

Internal CDC docs on the agency's false Covid vaccine claims



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Sharyl Attkisson

Internal documents at the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) show that Rep. Thomas Massie (R-Kentucky) ignited quite the firestorm when he contacted the agency to point out serious Covid vaccine disinformation that their top officials and vaccine scientists had signed off on.

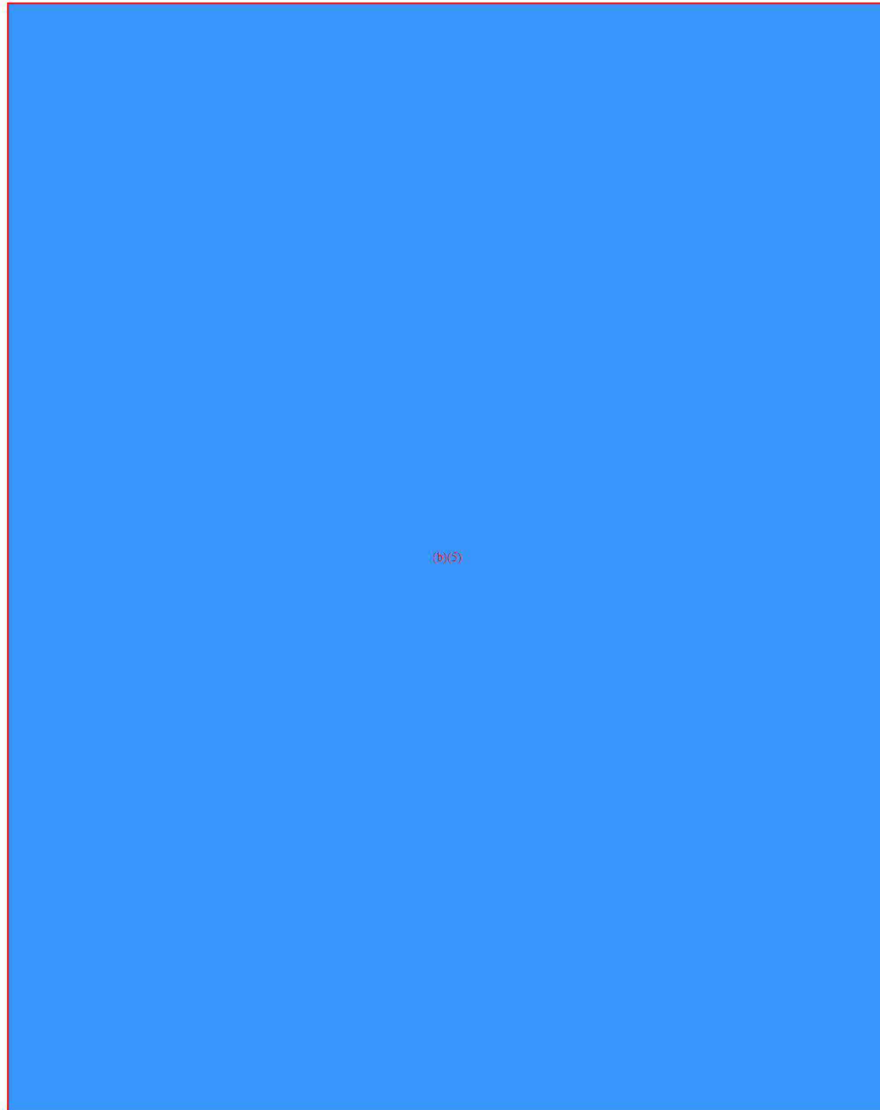
I reported on the story last year after Massie produced audio recordings of CDC officials and scientists admitting the error to him, yet continued to publicly make the false claim: that original studies proved Covid vaccines helped people who'd already had Covid. They didn't.

Watch the story and listen to the CDC audio recordings here.

Recently, emails obtained through a Freedom of Information request show more than a thousand pages of emails mentioning Massie and his concerns swirled around at CDC.

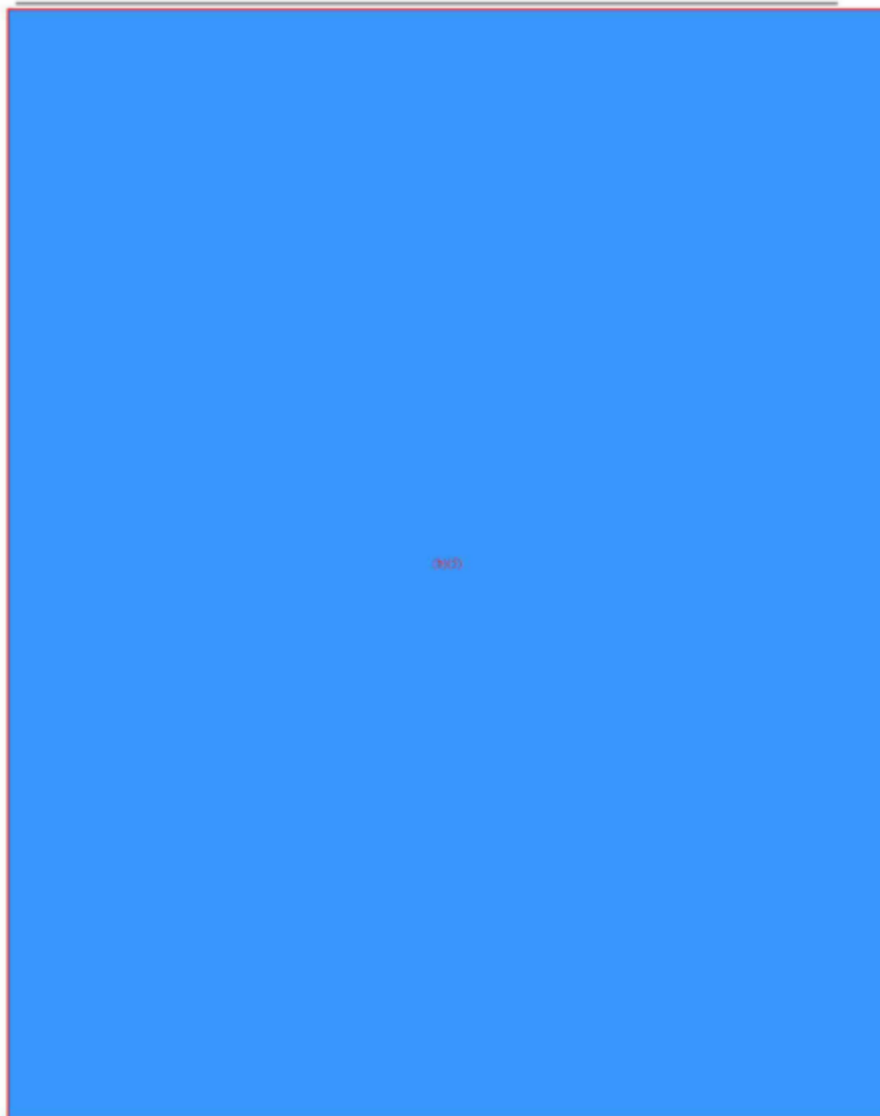
What did they say? Well, much of the time we don't know because that's hidden behind big, blue redactions.

From: [Brand, Anstice M. \(CDC/OD/CDCWO\)](#)
To: [Morelli, Jeff \(CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DFWED\)](#); [Oliver, Angela \(CDC/DDID/NCEZID/OD\)](#); [Serna, Christina \(CDC/OD/CDCWO\)](#)
Cc: [Brand, Anstice M. \(CDC/OD/CDCWO\)](#)
Subject: Notes from Massie call with Dr. Schuchat.
Date: Wednesday, January 20, 2021 3:15:20 PM



Public info redacted by CDC regarding the agency's Covid vaccine disinformation

From: Brand, Anstice M. (CDC/OD/CDCWO)
To: Morelli, Jeff (CDC/DDID/NCEZIG/DIWED); Oliver, Angela (CDC/DDID/NCEZIG/OD); Serna, Christina (CDC/OD/CDCWO)
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Public info redacted by CDC regarding the agency's Covid vaccine disinformation

We do see that before admitting the claim was wrong, CDC scientists tried to defend their false information.

To: Cohn, Amanda (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/OD) <anc0@cdc.gov>
Subject: RE: Call from Rep. Massie (R-KY)

We pulled this from the FDA VRBPAC briefing document, attached.

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Data are supported by the following statements:

Page 24:

For participants with and without evidence of SARS-CoV-2 infection before and during vaccination regimen, VE against confirmed COVID-19 occurring at least 7 days after Dose 2 was 94.6%, with 9 and 169 cases in the BNT162b2 and placebo groups respectively (Table 7). The posterior probability was >99.99% for the true VE being greater than 30%. The 95% credible interval for the vaccine efficacy was 89.9% to 97.3%, indicating that the true VE is at least 89.9% with a 97.5% probability given the available data.

Page 28: FDA Interpretation of the data; Pfizer VRBPAC meeting

Only 3% of participants had evidence of prior infection at study enrollment, and additional analyses showed that very few COVID-19 cases occurred in these participants over the course of the entire study (9 in the placebo group and 10 in the BNT162b2 group, only 1 of which occurred 7 days or more after completion of the vaccination regimen – data not shown). The placebo group attack rate from enrollment to the November 14, 2020, data cut-off date was 1.3% both for participants without evidence of prior infection at enrollment (259 cases in 19,818 participants) and for participants with evidence of prior infection at enrollment (9 cases in 670 participants). While limited, these data do suggest that previously infected individuals can be at risk of COVID-19 (i.e., reinfection) and could benefit from vaccination.

Page 46: FDA Interpretation of the data; Pfizer VRBPAC meeting

Efficacy findings were also consistent across various subgroups, including racial and ethnic minorities, participants aged 65 years and older, and those with one or more of the following conditions: obesity, diabetes, hypertension, and chronic cardiopulmonary diseases. While limited, available data suggest that individuals with previous SARS-CoV-2 infection can be at risk of COVID-19 (i.e., re-infection) and may benefit from vaccination.

Helpful?

Sara

From: Cohn, Amanda (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/OD) <anc0@cdc.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, December 16, 2020 4:30 PM
To: Oliver, Sara Elizabeth (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/DVD) <yxo4@cdc.gov>
Subject: FW: Call from Rep. Massie (R-KY)

Can you help with this question below?

[Add](#)

From: Swartwood, Candice (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/OD) <chj8@cdc.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, December 16, 2020 4:29 PM

CDC scientists and officials first attempt to defend the false info they were publicizing about Covid-19 vaccines

From: Cohn, Amanda (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/OD)
Sent: Wed, 16 Dec 2020 22:16:05 +0000
To: Oliver, Sara Elizabeth (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/DVD)
Subject: RE: Call from Rep. Massie (R-KY)

(b)(3)

From: Oliver, Sara Elizabeth (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/DVD) <yxo4@cdc.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, December 16, 2020 5:11 PM
To: Cohn, Amanda (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/OD) <anc0@cdc.gov>
Subject: RE: Call from Rep. Massie (R-KY)

(b)(3)

(b)(3)

(b)(3)

Sara

From: Cohn, Amanda (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/OD) <anc0@cdc.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, December 16, 2020 5:09 PM
To: Oliver, Sara Elizabeth (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/DVD) <yxo4@cdc.gov>
Subject: RE: Call from Rep. Massie (R-KY)

(b)(3)

From: Oliver, Sara Elizabeth (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/DVD) <yxo4@cdc.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, December 16, 2020 4:46 PM
To: Cohn, Amanda (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/OD) <anc0@cdc.gov>
Subject: RE: Call from Rep. Massie (R-KY)

We pulled this from the FDA VRBPAC briefing document, attached.

(b)(3)

(b)(3)

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CDC scientists and officials try to defend the false info they were publicizing about Covid-19 vaccines

CDC also apparently tracks and logs CDC-related tweets by members of Congress, broken down by party affiliation.

Date	Chamber	Member Name	Party	State	Tweet Text	Link	Notes	Attn
1 2- Jan	House	Derek Kilmer	D	WA	Thousands of Americans are dying and being infected by COVID-19 each day, and the strategic allocation of the vaccine must not hinder our ability to utilize all doses produced. I joined a bipartisan call for the CDC to update its guidance and ensure no vaccine doses go to waste.	Tweet Link		Christina
1 3- Jan	House	Mikie Sherrill	D	NJ	@GovMurphy announced starting tomorrow all NJ residents aged 65+ and individuals aged 16-64 with medical conditions deemed high risk by the CDC are now eligible for the vaccine. Register here → https://covidvaccine.nj.gov	Tweet Link	Linked Article	Christina
1 4- Jan	House	Frank Pallone	D	NJ	UPDATE: NJ residents aged 65+ and individuals aged 16-64 with medical conditions deemed high risk by the CDC are now eligible for the #COVID19 vaccine. To learn more and register, visit http://covidvaccine.nj.gov	Tweet Link	Linked Tweet	Christina
1 6- Jan	House	Thomas Massie	R	KY	On Dec 16th I called @CDC to let them know of false vaccine information on their website. They agreed to correct it, but the false info is still on their website. The vaccine trials did not shown efficacy for those with evidence of prior infection! https://cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/69/wr/mm6950e2.htm	Tweet Link	Linked Article	Christina
1 2- Jan	House	Bill Pascrell Jr	D	NJ	We are making progress on vaccinations. And until we are all protected, make sure you and your bubble are following recommended CDC guidelines by getting tested, limiting social	Tweet Link	Shared Article	Christina/Nancy

CDC tracking tweets by members of Congress

					contact, and wearing a mask.			
1 4- Jan	Hous e	Debbie Dingell	D	MI	381,000 Americans have died of COVID, as cases and deaths continue to grow across the nation. We have got to work hard to speed up COVID vaccinations and continue to follow CDC guidelines so we can put this dark time behind us and build back better!	Tweet Link	Linked Article	Christina/Nancy
1 2- Jan	Hous e	Don Beyer	D	VA	Very happy to see that the CDC just reportedly issued a new directive to require this important safety precaution to help prevent people infected with coronavirus from boarding flights to American airports.	Tweet Link	Shared Article	Jane
1 1- Jan	Hous e	Tony Cardenas	D	CA	I urge everyone to continue following CDC guidelines. #COVID has not gone away. Cases are rising everywhere and we must all do our parts to slow the spread.	Tweet Link	Shared Article	Nancy
1 2- Jan	Hous e	Marcy Kaptur	D	OH	Praying for my colleagues as more test positive by the hour. It's unacceptable that so many GOP Members and staff won't do the minimum to protect others. For Congress to carry out the people's work, the Sergeant-At-Arms must enforce the rules set by the Attending Physician & CDC.	Tweet Link	Linked Tweet	Nancy
1 2- Jan	Hous e	Dina Titus	D	NV	Due to rising COVID-19 cases, the statewide pause has been extended for an additional 30 days. Nevadans must continue to follow guidelines from the CDC and local officials in order to save lives and get our economy back on track.	Tweet Link	Linked Tweet	Nancy

CDC tracking tweets by members of Congress

1 5- Ja n	Hous e	Ann Kirkpatri ck	D	AZ	It's almost the weekend, so let's face the facts: #COVID19 is still spreading rapidly in our communities. We can't give up on being vigilant. Follow CDC guidelines to keep yourself & others safe!	Twee t Link	Linked Article	Nancy
1 7- Ja n	Hous e	Illhan Omar	D	MI	With a new strain of COVID-19, it's more important than ever that we buckle down and follow the CDC's guidelines to help slow the spread of this virus. Wear a mask, wash your hands often, stay at home if you can, and remain socially distant from others.	Twee t Link	Share d New York Times article	Nancy

It's unclear why conversations between CDC officials and scientists on matters of great public health importance would be kept hidden from public view.

Nobody was held publicly accountable for the serious and potentially dangerous false information the CDC officials and scientists signed off on and publicized.

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