

From: Wharton, Melinda (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/ISD)
Sent: Wed, 12 Aug 2020 18:21:55 +0000
To: Messonnier, Nancy (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/OD)
Subject: RE: Del Bigtree removed from YouTube

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From: Messonnier, Nancy (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/OD) <nar5@cdc.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, August 12, 2020 2:21 PM
To: Wharton, Melinda (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/ISD) <mew2@cdc.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Del Bigtree removed from YouTube

From: Nordlund, Kristen (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/OD) <hok4@cdc.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, August 12, 2020 2:03:33 PM
To: Messonnier, Nancy (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/OD) <nar5@cdc.gov>; Cohn, Amanda (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/OD) <anc0@cdc.gov>
Subject: FW: Del Bigtree removed from YouTube

FYI

From: Marshall, Maureen (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/OD) <bkf0@cdc.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, August 12, 2020 12:46 PM
To: Fisher, Allison Michelle (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/OD) <ark2@cdc.gov>; Randall, Laura (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/OD) <lze9@cdc.gov>; Ramlal, Roshan (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/OD) (CTR) <rnt5@cdc.gov>
Cc: Nordlund, Kristen (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/OD) <hok4@cdc.gov>; Grusich, Katherina (Kate) (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/OD) <yhb3@cdc.gov>; Vadhar, Krystal (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/OD) (CTR) <ohk2@cdc.gov>; Lowndes, Andrew (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/OD) (CTR) <llx2@cdc.gov>
Subject: Del Bigtree removed from YouTube

- The online program, *The HighWire with Del Bigtree*, has been removed from YouTube for violating policies on the platform. The account was terminated after Bigtree, a leading figure in the vaccine opposition movement, "repeatedly encouraged viewers to intentionally contract COVID-19 and pushed other dangerous medical misinformation." Newsguard has identified thehighwire.com as a site that has published false claims and "severely violates basic journalistic standards." Bigtree referred to Youtube's action as "THE CYBER ATTACK ON TRUTH". Bigtree dedicated time in the July 30th episode, which remains available on Facebook and other video sharing platforms, to address the claims made by Media Matters about the misinformation spread via *The HighWire*, which led to the channel being deleted from YouTube. While the de-platforming of *The HighWire* is an important step to reduce misinformation online, fans of the show continue to defend the ideologies promoted by Bigtree.

Maureen S. Marshall, MS
Health Communication Specialist
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases
Office of the Director
Health Communication Science Office
404-639-1967 office
(b)(6) cell
<mailto:bkf0@cdc.gov>