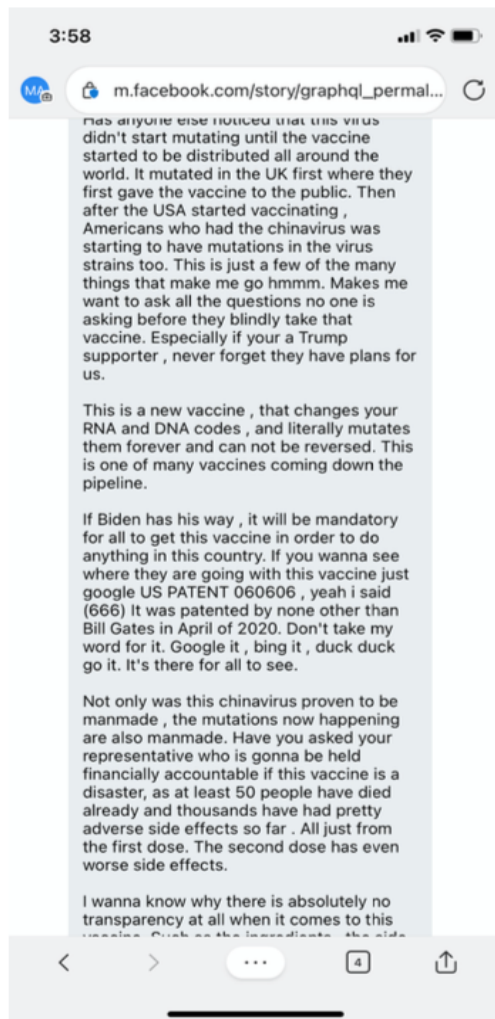


The SQUINTSTAGRAM™

Fighting COVID-19 Misinformation



February 10, 2020—Part 2—Vaccine Side-Effects



As part of our SQUINT for fighting COVID-19 misinformation, we received a publicly available Facebook posting that is a veritable smorgasbord of misinformation. We identified five claims in it that are representative of the major misinformation themes and distortions that are currently prevalent on Social Media. This is Part 2 of a 2-part focus on those 5 claims. Part 1 dealt with three “conspiracy” issues related to COVID. This SQUINTSAGRAM deals with two vaccine side-effect claims.

Misinformation Claim 4: The COVID-19 vaccine will change your RNA and DNA codes.

Facts: Source (

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/victoriaforster/2021/01/11/covid-19-vaccines-cant-alter-your-dna-heres-why/?sh=20b0fbfbf2491>). In this

article by *Forbes*, Victoria Forster explains the difference between mRNA and DNA and how mRNA vaccines such as some of the COVID-19 vaccines provide the recipe for your body to fight COVID-19 viruses but cannot change the body's DNA or the mRNA generated by the body.

Misinformation Claim 5: At least 50 people have died already from the COVID-19 vaccines.

Facts: Sources

(<https://abcnews.go.com/Health/post-vaccination-deaths-dont-covid-19-vaccine-deadly/story?id=75524209>, <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2021-01-18/what-to-know-about-vaccine-related-deaths-allergies-quicktake>, and <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/70/wr/mm7002e1.htm>). It is important to separate correlation from causation. The articles referenced above review cases of people dying after receiving a COVID-19 vaccine and the cause of death. Deaths that occur after a vaccine are carefully studied to determine the cause of death. To date, no deaths have been attributed to COVID-19 vaccinations in the United States as documented in the articles above.

To join SQUINT, help fight COVID-19 misinformation, and receive these updates, send an email to squint@mitre.org.