

News Item

How covid-19 conspiracy videos keep getting millions of views | MIT Technology Review

By Abby Ohlheiser July 30, 2020

The ongoing battle between social-media companies and covid-19 misinformation pushers—including US president Donald Trump—stepped up again this week thanks to a new viral video. And it has exposed, once again, how difficult addressing conspiracy theories is for <u>Facebook</u>, <u>Twitter</u>, and others.

The latest video comes from a group called <u>America's Frontline Doctors</u>, which is <u>sponsored by the right-wing Tea Party Patriots</u>. It features a professional-looking group of people in white lab coats advocating hydroxychloroquine, the malaria treatment previously pushed by the president. One doctor speaking at the press conference promoted the drug as a "cure" for the coronavirus, and said that people "don't need" to wear masks. The FDA withdrew its emergency-use authorization for hydroxychloroquine for treating covid-19 patients in June, after <u>establishing</u> that the drug was not effective and potentially dangerous.

[...]

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