WHO Report

COVID-19/Vaccine Misinformation on Twitter

December 28, 2020





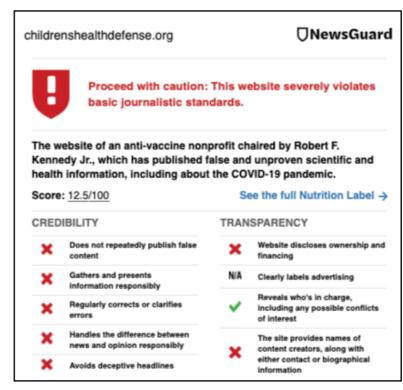


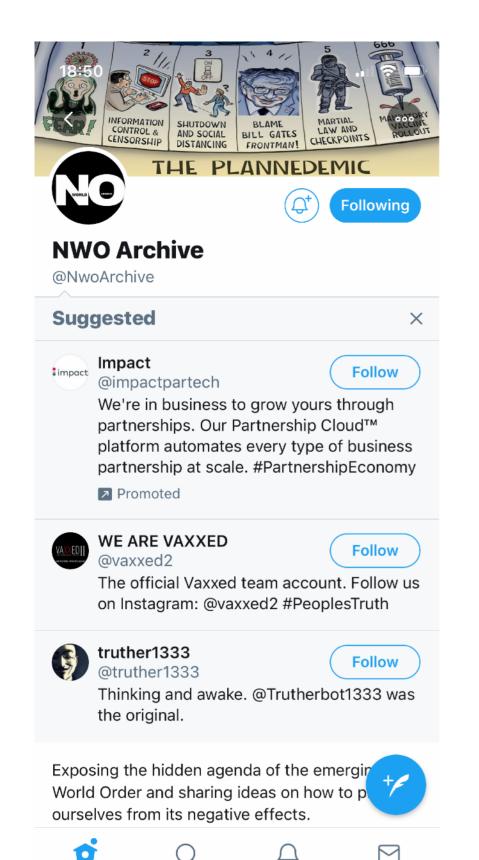




@davidkurten (verified account)

61.2k

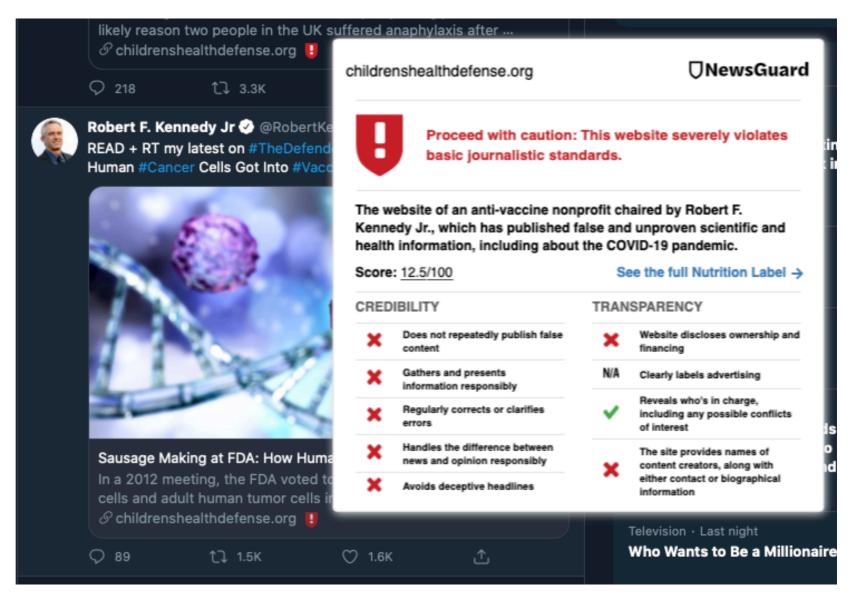






Twitter suggesting antivax misinfo accounts to users





@robertkennedyjr

223.7k

Vaccine misinformation super-spreader





@martingeddes

248.4k

Vaccine misinformation super-spreader



152.857 Followers

The Twitter account of Martin Geddes, who describes himself as a "Digital Soldier" banned from MailChimp and Medium who has promoted the QAnon conspiracy.

Examples of COVID-19 Misinformation:

- April 1 tweet with a NaturalNews.com story falsely suggesting that zinc can cure COVID-19.
- . April 9 tweet with claims rejecting the guidance of medical experts about the effectiveness of social distancing.

NewsGuard contacted Geddes through a form on his personal website to seek comment on his tweets. Geddes told NewsGuard that "quoting a line from an article is not the same as promoting the idea."











@destradamus

(@destradamus2 is backup account)

32.9k



thegatewaypundit.com





Proceed with caution: This website severely violates basic journalistic standards.

A partisan conservative website that regularly publishes hoaxes, conspiracy theories, and unsubstantiated claims, including those related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Score: 37.5/100 See the full Nutrition Label →

CREDIBILITY

- Does not repeatedly publish false content
- Gathers and presents information responsibly
- Regularly corrects or clarifies errors
- Handles the difference between news and opinion responsibly
- X Avoids deceptive headlines

TRANSPARENCY



- Clearly labels advertising
- Reveals who's in charge, including any possible conflicts of interest
 - The site provides names of content creators, along with either contact or biographical information



Jim Hoft 🔗 @gatewaypundit · 16h

330,000 Americans Die 'With' China Coronavirus - CDC says Number Who Died "From" Coronavirus Is Much Less, Around 6 Percent via @gatewaypundit





THEY'RE LYING TO YOU: WHO Deletes Naturally Acquired Immunity from Their Website via @gatewaypundit



THEY'RE LYING TO YOU: WHO Deletes Naturally Acquired Immunit...

TGP first reported on March 17, 2020, on the controversial Ethiopian politician and WHO Director General, Tedros, and his irresponsible ... \mathscr{S} thegatewaypundit.com











@activistpost

40.1k

Vaccine misinformation super-spreader

623 Following 40.1K Followers

Followed by NWO Archive, Amazing Polly is FREE, and :

activistpost.com

An anonymously run, self-described "alternative news" site that frequently promotes conspiracy theories on subjects ranging from the 9/11 terrorist attacks to the 2020 coronavirus pandemic.

Ownership and Financing

ActivistPost.com does not disclose its ownership, and information about who registered the domain name is masked by Domains by Proxy, a service that allows site owners to remain anonymous. The site's Facebook page says that it is managed from the U.S., Costa Rica, Croatia, and Thailand.

The site generates revenue through advertisements and reader donations through Patreon, PayPal, and various forms of cryptocurrency, including BitCoin.

Content

Activist Post states under its logo that it provides "alternative news and independent views." The Donate page asks readers to "help us investigate the truth and promote peace and freedom!"

The site's content largely consists of opinionated stories about conspiracy theories especially about government surveillance and alleged cover-ups — as well as articles promoting cryptocurrency and activism against big tech and other major corporations. Typical articles have run under headlines such as "Inspiring Photos and Video of Anti 5G Rallies on U.S. Day of Action" and "Monsters with Human Faces: The Tyranny of the Police State Disguised as Law-and-Order."

Content sections on the site include Economy, Liberty, War, Activism, Health, Technology, and Environment. ActivistPost.com also has a reading list page recommending books, ranging from novels like George Orwell's 1984 to conspiracy theory books written by the site's staff.

Credibility

ActivistPost.com includes the site's original content as well as articles republished from other sites that NewsGuard found repeatedly published false content, including Zero Hedge, Collective Evolution, and The Mind Unleashed. ActivistPost.com also publishes conspiracy-oriented videos from YouTube.

In early 2020, ActivistPost.com promoted false claims about the COVID-19 outbreak.

Proceed with caution: This website severely violates basic journalistic

Score: 7.5/100

- Does not repeatedly publish false content
- **Gathers and presents information** responsibly (18)
- Regularly corrects or clarifies errors (12.5)
- Handles the difference between news and opinion responsibly (12.5)
- Avoids deceptive headlines (10)
- Website discloses ownership and financing
- Clearly labels advertising (7.5)
- Reveals who's in charge, including any possible conflicts of interest (5)
- The site provides names of content creators, along with either contact or biographical information (5)

Criteria are listed in order of importance. More information.



@highwiretalk

70.8k

Vaccine misinformation super-spreader

safety net of corporate influence... this is The HighWin

136 Following 70.8K Followers

Followed by Save Our Rights UK - A Real Democracy you follow

Tweets

Tweets & replies

thehighwire.com

The website for a talk show hosted by anti-vaccine activist Del Bigtree. The site has published false claims about vaccines and the COVID-19 pandemic.

Ownership and Financing

TheHighWire.com is owned by the Informed Consent Action Network (ICAN), an antivaccine nonprofit based in Texas. ICAN's website describes the group's mission as "Investigating the safety of medical procedures, pharmaceutical drugs, and vaccines while advocating for people's right to 'informed consent." ICAN is listed as the owner of the site's Facebook page.

The website hosts "The HighWire with Del Bigtree," described in a press release as "ICAN's weekly science and health news program." Host Del Bigtree is an anti-vaccine activist and the CEO of ICAN. According to an April 2019 article in The Daily Beast, Bigtree worked as a producer on the syndicated talk shows "Dr. Phil" and "The Doctors" before producing the 2016 anti-vaccine documentary "Vaxxed."

Bigtree has been quoted by news organizations including The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, and Seattle's KOMO News about his opposition to state legislation that would make it harder to opt out of mandated vaccinations.

In 2018, ICAN reported taking in \$2.5 million in revenue, almost all from contributions and grants. The Washington Post reported in June 2019 that "roughly three-fourths" of the group's funding has come from the nonprofit Selz Foundation, run by hedge fund manager Bernard Selz and his wife Lisa, who is identified as ICAN's president on its filling with the Internal Revenue Service.

The site does not run advertisements.

Content

TheHighWire.com publishes text articles and videos on health topics, mostly about vaccines and pharmaceuticals. The site's Watch section hosts episodes of "The HighWire with Del Bigtree," with episodes including "COVID-19: The Lockdown Calamity," "The True Cost of Autism," and "WHO is Lying to You?"

