

How social media platforms could flatten the curve of dangerous misinformation | Slate & The Free Speech Project

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On Thursday, Casey Newton reported that Facebook is [piloting](#) a circuit breaker to stop viral spread of posts in some circumstances. Such a tool, if it had been adopted earlier, as one of us (Goodman) [proposed](#) and the Center for American Progress also [advanced](#) this week, might have helped stop QAnon's toxic spread and might still staunch the flow of dangerous incitement and misinformation by introducing friction into the algorithmic amplification of dangerous conspiracies.

The news about Facebook comes in the same week that major social media platforms, having been warned that it was coming, [acted quickly to stop](#) the [Plandemic sequel](#) from becoming viral. Things went very differently when the first *Plandemic* video appeared in May, going viral with lies that masks are dangerous and social distancing is unnecessary. The video spread with such velocity that it was viewed more than 8 million times in a week before YouTube, Facebook, and Twitter all [removed it](#) for violating their policies. The video was a digital pathogen with a high rate of infection—what virologists call the R-naught.

[...]

Source: [How social media platforms could flatten the curve of dangerous misinformation.](#)