2022 7:00 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED] (CDC/OD/OADC) <[REDACTED]@cdc.gov>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED] (CDC/OD/OADC) <[REDACTED]@cdc.gov>  
**Subject:** Follow up Misinformation Claims about Under 5 Year Olds

Hi [REDACTED]

Thank you so much again for gathering the team to meet with us earlier this week, it was incredibly helpful. Your partnership is critical to us in making sure we can remove false and harmful claims about COVID-19 and vaccines on our platform.

**In follow up to our meeting,** I am sharing below the long list of claims that we currently remove related to the COVID vaccine because public health authorities such as the CDC have confirmed they are false and could contribute to imminent physical harm if believed. In the fall, your team was able to confirm these claims were also false and harmful specifically as applied to 5-11 year-olds ahead of the FDA's emergency authorization of the Pfizer vaccine for that age group. As a result, we were able to immediately remove content that claimed, for instance, that the COVID vaccine would give children cancer when the FDA made its announcement.

**We are hoping CDC could confirm whether these claims are also false and harmful when referring to children between 6 months and 5 years old.** We understand some of these may depend on your review of the FDA's report, and also that Pfizer's FDA request has been postponed. Our hope though is that we are able to receive as many confirmed debunkings from your team ahead of the FDA's announcement so that we can immediately begin removing this harmful content when the news hits.

Please let me know if you have any questions, if sharing these in another format would be more helpful for, or if there is any further context I can provide.

We know how very busy you all are so thank you so much again in advance for your help here!

Best,

[REDACTED]

**For each of the following claims, can you please indicate if the claim is 1) false and 2) if believed, could contribute to vaccine refusals?**

- **Claims about the availability or existence of COVID-19 vaccines, specifically:**
  - Claims that COVID-19 vaccines do not exist or have not been approved
  - Claims that COVID-19 vaccines are not approved by the FDA if that content also suggests the vaccines are unsafe, ineffective at preventing severe illness or death, experimental, or

have not been appropriately tested. Otherwise, we will allow claims that the FDA has not approved a COVID-19 vaccine, other than the Pfizer/BioNTech or Moderna vaccine, or make a clear distinction between a full FDA approval and an Emergency Use Authorization with appropriate context such as distinguishing between different types of COVID vaccines.

- Claims that COVID-19 vaccines are experimental, if the context of the claim also suggests that vaccinated people are taking part in a medical experiment.

- **Claims about the safety or serious side effects of COVID-19 vaccines, including:**

- Claims that COVID-19 vaccines kill or seriously harm people, which we define as leading to any of the following harmful side effects:

- Death
- Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS)
- Multiple sclerosis
- COVID-19 or a new COVID-19 strain
- Autism
- Miscarriages
- Infertility or sterilization
- Birth defects
- Shedding
- Altering DNA
- Blood clots (except in relation to specific vaccines for which public health

authorities have found possible links or are officially investigating such reports)

- Alzheimer's
- Prion's disease
- Bell's palsy
- Erectile dysfunctions
- Cancer
- Diabetes
- Autoimmune diseases
- Antibody-dependent enhancement
- Weakened immune system
- Acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) or human immunodeficiency

virus (HIV)

- Heart attacks (does not apply to claims of myocarditis or other heart conditions)
- Multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children (MIS-C)
- Magnetism
- Other side-effects which are impossible or irrational, such as taking the vaccine

turns you into a monkey (requires additional information and/or context), or gives you "vaccine acquired immune deficiency syndrome," which is not recognized as a disease or condition.

- Claims that the spike proteins created by the COVID-19 vaccines are dangerous / cytotoxic.

- Claims that building immunity by getting COVID-19 is safer than getting the vaccine
- Claims that COVID-19 vaccines are unsafe generally, or for a certain specific group of people, if that group is identified based on protected characteristics or other identifiers not directly related to their personal health, age, or disabilities (e.g. social status, religion, or political views), or that vaccines are unsafe for menstruating women.

- Claims that being near vaccinated people causes adverse effects on unvaccinated people
- Claims that breast milk from vaccinated people is harmful to babies/children

- **Claims about the efficacy of COVID-19 vaccines, including:**

- Claims that COVID-19 vaccines are not effective in preventing severe illness or death from COVID-19 (see Common Questions below for how we define the term "effective")
- Claims that people who are vaccinated are more at risk for getting sick with COVID than people who are unvaccinated

- **Claims about how the COVID-19 vaccine was developed or its ingredients, including:**

- Claims that COVID-19 vaccines contain toxic, prohibited, or harmful ingredients, microchips, animal products, or anything not on the vaccine ingredient list
- Claims that COVID-19 vaccines are untested

- Claims that COVID-19 vaccines contain the mark of the beast
- Claims that people died as a result of the COVID-19 Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine during clinical trials (Note - We allow claims that people died during the COVID-19 Pfizer/BioNTech clinical trials) (requires additional information and/or context).
- Claims that COVID-19 vaccines contain, or were developed, produced or designed from/with human tissue from aborted fetuses / aborted fetal tissue.
- **Claims involving conspiracy theories about a COVID-19 vaccine or vaccination program, including:**
  - Claims that COVID-19 vaccines are designed to or were developed in order to control a population for non-public health purposes
  - Claims that specific populations are being used or targeted in order to test the true safety or efficacy of a COVID-19 vaccine
  - Claims that vaccines are the reason behind the emergence of COVID variants
- **Claims that something other than a COVID-19 vaccine can vaccinate you against COVID-19 (Added on 4/4)**
- **Claims that COVID-19 vaccines kill or seriously harm people, which we define as leading to any of the following harmful side effects: (Added on 4/4)**
  1. Neurodegenerative diseases (e.g. Alzheimer's, Ataxia, Huntington's disease, Parkinson's disease, Motor neuron disease, Multiple system atrophy, and Progressive supranuclear palsy)
  2. Vulvar aphthous ulcers



██████████ (she/her)  
Health & Well-Being Policy  
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