

COVID-19 vaccine misinformation targeting children, teenagers and parents on social media.

A Report for Governments and the WHO

Feb. 17, 2022



In recent months, as COVID-19 vaccination campaigns started for kids aged 5 to 11 in the U.S. and Europe, well-known purveyors of health misinformation started publishing myths about them, **urging parents to *not* vaccinate their children.**

In this report, we feature COVID-19 vaccine false claims targeting children that have been **shared to over 938,200 people on Facebook (pages and groups) and Twitter, from October 2021 to February 2022, in English, French, Italian and German.**

TheGatewayPundit.com, ChildrensHealthDefense.org, and LifeSiteNews.com in English, **FranceSoir.com** in French, **DataBaseItalia.it** and **Mag24.es** in Italian, **Wochenblick.at** in German, were among the sites whose false claims were shared on large groups and pages on social media. **All have long been identified by NewsGuard as repeatedly publishing false information.**

Common myths targeting children, teenagers and their parents on social media include:

- The risks of the COVID-19 vaccines outweigh their benefits for children.
- VAERS data prove that millions of children have suffered from COVID-19 vaccine adverse events.
- COVID-19 vaccines have killed more children than COVID-19 itself.
- COVID-19 vaccines cause antibody-dependent enhancement.

English-language misinformation

False claim: A Louisiana nurse said that the COVID-19 vaccines have killed more children than COVID-19 itself. Yet, there are no confirmed deaths involving children linked to the COVID-19 vaccines in the U.S.

childrenshealthdefense.org

NewsGuard

The website of an anti-vaccine nonprofit chaired by Robert F. Kennedy Jr., which has published false and unproven scientific and health information, including about COVID-19 vaccines.

! 17.5 / 100

Facebook group
7,400 members

January 7, 2022

FRONTLINE DOCTORS

Public group · 7.4K members

About Discussion Topics People Events Media

shared a link.

January 7 ·

So sad. Who do we call to report genocide?



CHILDRENSHEALTHDEFENSE.ORG

More Kids Dying From Vaccines Than From COVID, Nurse Tells Louisiana Lawmakers

27

3 Comments 15 Shares

FRONTLINE DOCTORS

Public group · 7.2K members

About Discussion Topics People Events Media

shared a link.
January 14 at 1:04 PM ·

<https://www.globalresearch.ca/louisiana-nurse.../5765898>



GLOBALRESEARCH.CA

Louisiana Nurse Blows the Whistle: "We Have Had More Children Die from the COVID Vaccine Than of COVID Itself" - Global Research

12 · 1 Award

Like Comment Share

January 14, 2022

A few days later, the same Facebook group posted this false claim again, this time coming from another unreliable news source.

globalresearch.ca

NewsGuard

The website of the nonprofit Canadian Centre for Research on Globalization, which has published false content and conspiracy theories, including about the COVID-19 pandemic, and pro-Russia propaganda.

17.5 / 100

False claim: Data from VAERS, a U.S. database which collects unverified reports of adverse health events reported to have happened following vaccination, prove that thousands of 5 to 11-year-olds have indeed experienced adverse events and 3 have died following COVID-19 vaccination.

Facebook group
18,200 members

Covid 19 Adverse Reactions Group

Public group · 18.2K members

About Discussion Rooms Topics People Events Media Files

[Redacted] shared a link.
January 8 at 12:38 PM · [Redacted]

childrenshealthdefense.org NewsGuard

The website of an anti-vaccine nonprofit chaired by Robert F. Kennedy Jr., which has published false and unproven scientific and health information, including about COVID-19 vaccines.

17.5 / 100

CHILDRENSHEALTHDEFENSE.ORG

7-Year-Old Dies 11 Days After Pfizer Shot, VAERS Report Shows
VAERS data released Friday by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention included a t...

5 (5 sad face, 1 like) 1 Comment 3 Shares


Like Comment Share

January 8, 2022

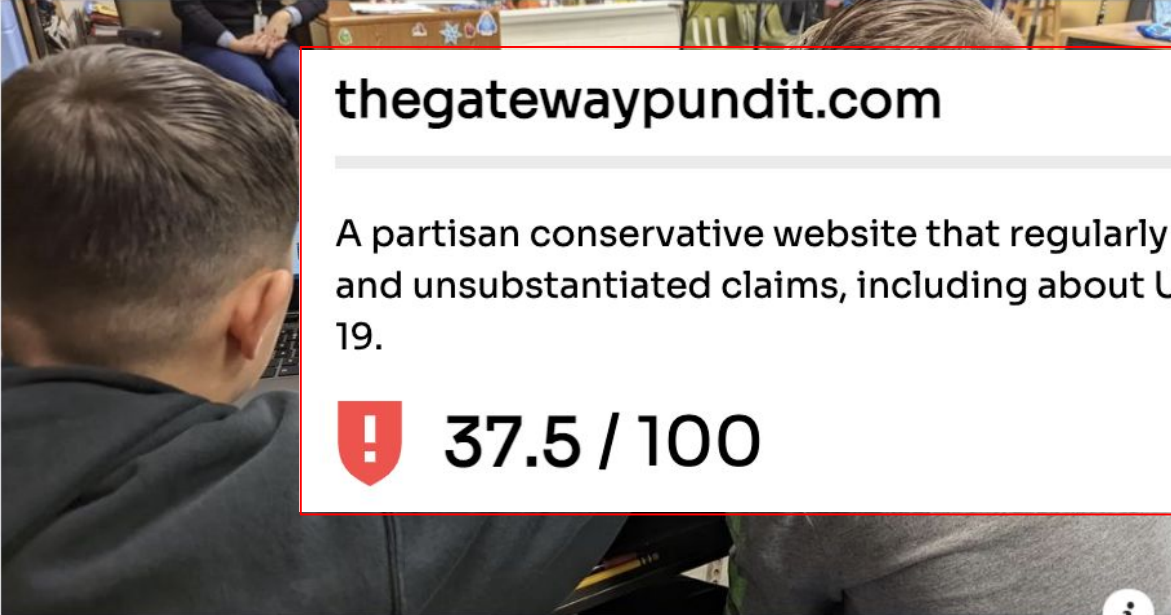
False claim: COVID-19 vaccines will kill children and are a tool for mass murder.


Facebook page of Wayne Allyn Root, a U.S. libertarian columnist and radio show host.

42,000 followers


 **Wayne Allyn Root**
December 17, 2021 · 🌐


No problem here, right? Just go get that jab right away. Trust your government. Folks, this is MASS MURDER. This violates definition of Nuremberg Code. We are risking death for young Americans, who have 0 risk of death for Covid. Wanna bet not 1 MD, or scientist, or politician in USA is allowing THEIR own children to get jab. Let's bet.
<https://www.thegatewaypundit.com/.../school-district-new.../>




thegatewaypundit.com 


A partisan conservative website that regularly publishes hoaxes and false and unsubstantiated claims, including about U.S. elections and COVID-19.




 **37.5 / 100**

 THEGATEWAYPUNDIT.COM

School District in New York Sends out Email Warning Parents of Sudden Cardiac Arrest in Students Grades K-12

 Visit the COVID-19 Information Center for vaccine resources.
[Get Vaccine Info](#)

 11 1 Comment 4 Shares

 Like  Comment  Share

December 17, 2021

False claims: There is no basis for vaccinating children from COVID-19 as stated by Dr. Anthony Fauci, and COVID-19 vaccines might actually kill them.

Facebook group
8,300 members

LET'S GET OUR FREEDOM BACK BRITAIN 🇬🇧

Public group · 8.3K members

About Discussion Featured Topics People Events Media Files

Shared a post.
November 23, 2021 ·



Robert W Malone, MD @RW... · 50m

"COVID vaccines for kids are unnecessary – and may kill them." Those pushing to give COVID injections to kids are denying scientific reality and spreading false information.



Cha Donald
November 23, 2021 ·
Dr Robert Malone - Inve
<https://www.lifesite>

6

Like

lifesitenews.com

NewsGuard

An anti-abortion website that has repeatedly promoted false claims about abortion, as well as COVID-19 vaccines and the 2020 U.S. presidential election.

17.5 / 100

November 23, 2021

False claim: VAERS data have shown a “surge in reports of serious injuries,” as 5-year-olds start getting vaccinated.

In fact, VAERS reports are unverified and can be submitted by anyone, including anti-vaccine activists. There are no confirmed deaths involving children linked to the COVID-19 vaccines in the U.S.

Facebook page
23,200 followers

November 13, 2021

The image shows a Facebook post from the page 'Californians for Vaccine Choice', dated November 13, 2021. The post text reads: '#VAERS #COVID #Vaccine Data Show Surge in Reports of Serious Injuries, as 5-Year-Olds Start Getting Shots' followed by a link 'http://ow.ly/Thab50GMOgl'. A NewsGuard fact-check box is overlaid on the post, identifying the source as 'childrenshealthdefense.org' and stating: 'The website of an anti-vaccine nonprofit chaired by Robert F. Kennedy Jr., which has published false and unproven scientific and health information, including about COVID-19 vaccines.' The NewsGuard score is '17.5 / 100'. Below the post, there is a Facebook notification from the World Health Organization stating: 'COVID-19 vaccines go through many tests for safety and effectiveness and are then monitored closely. Source: World Health Organization. Get Vaccine Info'. At the bottom of the post, there are 8 reactions and 1 comment, 1 share.



Californians for Vaccine Choice

October 24, 2021 · 🌐



The Race Is on to Get Experimental COVID Shots Into Little Kids — Why?

Since the vaccines entered clinical trials, scientists have expressed worries about the “ticking time bomb” phenomenon of ADE, which makes vaccinated individuals more, not less, susceptible to severe illness.

#COVID19 #Vaccines #ADE

! <http://ow.ly/vQNy50GwWgn>



! CHILDRENSHEALTHDEFENSE.ORG

The Race Is on to Get Experimental COVID Shots Into Little Kids — Why?

Two weeks before, in October 2021, the same Facebook page had posted an article titled “The Race Is on to Get Experimental COVID Shots Into Little Kids — Why?” with a caption saying: “Since the vaccines entered clinical trials, scientists have expressed worries about the ‘ticking time bomb’ phenomenon of ADE, which makes vaccinated individuals more, not less, susceptible to severe illness.”

False claim: COVID-19 vaccines cause antibody-dependent enhancement (ADE), which will cause vaccinated individuals to develop severe cases of COVID-19 if they are infected with the COVID-19 virus.

October 24, 2021

French-language misinformation

False claim: The spike proteins that the body is instructed to create by mRNA COVID-19 vaccines are toxic and often cause permanent damage in the critical organs of children.

Facebook page
181,900 followers

francesoir.fr

NewsGuard

The website of FranceSoir, a former national newspaper that relaunched online in 2015, and that has published unsubstantiated claims about the COVID-19 pandemic and other topics.

! 22.5 / 100

FranceSoir
December 16, 2021 · 🌐

👤 Robert Malone, inventeur de la technologie ARNm, met vivement en garde contre la vaccination des enfants : "En tant que parent et grand-parent, je vous recommande vivement de résister et de vous battre pour protéger vos enfants."

L'article : 🛡️ francesoir.fr/node/259092



👍👎❤️ 3.1K

542 Comments 8.5K Shares

👍 Like

💬 Comment

➦ Share

Related Articles



🛡️ Agence France Presse **Fact-check**

Attention à cette vidéo virale du médecin Robert Malone sur la vaccination des enfants
Dans une vidéo extrêmement virale, le médecin américain Robert Malone avance une...

December 16, 2021

It was also shared on the Twitter account of FranceSoir.

Twitter account
119,300 followers

FranceSoir 
@france_soir

 Robert Malone, inventeur de la technologie ARNm, met vivement en garde contre la vaccination des enfants : "En tant que parent et grand-parent, je vous recommande vivement de résister et de vous battre pour protéger vos enfants." [@RWMaloneMD](#)

L'article : francesoir.fr/node/259092 

[Translate Tweet](#)



Avant que vous vacciniez votre enfant... Déclaration de Robert Malone
Déclaration traduite et sous-titrée en français par @GabinJean3

6:07 PM · Dec 16, 2021 · Twitter Media Studio

5,089 Retweets 687 Quote Tweets 7,195 Likes

December 16, 2021

... by the Twitter account of France-based lawyer Carlo Alberto Brusa, president of the association Reaction19, which specializes in filing lawsuits against governmental measures taken to curb the pandemic.

Twitter account
69,400 followers

← Tweet

 **Brusa Carlo Alberto**
@cab2626

La Haute Autorité de Santé aime-t-elle nos enfants ?
Et vous ????? Robert Malone : son plaidoyer contre la vaccination des enfants



ROBERT MALONE, MD
VIROLOGIST AND IMMUNOLOGIST

francesoir.fr
Robert Malone : son plaidoyer contre la vaccination des enfants
Afin d'enrayer le processus de vaccination en masse des enfants en bonne santé, 15 000 médecins et scientifiques dans le monde ont conjointement sign...

8:32 AM · 21 déc. 2021 · Twitter for iPhone

458 Retweets 15 Tweets cités 963 J'aime

December 21, 2021

... and by Twitter account LaGaucheMafia®

Twitter account
18,100 followers

 **LaGaucheMafia®**
@GaucheMafia

L'inventeur de la technologie #ARNm
@RWMaloneMD: "En tant que parent et grand-parent, je vous recommande vivement de résister et de vous battre pour protéger vos enfants." 🙌
#NonALaVaccinationObligatoire
#NonAuPassSanitaire
francesoir.fr/node/259092 🇫🇷



ROBERT MALONE, MD
VIROLOGIST AND IMMUNOLOGIST

265 k vues Je suis un médecin et un scientifique 0:04 / 4:33

Avant que vous vacciniez votre enfant... Déclaration de Robert Malone
Déclaration traduite et sous-titrée en français par @GabinJean3

De FranceSoir

11:53 AM · 17 déc. 2021 · Twitter for Android

December 17, 2021

False claim: Children are 52 times more likely to die following COVID-19 vaccination than unvaccinated children, according to data published by the U.K.'s Office of National Statistics.

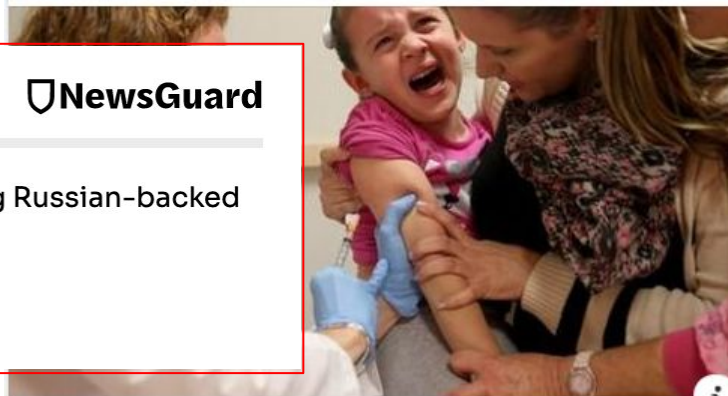
Facebook group
20,500 members

NON AU PASS VACCINAL

Public group · 20.5K members

About Discussion Featured Topics People Events

shared a link.
February 10 at 8:21 AM ·



PLANETES360.FR

Les ENFANTS ont 52 fois plus de risques de MOURIR après avoir été VACCINÉS que les ENFANTS NON VACCINÉS -...

Visit the COVID-19 Information Center for vaccine resources.
[Get Vaccine Info](#)

February 10, 2022

Twitter account
26,900 followers

Planetes360
@Planetes360

Les ENFANTS ont 52 fois plus de risques de MOURIR après avoir été VACCINÉS que les ENFANTS NON VACCINÉS planetes360.fr/les-enfants-on...

[Translate Tweet](#)



8:28 AM · Feb 8, 2022 · FS-Poster APP

33 Retweets 34 Likes

Reply Retweet Like Share

February 8, 2022

planetes360.fr

NewsGuard

A French website that has published articles promoting Russian-backed propaganda and false claims about COVID-19.

! 5 / 100

Italian-language misinformation



Grande Cocomero Classic

@cocomeroclassic · Organizzazione no-profit

Scopri di più

mag24.es

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Mi piace



Grande Cocomero Classic

9 novembre 2021 ·

L'allarme di un ricercatore

Sui bambini questa contro indicazione può portare ad un'ecatombe Vai al primo commento

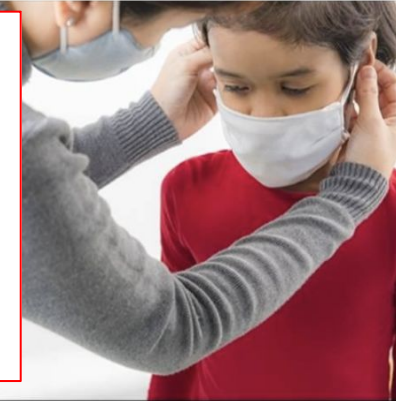
mag24.es

NewsGuard

An anonymously run website covering Italian news that has repeatedly published false claims, including about the COVID-19 pandemic and vaccines.



0 / 100



Un olocausto nel giro di 5 anni

20

Commenti: 3 Condivisioni: 22

Mi piace

Commenta

Condividi

Più pertinenti

Scrivi un commento...

Autore Grande Cocomero Classic

<https://www.mag24.es/.../leffetto-avverso-sui-bambini.../>



MAG24.ES

L'effetto avverso sui bambini? Porta a collassare il cuore nel giro di pochi anni ad una percentuale mostruosa: la...

Mi piace Rispondi 14 sett.


False claim: Covid-19 vaccine-related myocarditis have a 20 percent mortality rate in children after two years, and a 50 percent mortality rate over five years and will “lead to a massacre.”

Facebook page
306,300 followers


November 9, 2021

False claim: COVID-19 vaccines cause “irreparable” damage to children's brains, hearts and other organs.

Facebook group
8,700 members

databaseitalia.it 

A news and information site that has published false content on the 2020 coronavirus outbreak and other topics. The site also shares QAnon conspiracy theories.

 **25 / 100**

EVOLUZIONE ITALIA

Gruppo Pubblico · 8704 membri

Informazioni **Discussione** In evidenza Argomenti Persc

 ha condiviso un link.
2 febbraio alle ore 17:23 · 

 <https://www.databaseitalia.it/i-vaccini-covid-causano.../>



 DATABASEITALIA.IT
I vaccini COVID causano danni “irreparabili” al cervello, al cuore e ad altri organi dei bambini - Database Italia

 2 Commenti: 1 Condivisioni: 2

February 2, 2022

It was also shared by the official Twitter account of the website, @Databaseltalia.

Twitter account
2,400 followers



I vaccini COVID causano danni “irreparabili” al cervello, al cuore e ad altri organi dei bambini

Leggi l'articolo 📖



databaseitalia.it

I vaccini COVID causano danni “irreparabili” al cervello, al cuore e ad altri orga...
da Eventi Avversi News Attraverso interviste a medici e scienziati e riferimenti a
diversi studi, un nuovo video spiega perché i vaccini COVID non forniscono alcu...

3:52 AM · 2 feb 2022 · Twitter for Android

February 2, 2022

False claim: Vulnerable children should not be vaccinated as they could get “vaccine damage.”

Vaccinating in the first ten years of life is very likely to cause an increase in severe and disabling pathologies.

Facebook group
6,000 members

gospanews.net

NewsGuard

An anti-immigration website that says it provides “Christian Journalistic Information.” The site has published pro-Russia propaganda and false claims about politics and health, including COVID-19.

20 / 100

Come Davide contro Golia

Gruppo Pubblico · 6082 membri

Informazioni

Discussione

In evidenza

Argomenti

Persc

ha condiviso un link.

24 dicembre 2021 ·



GOSPANEWS.NET

VACCINI, TUTTI I PERICOLI PER I BAMBINI. Inchiesta Shock basata solo su Ricerche Scientifiche



Visita il Centro informazioni sul COVID-19 per risorse sui vaccini.

[Ottieni informazioni sui vaccini](#)

December 24, 2021

German-language misinformation

Glaub nicht alles!

Öffentliche Gruppe · 65.187 Mitglieder

False claim: Vaccination in children risks preventing the formation of innate antibodies and could actually trigger anti-immune diseases.

Facebook group
65,100 members

Info Diskussion Featured Themen Personen Ver...

[Redacted] hat einen Link geteilt. 27. Januar um 00:09 · 🌐

WOCHENBLICK.AT

Impf-Experte Vanden Bossche warnt: So... er- und Booster-...

en der Impf-Kampagne ein Kardinalfehler, weil... orene Immunsystem...

wochenblick.at NewsGuard

The website of the right-wing Austrian weekly newspaper Wochenblick, which has published false content that advances nationalist and pro-FPÖ views, including about COVID-19.

! 0 / 100

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

Teilen

😊 📷 GIF 🗨️ 📄

January 27, 2022

False claim: The spike proteins that the body is instructed to create by RNA vaccines are toxic and often cause permanent damage in the critical organs of children.

epochtimes.de

NewsGuard

The German edition of The Epoch Times, a conservative outlet founded by Chinese-Americans associated with Falun Gong, a spiritual practice. The site frequently publishes false claims.

! 27.5 / 100

Facebook page
7,300 followers

The screenshot shows a Facebook profile for 'RealistenVernunftbürgerwehrensich' (@aufraeumer2015) with 7,300 followers. A post from January 4, 2022, is highlighted. The post includes a video thumbnail of Robert Malone and a text overlay from EPOCHTIMES.DE. The text in the overlay reads: 'mRNA-Pionier Robert Malone warnt: „Die Hypnotisierten folgen überall hin“ Robert Malone gilt als einer, wenn nicht sogar als DER Erfinder der mRNA-Technologie. Kür...'. The post has 38 reactions and 4 comments.

January 4, 2022

This report was produced using two proprietary datasets from NewsGuard:

- The Misinformation Fingerprints dataset, a catalogue of data about top misinformation narratives, contains related keywords and search terms for all of the top misinformation and disinformation narratives spreading online - produced using human intelligence but designed for use with AI/ML/NLP tools to identify content matching specific false claims. NewsGuard analysts used the Misinformation Fingerprints dataset to identify relevant searches related to misinformation narratives about COVID-19, vaccines, and children.
- The second dataset used was the News Website Reliability Ratings, which consists of credibility ratings for over 7,500 news and information website that account for 95% of online engagement with news in the U.S., U.K., France, Germany and Italy, and 90% of engagement in Canada. Each site's rating is based on nine basic, apolitical journalistic criteria. Based on the criteria, each site receives an overall designation of green (generally trustworthy) or red (generally not trustworthy) and a trust score of 0-100. NewsGuard's analyst used the News Website Reliability Ratings dataset to identify misinformation sources that appeared in the results for searches conducted as part of the analysis.
- Examples selected for the report represent an illustrative, but by no means exhaustive, list of false claims shared on social media. Both the Misinformation Fingerprints and the News Website Reliability Index are available to be licensed for research and other purposes.