



Facebook is killing people- Joe Biden

- By Ankit Agrawal

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‘They’re killing people’: Biden slams Facebook for Covid disinformation

False claims about vaccines has proliferated on the social network, and on other sites including Twitter and YouTube, says president

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WHAT HAS HAPPENED?

US President Joe Biden has warned that the spread of Covid-19 misinformation on social media is **"killing people"**.

BUT WHY BIDEN SAID THAT?

He was responding to a question from a reporter about the alleged role of "platforms like Facebook" in spreading falsehoods about **vaccines and the pandemic.**

"They're killing people," Mr Biden told reporters at the White House on Friday. "The only pandemic we have is among the unvaccinated."

The White House has been increasing pressure on social media companies **to tackle disinformation.**

US health officials have warned that the country's current spike in Covid-19 deaths and infections is exclusively hitting unvaccinated communities.

PRESSURE ON SOCIAL MEDIA

The White House is turning up the pressure on social media companies to weed out what officials say is widely spread misinformation on coronavirus vaccinations.

"There is a clear message that is coming through: this is becoming a pandemic of the unvaccinated," Centers for Disease Control and Prevention director Rochelle Walensky told reporters on Friday.

Many of those refusing vaccinations, despite the ease of availability throughout the United States, have said they do not trust the shots.

WHY PEOPLE ARE NOT TRUSTING VACCINES?

Skepticism is being fueled both by false posts spread by anti-vaccine activists online and by Republican politicians claiming the vaccinations are part of attempts at government control.

White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki said that Facebook and others are not doing enough to push back.

"Everybody has a role to play in making sure **there's accurate information,**" she said.

Psaki said the White House was taking a more active approach in calling out what it sees as misinformation but insisted that **Facebook in particular should react more quickly in taking down problematic posts.**

WHY SPECIFICALLY FACEBOOK?

"There's about 12 people who are producing 65% of anti-vaccine misinformation on social media platforms. All of them remain active on Facebook, despite some even being banned on other platforms," Psaki said.

The White House has "proposed that they create a robust enforcement strategy that bridges their properties and provides transparency about the rules," she said.

CRITICISM AGAINST BIDEN

The turning up of the volume against fake news **immediately drew accusations** from right-wing media that Biden was **installing a "Big Brother" type surveillance** over citizens' opinions.

Facebook hit back at Biden, saying the White House is looking for 'scapegoats for missing their vaccine goals'

■ KELSEY VLAMIS | JUL 17, 2021, 11:23 IST



Facebook says it has **contracted an army of independent outside fact checkers**, to try and clean up its content.

"We will not be distracted by accusations which aren't supported by the facts," a Facebook spokesperson told.

"The fact is that **more than two billion people have viewed authoritative information about Covid-19** and vaccines on Facebook, which is more than any other place on the internet.

More than 3.3 million Americans have also used our vaccine finder tool to find out where and how to get a vaccine. The facts show that Facebook is helping save lives."

Earlier, Facebook said it was taking "aggressive action against misinformation about Covid-19 and vaccines to protect public health," and that-

It had removed "more than 18 million pieces of Covid misinformation," and disabled accounts spreading false information.

CASES IN US

The CDC reported **more than 33,000 new cases** in the United States on Thursday, **bringing the seven-day average up to 26,306, a 70% rise** on the week before.

The **seven-day average of hospital admissions** is about 2,790 per day, an increase **of 36%**.

The **new wave is driven by the Delta variant**, which now accounts for more than **80% of new cases**.

About 67.9% of US adults have received one dose of the vaccine,

While 59.2% of adults are fully vaccinated.

DIFFERENCE IN TRUMP & BIDEN VIEWS

Mr Trump and fellow **Republicans believed Facebook was restricting free speech** by cracking down on voter-fraud conspiracies.

Mr **Biden and his team** have a different criticism - that Facebook **doesn't do enough to take down conspiracies** - such as anti-vax content.

Q. To prevent the pathogens the first-line defense mechanism is called as?

- A) Adaptive immunity
- B) Innate immunity
- C) Resistance
- D) Defense



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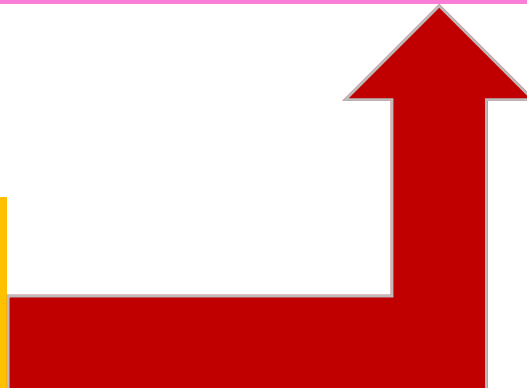
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