

Virality Project Weekly Briefing #4

January 12, 2021 - January 19, 2021

Key Narratives

- Reported strong adverse reactions and deaths after receiving the vaccine continue to be used to fuel concerns about the safety of the vaccine.
- Health freedom groups are using news of these adverse reaction events to suggest the vaccines are unsafe and to drum up fear against vaccine mandates.

Be On the Lookout For:

- Stories of individuals with negative reactions after receiving the vaccine may gain immediate attention online.
- News events, especially misleading headlines from mainstream media outlets, may be used by fringe anti-vaccine groups to try to legitimize concerns about COVID-19 vaccines and other conspiratorial claims.
- As vaccination rates continue to increase, discussions of vaccine mandates among health freedom groups may fuel concerns about safety and government distrust.

Narrative: Safety Concerns

- Three main stories of reactions and deaths after receiving the COVID vaccine have spread from anti-vaccination pages to more mainstream Facebook Groups, Twitter, and Instagram accounts.
 1. The story of a Miami-based doctor who died in early January has resurfaced in anti-vaccination Facebook Groups after a [New York Times article](#). The article has received roughly 2.2k interactions as part of anti-vaccination posts while a [spin off article](#) on a high-profile anti-vaccination blog has received over 10.3k interactions..
 2. The story of deaths in a Norway nursing home has been pushed by [Russian state media](#), a popular [hip hop instagram account](#), and high-profile anti-vaccination advocate [Robert Kennedy Jr.](#)
 3. Videos of people supposedly convulsing after receiving the vaccine have gone [viral on Facebook](#). Screen recordings are reposted even after the videos are removed.
- Articles with misleading headlines and quotes, such as [“Doctor’s Death After COVID Vaccine is Being Investigated”](#), are backing posts across Facebook Groups.
- Clarifications within articles that deaths are most likely not related to the vaccine do not impact discussion. Rather, some anti-vaccine advocates are spinning the idea of [“unrelated coincidences”](#) as proof of “Big Pharma” cover up.

Narrative: State Legislation and Federal Overreach

- A [CNET article](#) reporting that Biden’s vaccination plans will include activating FEMA and the National Guard for distribution has received 71K facebook interactions. Posts in [Anti-Vaccine](#)


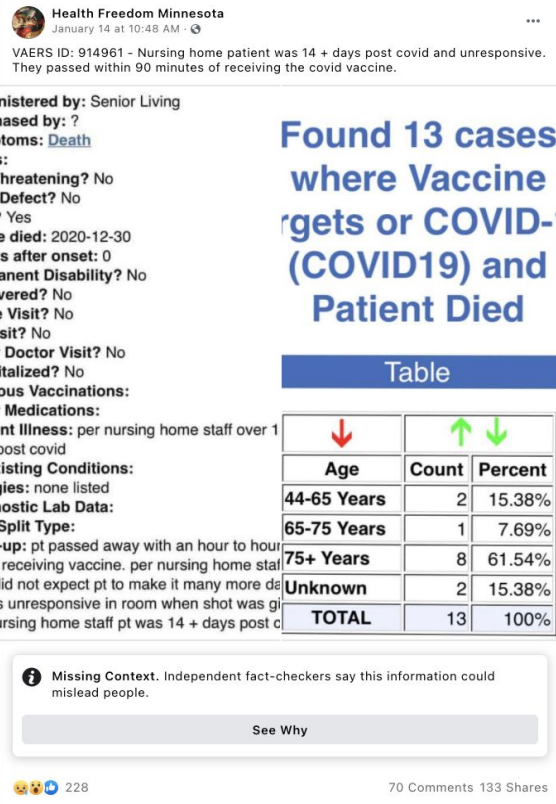
and [Health Freedom](#) Groups combine descriptions of this plan with concerns about safety suggesting that this is a scary overreach of federal power.

- Social media posts discussing a proposed Oregon [required immunizations bill](#) and a Texas anti-vaccine mandate bill saw engagement in anti-vaccine mandate groups.

State Media Activity

- Foreign state media, particularly Russian state media, also publicized adverse reaction events, using them to call into question the safety of Pfizer and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines.
- Some state media posts focused on frustrations over slow vaccine rollouts and potential vaccine mandates. (see Appendix for examples)

Appendix

Description and additional links	Screenshot																		
<p>Miami Doctor Story Post Links</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Facebook: Children's Health Defense ● Facebook: Vaxxed 																			
<p>Examples of use of VAERS data</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Facebook: Children's Health Defense ● Facebook: Health Freedom Minnesota (with example of "Missing Context" label) 	 <p>Registered by: Senior Living Reported by: ? Symptoms: Death Threatening? No Defect? No Yes Died: 2020-12-30 Days after onset: 0 Permanent Disability? No Reported? No Visit? No Hospitalized? No Doctor Visit? No Hospitalized? No Previous Vaccinations: Medications: Present Illness: per nursing home staff over 14 days post covid Existing Conditions: Allergies: none listed Toxic Lab Data: Split Type: Update: pt passed away with an hour to hour of receiving vaccine. per nursing home staff did not expect pt to make it many more days unresponsive in room when shot was given. nursing home staff pt was 14 + days post covid</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Age</th> <th>Count</th> <th>Percent</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>44-65 Years</td> <td>2</td> <td>15.38%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>65-75 Years</td> <td>1</td> <td>7.69%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>75+ Years</td> <td>8</td> <td>61.54%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Unknown</td> <td>2</td> <td>15.38%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>TOTAL</td> <td>13</td> <td>100%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Missing Context. Independent fact-checkers say this information could mislead people.</p> <p>See Why</p> <p>228 70 Comments 133 Shares</p>	Age	Count	Percent	44-65 Years	2	15.38%	65-75 Years	1	7.69%	75+ Years	8	61.54%	Unknown	2	15.38%	TOTAL	13	100%
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TOTAL	13	100%																	

Norway nursing home:

- Instagram: [MyMixtapez](#)
- Twitter: [Robert Kennedy Jr.](#)

23 PEOPLE DEAD AFTER RECEIVING PFIZER COVID-19 VACCINE



MY MIXTAPEZ

mymixtapez · Follow

mymixtapez · 23 people died in Norway after receiving Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine. Will you be getting the vaccine? 🤔

(Via-@nypost)

3d



hozukiwrlid NAW (in my Chief Keef voice)

22h Reply

nyc.av Source: trust me bro

20h Reply



43,587 likes

3 DAYS AGO

Log in to like or comment.

[Facebook video](#) of patients convulsing after receiving vaccine.

Erin Marie
January 13 at 8:15 PM · 🌐

First video is of Shawn Skelton, a CNA of 25-years, who received the Moderna "experimental biologic" on January 4th....

Second video is of Brant Griner's mother who received the Pfizer "experimental biologic" just days ago.

Wake up, people! The manufacturers of these experimental biologics are LIABILITY FREE and Shawn's doctors are already discrediting it is from the job.

PLEASE WAKE UP. 🙏



Brant Griner · Follow
1d · 🌐

This is what the Pfizer covid19 vaccine has done to my Mom. Everyone please pray for her. She was... See More



0:00 / 3:30

👍👎👏 1.1K

643 Comments 3.2K Shares

State Media Action:

- RT on Facebook pushing stories about [side effects](#), including [convulsions](#), of Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine

 RT  3 hours ago

All 13 victims were frail and elderly people who had unusually strong reactions to the jabs

 **'We see nothing alarming,' says Norwegian drugs regulator, after 13 deaths linked to**
At least 13 people have died in Norway due to side effects of the Pfizer/BioNTech Covid-19 vaccine, the national...
RT.COM

Why did this match the search?

 4.6x   645 +473  308 +208  424 +399

 RT  posted a [video](#).
1 day ago · 2:06

Fears over the vaccine's safety were prompted by a video of a woman suffering convulsions after receiving a Pfizer coronavirus jab in Louisiana. In an exclusive interview with RT, Brant Griner, son of the affected person, says that she hadn't experienced any health issues before taking the shot, and added that the response he'd received to his video about it... [See More](#)



23.7K +3.4K Post Views 109.4K Total Views

Why did this match the search?

 17.7x   2,570 +2.2K  1,040 +942  6,372 +6.3K