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VIA EMAIL & FEDEX

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Re: *Spreading Misinformation About Covid-19 Vaccines*

Dear Mr. Sellers, Mr. Gates, Mr. Hickman, Mr. Gallardo, and Ms. Rich:

On behalf of the Informed Consent Action Network (“ICAN”), we write to inform you about misinformation regarding the COVID-19 vaccine that you are spreading and demand you cease doing so forthwith.

Maricopa County has released an advertisement promoting the COVID-19 vaccine, that falsely claims that the COVID-19 vaccinated do “not have to worry about the fact that [they] might give you covid.” The advertisement repeats this false assurance by stating, because someone received the COVID-19 vaccine, “I can hug my family without having to worry.”

This false advertising is available at <https://youtu.be/3Vsn5au6Kpo> and contains the following narrative:

You really don't know what you're missing when you could actually hug someone, kiss someone. I feel more comfortable now that I have the vaccine to be able to go to family reunions, give them hugs, just smile and not have to worry about the fact that, hey, I might give you covid. It's a huge weight off my shoulders I'm glad that I can hug my family without having to worry.

During the foregoing narration, the advertisement shows repeated images of individuals hugging:



It is categorically false to claim that the vaccinated do “not have to worry about the fact that [they] might give you covid,” and that if vaccinated, one “can hug [their] family without having to worry.”

As the Director of the CDC explained, the vaccinated need to wear masks because, “what [the COVID-19 vaccines] **can't do anymore is prevent transmission.**”¹ This has also been repeatedly confirmed by numerous studies, including:

- A CDC study of an outbreak in Barnstable County, Massachusetts which found that 74% of those infected were fully vaccinated for COVID-19 and that the vaccinated had on average more virus in their nose than the unvaccinated who were infected.²
- A CDC and Wisconsin's Department of Health Services study evaluated the shedding of infectious SARS-CoV-2 in 36 counties in Wisconsin and observed high viral load in 68% of the fully vaccinated and in 63% of the unvaccinated; and, surprisingly, among the asymptomatic, 29% of the unvaccinated had high viral load while 82% of the fully vaccinated had high viral load.³
- An Oxford University study of transmission among fully vaccinated health care workers in Vietnam found “transmission between the vaccinated people” and therefore concluded that “distancing measures remain critical to reduce SARS-CoV-2 Delta variant transmission” among the vaccinated.⁴
- A Tel-Aviv University study of a SARS-CoV-2 outbreak among 42 patients in a hospital setting, “39 were fully vaccinated,” the “index case was ... fully vaccinated,” “all

¹ <https://twitter.com/CNNSitRoom/status/1423422301882748929>

² <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/34351882/>

³ <https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2021.07.31.21261387v4.full.pdf>

⁴ https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=3897733

transmission between patients and staff occurred between masked and vaccinated individuals, as experienced in an outbreak from Finland,” and that this “outbreak exemplifies the high transmissibility of the SARS-CoV-2 Delta variant among twice vaccinated and masked individuals.”⁵

Your claim that the vaccinated need not “worry about the fact that [they] might give [others] covid” is not only false but is also dangerous according to your claims that virus can cause individuals to become “severely ill, be hospitalized, or die.”⁶ And you are directly causing an increase in the claimed danger because by causing vaccinated individuals to falsely believe they can “hug” and “kiss” and have “family reunions” without spreading the virus, you are increasing the chances they will spread the virus.

Given your claimed concern regarding misinformation related to the COVID-19 vaccine, we assume you will remove the foregoing referenced advertisement from public circulation forthwith. Failure to do so reflects that your approach to this vaccination is not grounded in reality, but is rather the promotion of a belief system.

If you do not confirm removal of this video from the public domain within two business days, we have been authorized to take additional steps in the court of law and public opinion.

Govern yourselves accordingly.

Yours truly,



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⁵ <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/34596015/>

⁶ <https://www.maricopa.gov/5488/COVID-19-FAQs>

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