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23		the original deposition transcript.)	
24			
25			

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18

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20

21 - - -

22

23

24 (Pursuant to Article 10(B) of the Rules and  
25 Regulations of the Georgia Board of Court Reporting,  
disclosure was presented to all counsel present at  
the proceeding and a written copy is attached  
hereto.)

26

27

1 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: We are on the record.  
2 Today's date is November 15, 2022. The time is  
3 9:24. This is the video-recorded deposition of  
4 Carol Crawford in the matter of the State of  
5 Missouri versus Joseph R. Biden in the U.S. District  
6 Court for the Western District of Louisiana.

7 This deposition is being held at the CDC.  
8 The reporter's name is Maureen Kreimer. My name is  
9 Jason Silling. I am the legal videographer. We are  
10 with Lexitas Legal. Would the attorneys present  
11 please introduce themselves and the parties they  
12 represent.

13 MR. VECCHIONE: I am John Vecchione. I  
14 represent the individual plaintiffs Jay  
15 Bhattacharya, Aaron Kheriaty, and Jill Hines and  
16 Martin Kulldorff.

17 MS. SNOW: My name is Kyla Snow. I'm with  
18 the Department of Justice representing the  
19 defendants in this case. And defendants reserve  
20 their right to review, read, review and sign the  
21 transcript.

22 MR. GILLIGAN: James Gilligan, also with  
23 the Department of Justice representing the  
24 defendants.

25 MR. KUMAR: Anant Kumar with the Office of



1 General Counsel in HHS, and I also represent the  
2 defendant. I represent the HHS defendants.

3 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: Would the court  
4 reporter please swear in the witness.

5 CAROL CRAWFORD,  
6 having been first duly sworn, was examined and  
7 testified as follows:

8 REPORTER: You can begin, Counsel.

9 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: You may proceed.

10 EXAMINATION

11 BY MR. VECCHIONE:

12 Q. Good morning, Ms. Crawford. Have you ever  
13 been deposed before?

14 A. No, I have not.

15 Q. All right. So I'm going to lay out some  
16 ground rules. We have to -- the court reporter and  
17 everything else can only pick up verbal cues. In  
18 normal conversation, we nod our heads like you're  
19 doing now and all that, but for the record we have  
20 to say things out loud. And that also, to keep a  
21 clear record, we have to try not to talk over each  
22 other. And that's really something the lawyers, we  
23 say to the lawyers, because they're the ones who  
24 interrupt, not the witness. But keep that in mind.

25 If you don't -- I will be asking

1 questions. If you don't understand the question,  
2 you can ask me to rephrase, or say you don't  
3 understand. Don't answer a question that you think  
4 you don't understand. If during the course of this,  
5 your counsel -- which of you is defending this one?  
6 You're going to defend it?

7 MS. SNOW: Yes.

8 BY MR. VECCHIOINE:

9 Q. So your counsel will make objections.  
10 Wait for the objections to fade, and then answer the  
11 question unless I rephrase or something like that,  
12 unless she instructs you not to answer.

13 Let's see. So do you agree with all that?  
14 Do you understand the process?

15 A. I understand. Could you speak up a  
16 little, though? It's hard for me to hear you.

17 Q. I can. You know what, I didn't turn on  
18 this. I was dealing with the other mic that I have  
19 on my tie.

20 A. Thank you.

21 Q. But in any event, so.

22 All right. Are you taking any  
23 medications, or do you have any condition that would  
24 impact your ability to testify truthfully today?

25 A. No.

1           **Q. All right. For the record please state**  
2 **your name.**

3           A. Carol Young Crawford.

4           **Q. And what's your current employment?**

5           A. I work for the CDC.

6           **Q. What's your title?**

7           A. I am the division director for the  
8 division of Digital Media within the CDC Office of  
9 the Associate Director for Communication, which we  
10 call OADC.

11          **Q. Give me the term again. Office of?**

12          A. The Associate Director for Communication.

13          **Q. And what are your duties in that role?**

14          A. Our division provides leadership for CDC's  
15 web presence. We provide leadership for CDC's  
16 social media presence. We have -- we lead the  
17 development operations of CDC's 800-number, which is  
18 our Contact Center. We also provide graphics and  
19 visual design services for the Agency.

20          **Q. And what do you do?**

21          A. I'm the director of that work. I  
22 determine strategy, objectives, oversee work.

23          **Q. Do you have any -- well, why don't we**  
24 **start. Go back a little bit.**

25                   **Could you briefly outline your education**

1 and employment history up until now?

2 A. Yes. I started work at CDC when I was 18.  
3 So I have been here 34 years. I went to school -- I  
4 have a bachelor's in business and a master's in  
5 public administration, and I have been working at  
6 CDC within digital communications, web, social  
7 media, for really as long as those things existed at  
8 CDC.

9 Q. And where are your degrees from?

10 A. University of -- the University of Georgia  
11 for the master's, Georgia State for the bachelor.

12 Q. Okay. So have you always been at CDC here  
13 in Atlanta?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Did you have any back- -- do you have any  
16 background in medicine, sciences, or epidemiology?

17 A. No.

18 Q. And is there anything else about the role  
19 of the division of Public Affairs' place within CDC  
20 that you haven't told me? Is there anything --

21 A. Can you repeat?

22 Q. Yeah. You have told me a little bit about  
23 what the division of Public Affairs does, I believe,  
24 or was that only what OADC does?

25 A. I was referring to the division of Digital

1 Media.

2 **Q. Okay.**

3 A. Which was created in April of 2022. Or  
4 maybe March 2022. Sorry.

5 **Q. On or about, as we say.**

6 A. Yes.

7 **Q. Now -- well, let's go back to that, the**  
8 **division. The division of Public Affairs, you're**  
9 **within that at the CDC?**

10 A. There is no division of Public Affairs in  
11 OADC any longer.

12 **Q. What happened there?**

13 A. The reorganization of OADC occurred in  
14 March or April of 2022, and there's -- that division  
15 does not exist anymore.

16 **Q. Prior to this changeover what did that**  
17 **division do?**

18 A. The division had three branches. The  
19 division -- I mean, the branch of Digital Media,  
20 where I was, the branch for News Media, and a branch  
21 for Employee Communications.

22 **Q. And then what did the reorganization do**  
23 **with each of those three? Where did they go?**

24 A. The -- well, Digital Media became the  
25 division of Digital Media, and parts from other

1 divisions came to join the work that we were already  
2 doing such as the Contact Center, and the Graphics,  
3 and that was new to my organization. The News Media  
4 group is now a branch in the division of News Media,  
5 I believe. I'm sorry.

6 **Q. That's your understanding?**

7 A. Yes. And then they have a Broadcast group  
8 with them. And the Employee Communication group is  
9 now an office in the OD of the OADC. That was the  
10 other component of the Public Affairs group that you  
11 asked about.

12 **Q. Okay. So the Digital Media branch now --**  
13 **so I understand. I'm not sure I got all that. Who**  
14 **did that before? Was that only in the Digital Media**  
15 **section of the three you've told me, or was there**  
16 **overlap?**

17 A. Well, there is no Digital Media branch  
18 now.

19 **Q. Okay.**

20 A. There is now a division of Digital Media.

21 **Q. Okay.**

22 A. You may have to reask the second part of  
23 your question.

24 **Q. Okay. Now it's the division of Digital**  
25 **Media. Who had that -- what was the name of the**

1 **organization that had that role before April of**  
2 **March of 2022?**

3 A. I was the branch chief of the Digital  
4 Media Branch within the Division of Public Affairs,  
5 and most of the roles that our division currently  
6 performs, web and social media, were in that branch.

7 **Q. Thank you. Did anyone else have overlap**  
8 **before?**

9 A. No.

10 **Q. All right. So what is the current duty of**  
11 **the Division of Digital Media?**

12 A. The current?

13 **Q. Duties?**

14 A. Of the division of Digital Media? We  
15 provide leadership for CDC's website. We provide  
16 leadership for CDC's social media efforts. We  
17 provide graphic support for the entire agency, and  
18 we manage the 800-number, the Contact Center.

19 **Q. Okay. And what's -- what is leadership;**  
20 **when you use that word, what do you mean?**

21 A. We, for web, for example, we convene a web  
22 council with people across CDC to manage the  
23 governance of the website. We manage the web  
24 content management system. We draft policies and  
25 guidelines around it.

1 Q. In your current role since April or March  
2 of 2022 --

3 A. Mm-hmm (affirmative).

4 Q. -- have you had any contact with major  
5 technology companies such as Twitter, Facebook,  
6 LinkedIn, Microsoft or Google?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. In your previous role before the  
9 reorganization, did you have such contacts?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Generally what type of contacts are those  
12 when you started them?

13 A. We started regular contact with the groups  
14 at the beginning of the COVID outbreak to exchange  
15 information about COVID, and most of the contact  
16 since then has been around COVID or other  
17 high-priority things, but mostly COVID.

18 Q. Okay. Let's get some timeline down. Is  
19 the beginning of COVID, would you think, February or  
20 March of 2019?

21 A. 2020.

22 Q. 2020. Excuse me.

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Okay. For our purposes. All right.

25 A. Mm-hmm (affirmative).



1           **Q. So before that, social media had been**  
2           **around for a while, I mean, but did -- you didn't**  
3           **have contact with them before COVID?**

4           A. I had periodic occasional contact with the  
5 platforms, depending on maybe they would reach out  
6 to CDC for something, or we would be trying to reach  
7 out to them for assistance with something. I didn't  
8 have regular meetings. They were -- they were very  
9 occasional.

10           **Q. All right. COVID hits, let's say, early**  
11           **spring of 2020.**

12           A. Mm-hmm (affirmative).

13           **Q. How did you instigate contact with these**  
14           **systems? Generally, I'm speaking. I know there may**  
15           **be some differences, but generally how did you**  
16           **initially instigate contacts with them?**

17           A. I don't recall who initiated contact.

18           **Q. Does that mean you don't know who within**  
19           **CDC, or does that mean you don't know if they called**  
20           **you?**

21           A. I don't recall if they called us first, or  
22 we called them first. It could have differed also  
23 depending on the platform.

24           **Q. From media company to media company?**

25           A. There was a lot going on at that time, so.

1           **Q. Do you have a present recollection of when**  
2 **you first spoke to any media platform about COVID,**  
3 **or email, when I say -- had communications with?**

4           A. I believe, my recollection is, is that we  
5 started talking to some of them in February and  
6 March of 2020.

7           **Q. And what was the nature of the**  
8 **discussions?**

9           A. My memory of our first interactions were  
10 around getting out CDC-credible information. For  
11 instance, I know Facebook was looking at making it  
12 easier to find COVID information from the CDC and  
13 WHO on a platform, and they wanted to use our public  
14 domain content and they were similar in  
15 conversations with platforms.

16           **Q. Got it. And did you take the initiative**  
17 **in these meetings, or did someone direct you to go**  
18 **do these meetings, or contacts?**

19           A. I would say I took initiative on the  
20 meetings. But there were a lot of people asking  
21 staff, or other staff, are we -- were we in contact  
22 with the groups, and do we have any arrangements.

23           **Q. In your current role who do you report to?**

24           A. In my current role I report to the  
25 director of OADC, which is Kevin Griffis.

1 Q. And who did you report to prior to the  
2 reorganization? That a good word.

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Can I call it a "reorg"?

5 A. Yes, you can.

6 Q. Prior to the reorg, who did you report  
7 to?

8 A. I reported to the division director for  
9 the division of Public Affairs, who was Michelle  
10 Bonds.

11 Q. All right. So during the beginning of the  
12 pandemic your direct report would be Michelle Barnes  
13 [sic]?

14 A. I was her direct report.

15 Q. Yes, that's what I meant.

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. You would directly report to her?

18 A. Mm-hmm (affirmative).

19 Q. All right. So do you recall her talking  
20 to you about what to do with the social media  
21 companies early on?

22 A. I don't believe we discussed it.

23 Q. And why don't you believe that?

24 A. It was an extremely busy time, and it was  
25 within the scope of work I would normally handle.

1 Q. All right. Let's look at the early spring  
2 of 2020. What were the types of contacts you had  
3 with the social media companies? And I'm going to  
4 go through some, and you tell me if you had them.

5 Electronic email, or other communications  
6 that are electronic?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Telephonic?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. And in person?

11 A. No.

12 Q. Okay. Who did -- if they're telephonic,  
13 who were you speaking to? I have a hard time  
14 getting any of these people on the phone. How did  
15 you get -- who did you telephonically speak to at  
16 any of these social media companies?

17 A. I had points of contact at several of  
18 them, and we would have meetings when we needed to  
19 talk. So we arranged calls.

20 Q. Do you recall any particular points of  
21 contact?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Who are they?

24 A. At Facebook my primary point of contact  
25 was Payton Iheme. I-H-E-M-E. At Google my two

1 points of contact were Jan Antonaros, and -- forgive  
2 me. I'm blanking on this.

3 **Q. We'll be looking at emails. If you see**  
4 **the name, will you --**

5 A. Yes, mm-hmm.

6 **Q. Who else?**

7 A. A contact we had at Twitter was Todd  
8 O'Brien [sic], though I spoke to him very rarely.  
9 We had other contacts at Twitter, but I don't know  
10 their names too. I don't recall the names of other  
11 platforms. I didn't talk to them as regularly.

12 (Plaintiffs' Exhibit 1 marked.)

13 BY MR. VECCHIONE:

14 **Q. Okay. Can you take a look at Exhibit 1.**  
15 **If counsel would hand it to her, please.**

16 **And have you seen this document before?**

17 A. Yes, I think I did.

18 **Q. So this is the Notice of Video Deposition**  
19 **to be here today; right?**

20 A. Yes.

21 **Q. You're here pursuant to this notice?**

22 A. Yes.

23 **Q. All right. And I'll just make one**  
24 **correction. We're not at Building 21. We're in**  
25 **Building 19?**

1 A. That's correct.

2 Q. All right. Thank you. You can put that  
3 aside.

4 MR. VECCHIONE: I'm going to hand to  
5 counsel a packet of Exhibit 2, if I might. And if  
6 you could give -- and if you could give the witness  
7 an original, and there are two for your purposes.

8 (Plaintiffs' Exhibit 2 marked.)

9 BY MR. VECCHIONE:

10 Q. I'll give you a moment to read through it.  
11 Do you recognize this?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. All right. What is it?

14 A. An email chain with Facebook around COVID.

15 Q. Yeah. Early February 2020?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Let's get -- just so we can get onto the  
18 same page, the way this email chain works is the  
19 oldest part is in the back; right? And then it  
20 reads up.

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. And let's go to the back. In the first  
23 part of the chain, as far as I can see, it says from  
24 Carol Y. Crawford?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. All right. And there is a -- there is an  
2 email there. Well, could you read that for me, your  
3 email?

4 A. "Payton, just looping you in on  
5 something."

6 Q. Oh. No, no, no. I mean, I want to get  
7 the email down. I think it's C -- because of  
8 your -- I think it's [REDACTED]@CDC.gov?

9 A. Mm-hmm (affirmative).

10 Q. Am I correct about that?

11 A. That's mine, yes.

12 Q. Okay. And is that the only email,  
13 government email, you used over this whole period,  
14 or is there a different one?

15 A. There is a -- it's the same email box, but  
16 there is also [REDACTED]@CDC.gov. It's like an alias  
17 for [REDACTED]@CDC.gov. It's the same box.

18 Q. They all go to the same place?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. It's just how the computer reads it, or?

21 A. It's just an easier email address for  
22 someone to give people --

23 Q. Quicker to write?

24 A. -- than [REDACTED].

25 Q. Do you have any other government --

1 A. No.

2 Q. And how about have you contacted any of  
3 the social media companies with a personal email?

4 A. Never.

5 Q. Okay. So and then this is -- I believe  
6 this is a fellow we identified earlier; right?

7 Who's Payton Iheme?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. And if I see [REDACTED]@fb.com, that's your  
10 understanding that's Payton Iheme --

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. -- that's his email? And then it says cc  
13 [REDACTED], and then there is an [REDACTED] Facebook [sic]  
14 [REDACTED]@CDC.gov". Who is that?

15 A. Jay Dempsey worked -- works now and within  
16 my branch as the social media lead, and he reported  
17 to me.

18 Q. Okay. And his [REDACTED] has nothing to do with  
19 Facebook as in Payton's email; right --

20 A. No.

21 Q. -- it's just a coincidence?

22 A. It's his user ID, yes.

23 Q. All right. Thank you. And what was his  
24 role?

25 A. He was the social media lead within my



1 branch.

2 Q. Okay. And what do you state here in this  
3 email to Payton?

4 A. (As read) Just looping you in on something  
5 Jay and I had awareness of. Are you in the loop  
6 with this.

7 Q. All right. And what is this? What have  
8 you attached here?

9 A. I don't remember this part of the chain at  
10 all, but it appears to be a note from Facebook to  
11 someone at the State Department outlining some  
12 Facebook work on COVID.

13 Q. And let's get some terms down here. The  
14 reason you believe that, is that just from your  
15 memory, or is that because it's Shelley Thakral --  
16 it's from them to a person in the State Department?

17 A. I don't know any of the names on the  
18 email.

19 Q. Okay.

20 A. I read this. This is the first thing I  
21 read when you handed --

22 Q. Yeah.

23 A. -- me the document.

24 Q. Got it.

25 A. I started at the back.

1 Q. So I'm just trying to be clear. You don't  
2 have a present recollection of what this is --

3 A. No.

4 Q. -- what you just told me you got because  
5 that's what it says; right?

6 A. No. I don't remember that part of the  
7 chain, no. No.

8 Q. And were you asking Mr. Iheme whether he  
9 knew about this, or was he responsible for it?  
10 Which what does it mean "in the loop about it"?

11 A. As a note, Payton is female.

12 Q. Okay.

13 A. I mean, I'm reading what I wrote: Just  
14 looping you on something Jay and I had awareness on.  
15 Are you in the loop with this?

16 That's all I know. It's what I typed.

17 Q. You don't have any other understanding  
18 than that?

19 A. No.

20 Q. All right. Let's move to the next part of  
21 the chain.

22 (REPORTER'S NOTE: Mr. Sauer enters  
23 deposition.)

24 BY MR. VECCHIONE:

25 Q. I see it's from Payton, from Ms. Iheme, to

1     **you and cc'ing Dempsey; right?**

2             A. Yes.

3             **Q. And he's responding to your request about**  
4     **the loop. What does he say there?**

5             A. At 3:35 for Payton is what you're asking  
6     me?

7             **Q. Yes, I am. Thank you.**

8             A. Okay. (As read) Let me know if you're --  
9     you would like to speak to our teams working on  
10    these items.

11            Do you want me to read the whole email?

12            **Q. Yes, please.**

13            A. Okay. (As read) Our teams at Facebook  
14    have been working to identify how we can support  
15    efforts to provide users with accurate and timely  
16    information about coronavirus. We would like to get  
17    CDC's feedback on a few key initiatives that we are  
18    considering launching in the coming days, weeks. I  
19    have outlined the specifics below, and would greatly  
20    appreciate your thoughts on the tactics and proposed  
21    design/content. We would be happy to jump on a  
22    quick call today or tomorrow if that would be easier  
23    as well."

24            **Q. All right. That's great. That's -- okay.**  
25    **And then he has a bunch of proposals, like three**

1 proposals; correct?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. All right. And you respond to him the  
4 next day?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. All right. And you say "sorry for the  
7 delay."

8 Were you in the habit of responding to him  
9 faster than less than 24 hours on these matters at  
10 that point in time?

11 A. Payton is female.

12 Q. Yeah, I heard. Thank you.

13 A. It's okay.

14 Q. You know what Payton I'm thinking of?

15 A. No.

16 Q. The football player.

17 A. Oh, sorry.

18 I don't know. At this time I believe we  
19 were working a lot of hours, and a few hours seemed  
20 like a long time. I don't think I -- I don't think  
21 Payton and I had known each other via email very  
22 long at this point, so I can't speculate on how  
23 quick I normally email her.

24 Q. Okay. And you say in here in item one:  
25 As well, if can rotate messages, there might be

1 times we might want to address widespread myths like  
2 mask use or new issues.

3 At this time what was the myth of mask  
4 use?

5 A. My general memory of mask use was that  
6 there was confusion about whether people should wear  
7 masks or not.

8 Q. And what was CDC's view at that time?

9 A. I really can't speak to our  
10 recommendations. I probably don't have the specific  
11 recall of the timelines.

12 Q. Okay. And then your next sentence: "This  
13 could and should replace flu shot messaging."

14 And was that messaging that the platforms  
15 were already doing about flu prior to COVID?

16 A. This was one of the occasional  
17 interactions that I recall having with Facebook.  
18 They had -- I believe -- I believe they approached  
19 CDC about flu messaging that prior flu season, and  
20 we had had a few phone calls with them and our flu  
21 division. And my recollection is that we provided  
22 them with some public domain content for them to  
23 highlight.

24 Q. Okay. And then the next one is you're  
25 still trying to get this phone call together. And

1 eventually you get a phone call together; right?

2 A. It looks like it from this chain, yes.

3 Q. Okay. Can you tell us who was on that  
4 call besides Payton and you?

5 A. I don't recall the specific calls from  
6 that time period.

7 Q. Okay. And do you know what was said on  
8 the call at all, what you discussed?

9 A. On that specific call, I do not.

10 Q. Do you have any notes, calendars, or other  
11 records what was said on the call?

12 A. I don't believe -- I mean, the calendar  
13 appointment's probably in my Outlook. I don't  
14 recall us taking notes, much notes, from any of the  
15 meetings. Occasional followup items. But I don't  
16 know if we took any for this. If we did, it would  
17 have been in my email, or my record, the electronic  
18 records.

19 MR. VECCHIONE: All right. Mr. Sauer has  
20 joined us. Can we take a five-minute break while I  
21 put things in order? And I will give you the next  
22 exhibit.

23 MS. SNOW: Okay.

24 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: We are off record at  
25 9:57.

1 (Recess 9:57 a.m. - 10:09 a.m.)

2 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: We are back on the  
3 record at 10:09.

4 MS. SNOW: If I could just --

5 MR. VECCHIONE: Go ahead.

6 MS. SNOW: Defendants just wanted to note  
7 that at the request of plaintiffs' counsel we've  
8 forwarded a Zoom link with a call-in number for  
9 counsel, for plaintiffs' counsel, who could not be  
10 here at the deposition to listen in. And with the  
11 agreement of the parties, the Zoom link will not be  
12 shared with others beyond the three plaintiffs'  
13 counsel who are listening in and the Zoom, the  
14 deposition will not be recorded using the phone, the  
15 call-in number.

16 MR. VECCHIONE: Remotely by them. Just by  
17 him. (Indicating videographer.)

18 MS. SNOW: Yes, yes. Exactly, yes. Thank  
19 you. And then we also just wanted to -- the witness  
20 wanted to clarify a point during the last round of  
21 questioning.

22 BY MR. VECCHIONE:

23 **Q. Go right ahead.**

24 A. In reviewing this email, it refreshed my  
25 memory about roles.

1           **Q. Are you looking at Exhibit 3 or 2, for my**  
2 **purposes?**

3           A. 2.

4           **Q. Thank you.**

5           A. I recalled that during the time of these  
6 emails, I was actually serving as the acting  
7 director for the division of Public Affairs. I  
8 served in that role for, I think, five or six  
9 months.

10           **Q. Was that an add-on to your other duties,**  
11 **or instead of, or like was it -- how did that come**  
12 **about?**

13           A. Michelle Bonds had gone on a detail  
14 somewhere else. I don't recall where. Sorry. But  
15 I was still really -- especially when COVID hit, I  
16 really started also focusing on digital in-depth.  
17 So that's why I was still involved. I mean, digital  
18 was still part of the division of Public Affairs, so  
19 it was still part of my portfolio, but I had the  
20 expertise on it, so.

21           **Q. All right. Thank you for that. And**  
22 **during the day if there is any -- you have further**  
23 **recollection as further documents get put in front**  
24 **of you, feel free to interrupt me and tell me that.**

25           A. Okay.



1 MR. VECCHIONE: Does the witness have  
2 Exhibit 3 in front of her?

3 MS. SNOW: There you go.

4 (Plaintiffs' Exhibit 3 marked.)

5 MR. VECCHIONE: This is a short one. Take  
6 a second to take a look at it.

7 BY MR. VECCHIONE:

8 Q. Do you recognize this document?

9 A. No.

10 Q. Can you tell me what the subject line is  
11 of the first email on the chain?

12 A. Facebook COVID-19 Response Efforts.

13 Q. All right. And it's from Ms. Itheme that  
14 we've spoken about before to you; correct?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. And it says: "Apologies for the late  
17 note," she says to you. I want to ensure you -- "I  
18 want to ensure you are aware that Mark just shared  
19 our ongoing work to support government."

20 Who's Mark?

21 A. I don't know for sure, but I'm assuming  
22 this was Mark Zuckerberg.

23 Q. And she says to you: "Our goal is to help  
24 organizations to get their safety message out to the  
25 public, remove misinformation, and support overall

1 community efforts in areas where we can be of help;"  
2 right?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Now, the next thing I see is above that it  
5 says on "March 5, 2020, at 8:55 a.m. Crawford, Carol  
6 Y...wrote," is that an email, is that a reply email  
7 from you to her?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. You say there: "We want to do a very  
10 controlled Q&A and would like to know our best  
11 options."

12 What are you referring to there, what's  
13 going on?

14 A. I believe this is in reference to a  
15 Facebook Live event that we were trying to plan, and  
16 it was going to be -- we expected it to be pretty  
17 big, and we were asking for help in setting it up in  
18 the best practices.

19 Q. Was that from a technological standpoint,  
20 like, how it was going to work, or did you need  
21 their input on information?

22 A. My memory is that it was mostly about how  
23 it would work. We had not done many big Facebook  
24 Lives before then, and we were worried about having,  
25 like, thousands of Q&A that we couldn't possibly

1 answer.

2 Q. All right. And the next thing you say  
3 there is: "Our lead POC" -- is that point of  
4 contact, when I see POC?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Is Kat Turner at [REDACTED] -- I'll say [REDACTED]?

7 A. [REDACTED].

8 Q. [REDACTED]@CDC.gov. So who is that?

9 A. Kat was a social media coordinator in one  
10 of our centers that was willing to help manage this  
11 effort.

12 Q. In the original email from Payton Theme  
13 what was your understanding of why she was sending  
14 you this information?

15 A. I don't recall the specific email, or --  
16 there looks like there is a link -- or what it said,  
17 or what it was about. But they would often forward  
18 posts from their corporations for awareness for us.  
19 So I assume that was probably what this was about.

20 Q. Okay. And then your final email on the  
21 chain you send your -- that's your phone number at  
22 work, I take it?

23 A. It's actually my personal cell that I use  
24 as a what CDC calls "bring your own device."

25 Q. Got it.

1 A. Yes, but it was the cell phone.

2 Q. It's your cell number you use?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Did you message through that cell to any  
5 of the social media companies?

6 A. The only time I recall using my cell phone  
7 to message anyone was like we're late for the  
8 meeting, or the contact number didn't work or  
9 something like that. We didn't have any kind of  
10 conversations on texting.

11 Q. Do you recall whether you spoke to Payton  
12 Iheme at this time?

13 A. No.

14 Q. Now, this is -- from my understanding is  
15 this call that you're referring at the top, your  
16 last part, is that to arrange the Facebook meeting,  
17 or is that the Facebook meeting, the Q&A?

18 MS. SNOW: Objection. Vague.

19 BY MR. VECCHIONE:

20 Q. Okay. So let me tell you -- the reason  
21 it's vague is because I don't understand something.

22 Here's what I'm trying to understand from  
23 information. Originally Ms. Iheme writes to you  
24 about this information. And then you say you want a  
25 controlled Q&A; right? On Facebook. And then

1 somehow you're going to -- you're going to arrange  
2 that with them and Kat Turner.

3 And then you say I'll -- here's my number,  
4 and Kat knows it, I have an appointment.

5 Did you have a conversation is what I'm  
6 getting about besides the Facebook Q&A?

7 A. I don't know. But we talked pretty  
8 regularly around this time, so I imagine we probably  
9 did talk. But I don't know that for sure.

10 Q. All right. What was your understanding of  
11 Ms. Theme's statement that the -- Facebook was going  
12 to help organizations remove misinformation?

13 A. I don't recall a recollection of  
14 discussing misinformation with Payton around this  
15 time, so I can't speculate.

16 Q. You don't have a present recollection of  
17 what that meant?

18 A. No.

19 Q. All right. And once again for this call  
20 that you had, and maybe Kat Turner was on it, maybe  
21 she wasn't, do you have any record of that call, or  
22 what might have been said?

23 A. It doesn't look like this had an  
24 appointment associated with it, so I don't think  
25 there's an appointment, and I don't know -- I don't

1 remember the call, so I don't recall if there were  
2 notes. But I know in general very little notes were  
3 kept.

4 **Q. Now, you said you don't recall many**  
5 **conversations about removing misinformation at that**  
6 **time. When do you recall such conversations?**

7 A. I remember it becoming occasionally  
8 discussed in the fall of 2020 perhaps.

9 **Q. Okay. And what do you recall being**  
10 **discussed at that time?**

11 A. I can recall us generally saying things to  
12 the effect of -- I don't remember any specifics, but  
13 misinformation is really growing, or, you know, what  
14 do you think we could be doing to address it? That  
15 kind of conversation.

16 **Q. All right.**

17 A. Very general.

18 (Plaintiffs' Exhibit 4 marked.)

19 BY MR. VECCHIONE:

20 **Q. Fair enough. Let's move on to Exhibit 4.**

21 A. Okay.

22 **Q. All right. And I'll give you a moment to**  
23 **take a look at that.**

24 **All right. Have you had a chance to**  
25 **review?**

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Do you recall this email?

3 A. No.

4 Q. All right. Well, let's talk about it and  
5 who these people are because I think we have some  
6 new folks.

7 So what's the subject line of the first,  
8 the email there at the top?

9 A. CDC brief on ways to reach high-risk and  
10 frequent travelers.

11 Q. All right. And what is the CDC brief?  
12 What does that refer to?

13 A. I don't -- I don't recall what the brief  
14 was.

15 Q. Okay. But as -- my question is a little  
16 broader than that. We're lawyers.

17 A. Mm-hmm (affirmative).

18 Q. We write briefs all the time; right? They  
19 are actually physical pieces of a paper that we put  
20 forth our arguments for. Sometimes people use that  
21 term as bullet points, or sometimes their positions,  
22 even just orally stated.

23 What I'm trying to get at is what does  
24 "brief" mean in this context?

25 A. To me, a brief probably was a one- or

1 two-page summary of something that we, or they, were  
2 trying to do.

3 **Q. Now, this email exchange I think occurred**  
4 **sometime at the end of March 31st; is that correct?**

5 A. Yes.

6 **Q. All right. And it was between you and**  
7 **Kevin Hatcher, and his email is [REDACTED]@fb.com?**

8 A. That's what the email says.

9 **Q. All right. Who is Kevin Hatcher?**

10 A. Oh. That says -- I don't have a clear  
11 recollection. There was a lot going on during this  
12 time beyond any of this work. But I think that  
13 Kevin Hatcher might have been some type of  
14 instructional designer with Facebook that I --  
15 looking at the units and the Unit 1 and Unit 2,  
16 there was an effort to put together like learning  
17 modules that communities could use. I think that  
18 that might have been what this was about, and that  
19 that was Kevin's role.

20 **Q. All right.**

21 A. I cannot be sure, though.

22 **Q. All right. But from your understanding of**  
23 **what this says --**

24 A. Mm-hmm (affirmative).

25 **Q. -- and how it worked, that is your best**



1 understanding right now; whether it's right or wrong  
2 that's what you understand?

3 A. Yes, I remember that activity, and this  
4 seems to match that activity.

5 Q. All right. Then at the top you say:  
6 "Kevin, I realized others made comments on the pdfs  
7 after I sent you the previous one. So, this  
8 answered your Q."

9 Is that question?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. -- "on breathing. I hate to ask but can  
12 your team check the other comments here? I  
13 apologize."

14 What are the other comments?

15 A. I don't know what the other comments were.  
16 But it appears to me that we sent to a group of  
17 people the drafts, and CDC folks commented and I  
18 forwarded it back.

19 Q. All right.

20 A. But I don't remember the comments.

21 Q. All right. Can you go to the end page of  
22 this document?

23 A. Mm-hmm (affirmative).

24 Q. It says: "Recommend breaking this  
25 sentence up as it's linking stress to severe illness

1 in a way I we don't. If ARTF doesn't suggest an  
2 edit, we can."

3 Do you know who ARTF is?

4 A. I don't. But I believe it's probably a  
5 CDC task force. TF would be task force. I don't  
6 know what AR is.

7 Q. Got it. Do you know what Mr. Hatcher was  
8 referring to where it says: "Emergency warning  
9 signs include difficulty breathing"? Do you know  
10 what that was referring to?

11 A. I only know what I'm reading here.

12 Q. Right.

13 A. The unit that he was developing must have  
14 had this wording, and he was asking for  
15 clarification on what the wording should be.

16 Q. All right. And do you have an  
17 understanding, or do you know, why Mr. Hatcher was  
18 asking whether Facebook should add extreme before  
19 emergency warning signs?

20 A. I have no recollection of it.

21 Q. Okay. Do you know why Mr. Hatcher asked  
22 whether he should replace: Older people are at high  
23 risk from severe illness from COVID to people over  
24 65? Do you know if there was any messaging from CDC  
25 at that time?

1           A. I do not know.

2           **Q. All right. Do you know now sitting here**  
3 **whether there is any preference by digital media at**  
4 **CDC's digital output right now, for either of those**  
5 **terms?**

6           A. I do not know because our office does not  
7 write the content.

8           **Q. Okay. You can put that aside.**

9           A. Okay.

10                   (Plaintiffs' Exhibit 5 marked.)

11 BY MR. VECCHIONE:

12           **Q. Take a minute, take a look at that.**

13           A. Okay.

14           **Q. You've got it?**

15           A. Mm-hmm (affirmative).

16           **Q. So I think we don't have any new players;**  
17 **right? These are all the same people we talked**  
18 **about before, you and Ms. Itheme and Mr. Hatcher.**

19                   **Can you tell me what the subject of this**  
20 **email string was?**

21           A. CDC brief on ways to reach high-risk and  
22 frequent travelers.

23           **Q. Okay. And I think this is March 30th?**

24           A. 2020, yes.

25           **Q. And so I guess it's before the one I**

1 **showed you that was March 31st, Exhibit 4?**

2 A. I don't have that exhibit, but I assume  
3 that's correct.

4 **Q. Okay. We can compare it.**

5 Can you go to the very beginning of the  
6 **string on this?**

7 A. Mm-hmm (affirmative).

8 **Q. There is a blacked out "from," and then it**  
9 **says: "When: 3:30-4:30, Subject: CDC brief on**  
10 **ways to reach high-risk and frequent travelers."**

11 **Do you see that?**

12 A. Yes.

13 **Q. What is that?**

14 A. It looks like an appointment for a phone  
15 call.

16 **Q. Okay.**

17 A. But I'm not -- it's not fully there.

18 **Q. Yeah. Would Facebook be sending that to**  
19 **you, or is that just at the bottom of his email? Do**  
20 **you have any understanding of how it works?**

21 A. They have a different email system than we  
22 have, but it looks similar to someone forwarding on  
23 an appointment and using the chain as an email,  
24 though I don't know that for sure.

25 **Q. Got it. And this starts at a March 27th**

1 email from him to him -- or from her to herself and  
2 you; correct?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. And then there is a Margaret E. Silver.  
5 Who is that?

6 A. She was with our Travelers Health group.  
7 I believe that's where she was.

8 Q. And what was the Travelers Health group?

9 A. We have a unit at CDC that focuses on  
10 traveler's health. There is a website on traveler's  
11 health.

12 Q. And who's Caroline Seman?

13 A. I believe she was also with Travelers  
14 Health.

15 Q. All right. And then I see Dempsey. Is  
16 that the same Dempsey we saw before?

17 A. Yes, yes.

18 Q. Does that -- and then [REDACTED]?

19 A. That's still Jay Dempsey.

20 Q. Still Dempsey, it's just split; right?

21 A. Mm-hmm (affirmative).

22 Q. So Ms. Itheme says to you: "Hi, Carol and  
23 team. As relayed on the call, we're happy to target  
24 additional populations such as youth as the content  
25 becomes available. Just let us know. For the first

1 wave, we'd like to move forward with launching this  
2 next week," I think it's "ideally April 3rd to the  
3 groups for which you already produced content (older  
4 adults, HIV plus, asthma and pregnant women)."

5 Do you know whether that's for travelers,  
6 or just general populations?

7 A. That was for general populations.

8 Q. All right. And how do you know that?

9 A. I have some recollection of this project.

10 Q. Okay.

11 A. It was like units of information on COVID  
12 that Facebook communities could attach to their  
13 groups. And I'm not 100 percent sure about this,  
14 but I think we asked about travel, and then they  
15 mentioned the idea of this project and said if you  
16 have content for -- that would help other groups, we  
17 could do similar things.

18 Q. Okay. And then he then asks how you want  
19 this to read on the Facebook's sites, whether  
20 sourced from CDC, or authored by CDC?

21 A. Yes, I see that.

22 Q. Do you know what the answer was to that?

23 A. I don't recall which one we picked, but  
24 I'm pretty sure it was one of the sources.

25 Q. Okay. Let's go up to the next, the March

1 27th, 3:01 p.m.

2 A. Okay.

3 Q. There is some more people here, I just  
4 want to -- I don't know that we've seen. Well, we  
5 have seen her. Okay. Never mind. You described  
6 it.

7 And then at the very top, March 30, he  
8 says they are going to have their content  
9 strategists make the changes you'd agreed to that  
10 day.

11 A. That's what I'm reading as well.

12 Q. Okay. Now, why was the CDC editing this  
13 content?

14 MS. SNOW: Objection. Mischaracterizes  
15 testimony and the document.

16 BY MR. VECCHIONE:

17 Q. Okay. You can answer.

18 A. I don't have the attachments or the  
19 documents, so I don't know what we were editing or  
20 not editing. But we had content on the website, but  
21 the format of the units was slightly different. So  
22 we had to take the content from our website and have  
23 it fit in the units.

24 Q. Okay.

25 A. And they requested CDC's review of that.

1           **Q. All right. Do you know why in the part**  
2 **where he says: "If we don't launch next week we'll**  
3 **be pulled onto other COVID-19 projects, hence the**  
4 **urgency," do you know why he's asking you about when**  
5 **they should launch?**

6           A. I don't think he was asking me about when  
7 we should launch. I think he's letting us know if  
8 we don't launch they may not get to it.

9           **Q. All right. And do you know if those, if**  
10 **he's referring to other COVID projects he has with**  
11 **CDC, or just generally?**

12          A. I don't know for sure.

13          **Q. You can put that aside.**

14          A. Okay.

15          **Q. Just one more question about that. Is he**  
16 **creating a Facebook page for CDC, or just for**  
17 **Facebook, do you know?**

18          A. My recollection of what this project was,  
19 it was like units that would exist in Facebook that  
20 like if you're in a group on travel that the group  
21 administrator could provide a link to these units if  
22 people wanted additional COVID information. They  
23 are not up any longer and my memory is vague on  
24 them.

25               MR. VECCHIONE: Got it. Thank you.



1 (Plaintiffs' Exhibit 6 marked.)

2 BY MR. VECCHIONE:

3 Q. Take a moment to look at this. This is  
4 Exhibit 6. The mark may look like a 4, but I assure  
5 you it's Exhibit 6.

6 All right. Do you recognize this  
7 document?

8 A. No.

9 Q. But do you know what it is?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. What is it?

12 A. It's a discussion about access to or for  
13 Facebook giving us CrowdTangle COVID reports.

14 Q. All right. And let's talk about this a  
15 little bit. We're more forward in time; right?  
16 This is sometime in January 2021?

17 A. Correct.

18 Q. And I think both dates say January 26,  
19 2021. Would you agree with me there?

20 A. Yes. Well no, the first one is  
21 January 25th.

22 Q. All right. See, that's why we have  
23 witnesses.

24 All right. The first thing is what's  
25 CrowdTangle?

1           A. I have not used CrowdTangle personally,  
2 but I've seen it demonstrated. But it is to my --  
3 my description of it is it's a social media  
4 listening tool for Meta properties.

5           **Q. What are Meta properties?**

6           A. Like Instagram and Facebook.

7           **Q. Okay. So by Meta properties you mean**  
8 **properties of the company Meta, not on some other**  
9 **level of?**

10          A. No.

11          **Q. Okay.**

12          A. Their platforms.

13          **Q. Got it. Thank you.**

14                   **Let's look at that January 25th email,**  
15 **because I think we have some new people here.**

16                   **There is Payton Iheme, and you. It's from**  
17 **her to you. And you cc Lauren Balog Wright at**  
18 **Facebook. Do you know who that is?**

19          A. I think that Lauren, just from reading  
20 this, she was the person that was the CrowdTangle  
21 expert and was going to provide the reports.

22          **Q. Okay. And Priya Gangolly?**

23          A. Priya Gangolly I interpreted to be like an  
24 assistant to Payton.

25          **Q. And Kelly Perron?**

1           A. And from this email I believe Kelly was  
2 also going to provide the CrowdTangle reports.

3           **Q. And it says: Subject CrowdTangle COVID-19**  
4 **reports for WHO.**

5                     **Not to channel Abbott and Costello, but**  
6 **who is that?**

7           A. World Health Organization.

8           **Q. And why were they asking you about**  
9 **information to WHO?**

10           A. Well, I do have -- after reading this I do  
11 recall the conversation a bit. But what they are  
12 saying in this email is we provide this report to  
13 WHO, and we can provide it to you as well.

14           **Q. Okay. What do you remember of the**  
15 **conversation?**

16           A. Just that they -- I believe they mentioned  
17 on a call that they could possibly do this, and this  
18 is a followup email. And they shared the reports  
19 and occasionally they would ask me on the call if  
20 these reports were helpful.

21           **Q. And let's see what he says here, what she**  
22 **says here. "Hi, Carol, I am following up on our**  
23 **conversation several weeks ago about providing more**  
24 **detailed reporting from our CrowdTangle team. I**  
25 **wanted to share our first CrowdTangle COVID content**

1 report with you courtesy of Lauren and Kelly on this  
2 cc. They are providing these to WHO, thought it  
3 helpful for CDC's teams as well." And then she says  
4 what the time period of it is, and that these are  
5 going to be biweekly.

6 What kind of information was in the  
7 CrowdTangle? What did it provide you?

8 A. Well, I don't have a clear recollection of  
9 the reports because I sent the reports to other  
10 teams. But typically social media listening reports  
11 show themes and -- of discussion on social media  
12 channels.

13 Q. Okay. And so if you look down further  
14 I'll just ask you again some words that I think I  
15 know what they mean, but we might as well put on the  
16 record.

17 (As read) Lauren, can you -- can do that  
18 "distro."

19 That's distribution?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. And "the full report is attached but some  
22 highlights the CrowdTangle team would like to call  
23 to your attention are: Top engaged COVID and  
24 vaccine-related content overall across Pages and  
25 Groups." And it says "largely a mix of educational

1 posts, reports of successful vaccinations," and it  
2 goes on. And then "news/commentary on COVID and  
3 vaccination rollout."

4 So does this -- is this like an algorithm  
5 that shows you where -- what people are talking  
6 about?

7 A. I wouldn't characterize it as an  
8 algorithm. But it's a search of content on social  
9 media, and a summary of the higher volume  
10 conversations. It's helpful for communicators to  
11 know what is being discussed because it helps  
12 improve our communication materials.

13 Q. All right. And then he says: "However,  
14 posts falling into the following themes, all of  
15 which have potential risks, also garnered high  
16 engagement." And then he has reports of healthcare  
17 workers refusing the vaccine; right?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. And he says there was an article in Forbes  
20 about it?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Posts about alleged vaccine-related  
23 deaths?

24 A. Yes, I see that, too.

25 Q. And: "News and reports of severe vaccine

1 side effects included both first- and secondhand  
2 reports in Groups, with users sharing photos and  
3 video."

4 Do you see that?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Why are these of concern to the CDC, if at  
7 all?

8 MS. SNOW: Objection. Mischaracterizes  
9 testimony, and the document.

10 BY MR. VECCHIONE:

11 Q. You can answer.

12 A. Well, this doesn't say that they were a  
13 concern to CDC. They are providing a report of the  
14 most talked about topics on social media during this  
15 time period. But in general, as I mentioned before,  
16 it does help for people to -- for communicators to  
17 know what conversations occurs on social media  
18 because it helps us identify gaps in knowledge, or  
19 confusion, or things that we're not communicating  
20 effectively that we need to adjust.

21 Q. All right. Again, pardon me -- but  
22 secondhand reports and groups, groups are like the  
23 travelers information groups; if I'm on Facebook I  
24 can belong to various groups, and I get information  
25 on that feed?

1           A. Can you clarify what you're referring to  
2 with groups?

3           Q. He says number 3 -- number -- well, in 1,  
4 2 and 3 he uses the words "groups." In 1 he says:  
5 **Worker-centric groups, groups especially**  
6 **anti-vaccination groups.** And then in 3 he has  
7 **secondhand reports in groups.** So I'm just asking  
8 **for the record --**

9           A. Yeah.

10          Q. -- that if I am on Facebook I can belong  
11 to various groups and get information that that  
12 group gets?

13          A. I cannot -- I can't say for sure that this  
14 report was about the Facebook groups, but it seems  
15 likely that that's what that is reference to and you  
16 are describing them correctly.

17          Q. Thank you. And then he tells -- you tell  
18 in the next -- in January 26th you write to  
19 Ms. Itheme and you say -- you say: "It looks  
20 wonderful and much appreciated," and then send, send  
21 them to you. It says: "One group we'll be adding  
22 is the Census group who hopefully will soon start  
23 their project."

24                 "Also, the wide group of those looking at  
25 misinfo will want this."

1           **First, what's the Census group within CDC?**

2   **Or is that not within CDC? What is that, Census**  
3   **group?**

4           A. This is the Census Bureau.

5           **Q. Okay. And they would be on this CDC list?**

6           A. It appears I was suggesting that, yes.

7           **Q. Okay. And then who's the wide group of**  
8   **those looking at -- well, first let's go back.**

9   **Misinfo is misinformation?**

10          A. Yes.

11          **Q. Who's the wide group of those looking at**  
12   **misinformation?**

13          A. I don't know specifically what I was  
14   referring to there.

15          **Q. Do you know generally?**

16          A. I suspect that it was probably people  
17   working on communication materials or developing  
18   reports about gaps and areas of confusion.

19          **Q. Okay. Do you have notes or other records**  
20   **of the phone call he refers -- she refers to: "I'm**  
21   **following up on our conversation several weeks ago"?**

22          A. I doubt I have notes.

23          **Q. Okay.**

24          A. If I did, they would have been electronic.

25          **Q. Do you know who took part in the**



1 **conversation?**

2 A. I don't know. But typically I was on the  
3 call, sometimes Jay was as well, Jay Dempsey. But I  
4 don't recall the specific meeting.

5 **Q. Did you instruct Ms. Theme or anyone else**  
6 **at Facebook to do anything with the biweekly reports**  
7 **other than send them to you?**

8 MS. SNOW: Objection. Mischaracterizes  
9 testimony.

10 BY MR. VECCHIONE:

11 **Q. You did ask Ms. Theme to send you the**  
12 **biweekly reports, didn't you?**

13 A. She offered to send me the biweekly  
14 reports, and I agreed that would be good.

15 **Q. Did you instruct her to do anything else**  
16 **regarding the biweekly reports?**

17 A. Not that I recall.

18 **Q. Do you know who decided the reports would**  
19 **be developed biweekly?**

20 A. I don't recall. But this email seems to  
21 suggest that they were already doing biweekly ones.

22 **Q. For the -- for your purposes, what was the**  
23 **purpose of the reports, receiving them?**

24 A. They would help us understand what was  
25 being discussed on social media about COVID, which

1 helps us look for gaps in information, confusion  
2 about facts, things that we might need to adjust our  
3 communication materials for.

4 **Q. Had you prior to this email discussed with**  
5 **Ms. Theme such items as reports of healthcare**  
6 **workers refusing the vaccine, posts about alleged**  
7 **vaccine-related deaths, and news and reports of**  
8 **severe vaccine side effects? Did you ever report to**  
9 **her that those would be of interest to the CDC?**

10 A. I don't recall reporting or discussing  
11 these with them specifically. I do recall generally  
12 discussing misinformation with Facebook around this  
13 time and --

14 **Q. And those could have been included within**  
15 **that discussion?**

16 A. Possibly.

17 **Q. Why did you add Census to the distribution**  
18 **of this?**

19 A. They were going to start working with the  
20 CDC regarding misinformation.

21 **Q. So what did -- what did the wide group of**  
22 **those looking at misinformation do with the reports?**

23 A. I don't know what they did with the  
24 reports. However, I do know two things that were  
25 likely done with the reports. We had -- we have

1 part of our Joint Information Center in the  
2 Emergency Response a research team that compiles all  
3 the themes of discussion on news and social media.  
4 And I know that they received these reports, and  
5 they use a lot of sources to develop a summary for  
6 the response for all the reasons I just described  
7 about why this is helpful.

8 I believe at this time it was also part of  
9 a publicly-available vaccine confidence report that  
10 also looked across themes, what was being discussed,  
11 and where areas of confusion were so that they could  
12 update vaccine communication and other issues.  
13 Those are posted on CDC's website.

14 **Q. Did you do anything with the reports**  
15 **besides forward them on to Census and to this wide**  
16 **group?**

17 A. Anything with the CrowdTangle reports, I  
18 didn't personally do anything else with the  
19 CrowdTangle reports.

20 **Q. Do you know if anyone else did anything**  
21 **besides what you've described with the CrowdTangle**  
22 **reports?**

23 A. I would assume that it was used by people  
24 to look in background of conversations similar to  
25 what I have described.

1 MR. VECCHIONE: All right. You can put  
2 that aside.

3 (Plaintiffs' Exhibit 7 marked.)

4 BY MR. VECCHIONE:

5 Q. All right. So what is the subject line of  
6 this email chain?

7 A. "Crowd Tangle COVID-19 Reports."

8 Q. All right. Let's take a look at the  
9 February 21, 2021, 8:39. Who is this from and who's  
10 the recipient?

11 A. Kelly Perron at Facebook, and I'm the  
12 recipient.

13 Q. All right. And we've discussed her  
14 before. She was going to be one of the contacts  
15 with CrowdTangle; right?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. And what is the summary that Perron  
18 reports?

19 A. She attached the report, which is not  
20 here, but and then summarized the high points.

21 Q. Okay. And why is she reporting this to  
22 you? Is this part of the biweekly report that you  
23 agreed to earlier?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. And this would be a summary of a report

1     **that's probably attached, but it's not here?**

2             A. Correct.

3             **Q. All right. And what did you do with this**  
4     **information?**

5             A. We created a mail group, and this was  
6     forwarded on by -- I either forwarded it, or over  
7     time I had an assistant that started forwarding  
8     them.

9             **Q. All right. So the same groups within the**  
10    **CDC and the Census we talked about before?**

11            A. At some point I recall adding Census to  
12    the distro. I am sure by May or March there were  
13    several time periods they were probably included.  
14    The distribution list likely changed a bit because  
15    people deployed into the response and out of the  
16    response, but, yes.

17            **Q. Okay. Can you take a look at the emails**  
18    **dated Tuesday, February 16 and 17th, 2021 at**  
19    **9:00 p.m.?**

20            A. Yes.

21            **Q. So who is that from, and who is that to?**

22            A. That's Kelly Perron at Facebook to me.

23            **Q. And what is she summarizing here? What is**  
24    **the summary that she reports?**

25            A. It's the -- it looks like the next

1 biweekly report. And it looks attached, but it's  
2 not in the exhibit. And she summarized it in the  
3 body of the email.

4 **Q. All right. And she's highlighted, some**  
5 **things are highlighted, right, in dark black?**

6 A. Some things are bolded.

7 **Q. Bolded. That's right. Reports of deaths**  
8 **post-vaccination?**

9 A. Yes, that's in bold.

10 **Q. Double masking?**

11 A. Yes, that's bold.

12 **Q. And personal reports of vaccination?**

13 A. Yes, that's bold.

14 **Q. Why did she report this to you, those**  
15 **highlights?**

16 A. There again, they are using CrowdTangle to  
17 do a summary of the themes that are being discussed  
18 on Facebook and Instagram channels, and this is a  
19 summary of that.

20 **Q. Okay. And what did you do with this**  
21 **information?**

22 A. As mentioned, we had a distribution list  
23 that this was forwarded to.

24 **Q. You just sent it on?**

25 A. Mm-hmm (affirmative).

1 Q. Can you look at the email dated Monday  
2 March 1st? And who is this to?

3 A. Kelly at Facebook to me.

4 Q. All right. And she added someone. She  
5 says she added Chelsey Lepage at Facebook. Who is  
6 that?

7 A. I think that she may have been --

8 Q. I'm cheating a little. I went above what  
9 I told you to look at.

10 A. Yes. I'm sorry. I see that now. But I  
11 believe Chelsey was another assistant to Payton, I  
12 think.

13 Q. Okay. And then on the one I did direct  
14 your attention to, March 1st at 5:47, again she says  
15 Hi -- Kelly Perron says: Hi, Carol. And she  
16 attached the latest CrowdTangle insights report for  
17 February 10th to 24, and she says it's attached.

18 A. Mm-hmm.

19 Q. And then she does a summary. And there  
20 again there are certain points she's bolded:  
21 COVID-19 and mental health, vaccine refusal, testing  
22 positive post-vaccination.

23 Do you know whether those were bolded  
24 because those were of particular concern to the CDC?

25 A. No. That's the format of all the reports.

1           **Q. Okay. So bolding them was -- your**  
2 **testimony is bolding them is not because they were**  
3 **of particular interest to the CDC, that's just how**  
4 **she did it?**

5           A. I really couldn't say what her thinking  
6 was when she bolded them.

7           **Q. Okay. When you received it did you have**  
8 **any understanding about the bolded portions?**

9           A. No.

10          **Q. Were the bolded portions things that you**  
11 **had particularly spoken with Facebook before in your**  
12 **telephone conversations?**

13          A. I don't believe so.

14          **Q. All right.**

15          A. Well, can I clarify that a little bit?

16          **Q. Yes, please.**

17          A. I'm sure -- I don't remember discussing  
18 these in terms of the CrowdTangle report or the  
19 things in bold. I am sure that general discussions  
20 that there was a lot of information on vaccines,  
21 which is one of the bolded words, for example. I am  
22 sure that did occur.

23          **Q. Thank you. On March 15 Kelly sends you at**  
24 **6:19 p.m.**

25          A. Yes.



1           Q. Sort of goes over, she keeps Chelsey  
2 Lepage in there, and then she -- this time she  
3 summarizes slightly different items:  
4 Post-vaccination guidelines and protocols, vaccine  
5 ingredients and vaccine side effects.

6           A. I see that.

7           Q. And your testimony is the same as to why  
8 they are bolded as before, as far as you know?

9           A. Correct.

10          Q. And you did the same thing with them as  
11 you did before that you've testified?

12          A. I believe so, yes.

13          Q. Let's see. And then at the bottom of that  
14 March 15, she says: This week we also are including  
15 a one off content insights report we did looking at  
16 Spanish language content relative to the U.S. we  
17 thought might be interesting for you.

18                   She asks you not to share it externally.

19                   Do you recall any other times you got  
20 Spanish language-specific material?

21          A. No. But I didn't recall this time either  
22 until I read it.

23          Q. Okay. And then I'll just -- to finish up,  
24 March -- May 25th. Now, there doesn't seem to be  
25 something for April. Do you know why there would be

1 a break in the two-week reporting?

2 A. No. I don't recall unless she just sent  
3 it separate from the chain.

4 Q. And then here she's bolded vaccination in  
5 children, healthcare workers and masks and  
6 vaccination; right?

7 A. I see that, too.

8 Q. And do you recall whether you spoke to her  
9 about those things, or that was just her choice to  
10 highlight those?

11 A. We did not discuss with them the issues we  
12 wanted in the CrowdTangle report.

13 Q. All right. And then you say "thanks" in  
14 response to this on 5:26. But we've got a new  
15 person here. Tyler Woods. Who is that?

16 A. I think, but I'm not positive, that he  
17 took over the reports later, so perhaps he was  
18 starting to come in on their team.

19 Q. Okay. We've been going about an hour. I  
20 always give the witness a chance to break if she  
21 wants.

22 A. I'm okay.

23 Q. Okay.

24 A. Thank you for checking.

25 MR. GILLIGAN: Can I ask one question,

1 John?

2 MR. VECCHIONE: Yeah.

3 MR. GILLIGAN: What is the number of your  
4 last exhibit?

5 MR. VECCHIONE: 42.

6 MR. GILLIGAN: Thank you.

7 And I actually -- that was -- I do have  
8 one that's unmarked that I may use.

9 MR. GILLIGAN: Okay. Just to add a little  
10 suspense. Thank you.

11 MR. VECCHIONE: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

12 (Plaintiffs' Exhibit 8 marked.)

13 BY MR. VECCHIONE:

14 **Q. All right. Do you recognize Exhibit 8?**

15 A. I haven't finished reading it.

16 **Q. Okay. Go ahead.**

17 A. Sorry. Okay. Sorry.

18 **Q. It's all right.**

19 A. Can you repeat the question?

20 **Q. Can you identify this document?**

21 A. I recognize the first page chain of  
22 emails, but not the previous chain.

23 **Q. So you don't -- tell me where -- the first  
24 page at the back?**

25 A. Oh, I'm sorry. No, the first page of the

1 packet.

2 **Q. Got it.**

3 A. I remembered this email more -- I don't  
4 have a recollection of this previous back and forth.

5 **Q. Got it. Well, what's the subject line?**

6 A. "This week's meeting."

7 **Q. Okay. And by this time were you meeting**  
8 **with them every week?**

9 A. We were -- we were meeting weekly during  
10 parts, so I imagine we were.

11 **Q. All right. And can you read the email**  
12 **from Ms. Itheme to you about the meeting on**  
13 **March 30th, 2021, 2:42 p.m.?**

14 A. Yes. "Hi, Carol, hope all is well as it  
15 can be. At least spring is making an appearance. I  
16 wanted to surface any misinfo questions your team  
17 may have for the team that I had briefing last time.  
18 They are available to attend again, but also want to  
19 make sure that we are answering any of your team's  
20 questions."

21 **Q. All right. What's the briefing she refers**  
22 **to?**

23 A. I don't recall the briefing specifically,  
24 but I do recall her bringing in people from their  
25 Trust and Safety or Misinformation teams -- I'm not

1 sure what they called the team -- to talk to us  
2 about misinformation at some weekly meetings. I  
3 think that's probably what this is in reference to.

4 **Q. Why is she offering to surface misinfo**  
5 **questions and to answer your team's questions?**

6 A. Because I think -- I can't say for sure  
7 what she was thinking.

8 **Q. What's your understanding?**

9 A. But I think it was because we -- we had  
10 asked questions about what they were seeing in terms  
11 of misinformation and inquired about any activities  
12 they were undertaking. And I believe this was an  
13 offer to sort of get back to us on any of those  
14 questions.

15 **Q. All right. That you had?**

16 A. Yes.

17 **Q. Given her. Thank you.**

18 A. Yes.

19 **Q. Let's clean up the record a little. That**  
20 **you had -- the questions that you had proposed to**  
21 **her?**

22 A. I think it was questions asked within the  
23 meeting, but.

24 **Q. Got it.**

25 A. I'm not 100 percent sure because I don't

1 know the timing of that meeting, but I believe  
2 that's what this is in reference to.

3 **Q. And can you read your response at**  
4 **3:08 p.m.?**

5 A. "Hope all is well, too. I plan to join  
6 and listen to the 3:30 meeting, FYI. I added this  
7 part in yellow to our chain on turn.io so you  
8 probably missed it. Did you have thoughts on how we  
9 can regularly meet with Census? I will also check  
10 back with others to see if they have other Qs that  
11 went unanswered and get back to you."

12 Do you want me to keep reading?

13 **Q. No, you can stop.**

14 A. Okay.

15 **Q. But what is "turn.io"?**

16 A. This was another project that we were  
17 working on with WhatsApp.

18 **Q. And what was that project?**

19 A. I believe this was using WhatsApp to -- so  
20 people could use it, they could look up ZIP codes to  
21 find vaccines.

22 **Q. Okay.**

23 A. And maybe, I'm speculating, there was also  
24 a Spanish offering for vaccine information on  
25 WhatsApp. It was one of those.

1           **Q. Got it. Why is Census involved in your**  
2 **coordination with Facebook at this time?**

3           A. We had entered an IAA with Census to help  
4 advise on misinformation.

5           **Q. And an IAA is?**

6           A. Interagency agreement.

7           **Q. All right. Did the CDC ever use any**  
8 **software programs developed by Census that enabled**  
9 **the CDC to track the viewpoints of U.S. citizens?**

10          A. No.

11          **Q. Did the CDC ever gain access to or in any**  
12 **way receive information about the viewpoint of U.S.**  
13 **citizens on COVID masking or vaccination from**  
14 **Census?**

15          A. We likely did because they provided  
16 reports on misinformation that they were seeing to  
17 us.

18          **Q. Did the CDC ever share data on the**  
19 **viewpoints of U.S. citizens with the Census?**

20          A. I don't recall if we did.

21          **Q. You did share the CrowdTangle with them?**

22          A. Yes. Can you reask the question?

23          **Q. I will. Did the CDC ever share the data**  
24 **on the viewpoint of -- the viewpoints of U.S.**  
25 **citizens that CDC was seeing with the Census?**

1           A. You refer to it as data. I don't recall  
2 sharing data. I do recall sharing social media  
3 listening reports such as this, or the publicly  
4 available vaccine confidence reports that talk about  
5 what people are talking about, and probably the  
6 JIC's research, you know. They had a standing  
7 summary of what was being discussed. I suspect I  
8 shared that, too, with Census.

9           **Q. The JIC? What kind of research, the?**

10          A. I mentioned the JIC research team that  
11 looked at what the conversations were on news,  
12 social media and did summaries of that for everyone  
13 in the response.

14          **Q. All right. And did information come back  
15 from the Census to CDC about what they were finding?**

16          A. My recollection is that the Census did  
17 provide us with the key themes they were seeing  
18 around misinformation during the times that they  
19 were looking at it.

20          **Q. Who was at the meeting that Ms. Itheme  
21 references and that you refer to in the next email?**

22          A. The next email, which email?

23          **Q. So above it. It says -- oh, hang on.  
24 I'll tell you in a second.**

25                 **"Yes, I did see and will know in a few**



1 hours."

2 Hang on for a second.

3 So I took it to mean that this March 30th,  
4 3:16 email that she says: "Hi, Carol, Yes, I did  
5 see and will know in a few hours, I'm told if we  
6 plan to present for Census Thursday or if it needs  
7 more work."

8 And then you say that "I didn't ask Census  
9 if they had questions."

10 Do you know if there was a meeting with  
11 Census on or about that time?

12 A. I don't --

13 Q. Okay.

14 A. -- remember enough detail to answer the  
15 question. Sorry.

16 Q. So in this March 30th, 2021 at 7:38.

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. There you say: "I didn't ask Census if  
19 they had questions, but I know they were hoping to  
20 go over the deck they had."

21 And is that the one you sent them or  
22 Facebook sent them, or did they create that  
23 themselves?

24 A. I don't know for sure. I'm interpreting  
25 from this email that the Census created it, but I do

1 not know.

2 Q. All right. "And discuss how to engage on  
3 a more regular basis."

4 Do you know if they ever decided to engage  
5 on a more regular basis?

6 A. With -- about their activity, or about  
7 CDC?

8 Q. Yeah, with Facebook.

9 A. I don't know what Census did directly with  
10 Facebook.

11 Q. And then I'll ask you to take a look at  
12 the 3:16 again. She says: It would be great to  
13 have questions that may not have been answered from  
14 your team on misinformation. She says "misinfo",  
15 but I'm using the full word.

16 And is she looking -- is it your  
17 understanding she's looking for those answers from  
18 Census that you didn't have, CDC?

19 A. Let me reread this chain.

20 Q. Go ahead.

21 A. Sorry. Can you repeat the question?

22 Q. I will withdraw the question for a moment.

23 A. Okay.

24 Q. Just take a look at March 30th, 7:46 as  
25 well. She writes to you, Carol: "Hi, Carol. Yes,

1 I think it's good to have questions from Census to  
2 make sure we have the right person. I can ask Liz  
3 to join again so she can be asked questions/provide  
4 more information about influencers and I have noted  
5 your question about removals and will tee that up as  
6 well."

7 What was your question about removals?

8 A. I -- reading in this email?

9 Q. Yeah.

10 A. I'm saying -- the email before this I'm  
11 saying the team is still interested in more info  
12 about how you analyze the data on removals. And my  
13 general recollection where this question came from  
14 was that we -- the -- that I think there was  
15 wondering if they delete the info will we know those  
16 myths or information so we could update  
17 communication activity. So if they were deleting  
18 content would we know what the themes were.

19 Q. And did you ask them to remove any  
20 content?

21 A. No. This was -- this was when -- this was  
22 a meeting where we were just asking what -- how that  
23 worked and would there be data, would we be able to  
24 see in CrowdTangle or other reports like what kind  
25 of themes were removed so we would still have the

1 full picture of areas of confusion.

2 Q. All right. And if you look at your March  
3 31st, 2:07 p.m., and you say what "Census mentioned  
4 they'd like to discuss." "It looks like the post  
5 from last week's deck about infertility and side  
6 effects have all been removed. Were those  
7 re-evaluated by the moderation team or taken down  
8 for another reason?"

9 What are you saying there?

10 A. It looks to me like I cut and pasted this  
11 from something that Census had said, and I don't  
12 have good recollection of what this was on  
13 March 31st.

14 Q. Then you've also cut and pasted: "One of  
15 the main themes we're seeing and from the  
16 CrowdTangle report is local news coverage of deaths  
17 after receiving the vaccine. What's the approach  
18 for adding labels to those stories?"

19 Why would you or Census want them to add  
20 labels to those stories?

21 MS. SNOW: Objection. Calls for  
22 speculation and mischaracterizes the testimony -- or  
23 the document.

24 BY MR. VECCHIONE:

25 Q. You can answer.

1           A. I don't think we were asking them to add  
2 labels, from what I'm reading here. We were asking  
3 them what their approach for labels were.

4           **Q. Then they have asked: "Can we add the  
5 Census team to CrowdTangle?"**

6                   **Hadn't it already been added to  
7 CrowdTangle by this time? Haven't we established  
8 that?**

9           A. There were two different offerings for  
10 CrowdTangle. They had allowed us to directly log  
11 into CrowdTangle and run our own reports or  
12 searches. I believe that started back in, you know,  
13 March or April 2020. Then they sent the reports.  
14 So this appears to be to log in to CrowdTangle.

15           **Q. Then what did you mean by your team is  
16 going to consider how you might want to engage with  
17 CDC Census team routinely and get back to us?**

18           A. I don't know specifically this day this  
19 email what I meant. But I do know that we generally  
20 discussed, you know, how we should talk about  
21 misinformation because they had already been working  
22 with Census, on their own Census misinformation, and  
23 I wanted to know what was best for them for engaging  
24 on any topics that we might want to discuss.

25           **Q. All right. Do you know what Facebook was**

1 told previously about engaging with CDC and Census  
2 on this?

3 MS. SNOW: Objection. Vague, calls for  
4 speculation.

5 BY MR. VECCHIONE:

6 Q. You can answer.

7 A. Can you rephrase the question?

8 Q. Yeah. They were already engaging, it  
9 seems to me, with CDC and Census at this time. Do  
10 you know if there was anything additional from what  
11 we've discussed about such engagement that's causing  
12 them to ask this question?

13 A. Causing them to ask what question?

14 Q. About closer engagement with the Census,  
15 and you asking to have -- "can we add the Census  
16 team to CrowdTangle?" Do you know what --

17 MS. SNOW: Objection. Mischaracterizes  
18 the document.

19 BY MR. VECCHIONE:

20 Q. It's okay. You can answer if you  
21 understand. I'm trying to understand. It seems  
22 that Facebook has been talking to CDC and Census  
23 throughout for a while now. And yet here is a  
24 request that they want a different CrowdTangle, as  
25 you've explained.

1 MS. SNOW: Objection. It assumes facts  
2 not in evidence.

3 BY MR. VECCHIONE:

4 Q. You can still answer. I'm trying to  
5 understand what is happening in this series of  
6 emails, since they have already been sending you the  
7 CrowdTangle information. You've explained that  
8 there was a different CrowdTangle information that  
9 Census might want; right? That is --

10 A. I think it was the log-in to the  
11 CrowdTangle.

12 Q. Okay. Well, I'll give you an example. So  
13 Ms. Theme asks: Yes, I think it's good -- this is  
14 at 7:46 on March 30th, said: "I think good to have  
15 question from Census so we make sure we have the  
16 right person."

17 So my question is, is that the right  
18 person to answer those questions to the Census from  
19 Facebook? What's your understanding?

20 A. I don't know this chain of emails  
21 specifically, but I believe it was likely in  
22 reference to just me mentioning to Payton that we  
23 were partnering with the Census to learn more. We  
24 had been discussing things, and we were going to  
25 have some collective questions that we would like to

1 discuss at a future meeting.

2 Q. Okay. What's the amplification side at  
3 March 30th at 7:38? You are going to ask Liz about  
4 what is being done on the amplification side. What  
5 does that mean?

6 A. I don't know why I was asking that.

7 Q. And why did you want to get a better  
8 understanding of how Facebook was working with  
9 influencers?

10 A. I don't remember the meeting before that,  
11 so I'm not sure what that is in reference to.

12 Q. And it says the team's interested in more  
13 info on how you analyze the data on removals.

14 Why are you asking about how Facebook  
15 operates on removals?

16 MS. SNOW: Objection. Asked and answered.

17 A. I did answer it previously.

18 BY MR. VECCHIONE:

19 Q. I don't believe I have directed you to  
20 that exact portion of this, and I would ask the  
21 witness to answer unless she's being instructed not  
22 to.

23 MS. SNOW: No, you may answer.

24 A. Okay. What I think this was about was I  
25 believe the teams that were looking at, like, our



1 research reports, or our vaccine confidence report  
2 were wondering if the data was removed if it would  
3 show up in the report, so would they be missing gaps  
4 or information because the posts were removed.  
5 That's what I believe that this question is about.

6 BY MR. VECCHIONE:

7 **Q. All right. CDC wasn't concerned that they**  
8 **weren't removing materials fast enough?**

9 A. That's not what I believe was being  
10 discussed here. This was about the data that we  
11 could get so we had a full picture on confusion so  
12 that we could adjust communication materials, or  
13 ways that we were communicating. That's what I  
14 believe that that's in reference to.

15 And you know what, I have a clarification.

16 **Q. Go right ahead.**

17 A. You asked me what the amplification  
18 side --

19 **Q. Yes.**

20 A. -- and the influencers. Now that I'm  
21 remembering this, I think that it it was likely  
22 about how to promote how to get a vaccine, or where  
23 to get a vaccine and I think that was all part of  
24 that conversation.

25 **Q. All right. Let's go to the March 31st,**

1 2021 at 2:07, the one you've told me you've cut and  
2 pasted from Census, at least those bullet points.

3 A. You mean March 31st?

4 Q. March 31st at 2:07.

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. It says: "Were those reevaluated by the  
7 moderation team or taken down for another reason?"

8 Do you know if that refers to a moderation  
9 team at CDC or Facebook?

10 A. It must have been Facebook because we  
11 don't have a moderation team at CDC.

12 I'd also like to clarify that I think I  
13 probably cut and pasted it. I don't know for sure  
14 that I did.

15 Q. That's fine. Got it. I follow you.

16 Why do you -- do you know why you wanted  
17 to know what the approach for adding labels to the  
18 stories about deaths after receiving the vaccine  
19 was?

20 MS. SNOW: Objection. Asked and answered.

21 A. I don't remember this specific set of  
22 conversation, or why we were asking about that any  
23 longer.

24 BY MR. VECCHIONE:

25 Q. Okay. Do you know -- so you're discussing

1     **talking to Census at some point. Do you know**  
2     **whether that conversation ever happened, a**  
3     **conversation with -- regarding this string of emails**  
4     **with Census, CDC and at Facebook?**

5             A. I don't know that we were discussing the  
6     string of emails, but there were meetings where  
7     Census, myself and Facebook were on calls.

8             **Q. Okay. And do you recall what you**  
9     **discussed?**

10            A. My memory is we had general conversations  
11    about what were opportunities to address  
12    misinformation. And things like in this chain I  
13    believe were probably discussed, but I don't have  
14    specific memory of it.

15            **Q. Do you know who your contact was at**  
16    **Census, like who was the main person at Census on**  
17    **this aspect of the CrowdTangle and dealing with**  
18    **Facebook?**

19            A. There were a couple of people from Census  
20    that we were talking with. I only remember two of  
21    the names. One was Christopher Lewitzke, who I  
22    believe was a contractor for them. And then Jen  
23    Shopkorn, I think I'm saying it correctly. I  
24    believe she was their director for digital.

25            **Q. Thank you.**

1           A. But there were a couple of others that  
2 typically participated.

3           Q. And then March 31st at 2:18 Ms. Theme  
4 writes you: "Hi, Carol we are working on a proposal  
5 how set up sharing partnership on the misinformation  
6 items, what would it look like, so we can discuss  
7 Thursday. Lots of team members out the last two  
8 weeks due to all the holidays, but that is the plan  
9 so we can discuss on the Thursday call."

10           Do you know whether that meeting, the  
11 Thursday meeting, to set up sharing partnerships on  
12 misinformation occurred?

13           A. I don't remember if this specific meeting  
14 occurred.

15           Q. Would you have a calendar that would tell  
16 you?

17           A. Yes.

18           MR. VECCHIONE: I would ask counsel to  
19 produce that calendar of the date of that meeting.

20           MR. GILLIGAN: We'll take your request  
21 under advisement.

22           MR. VECCHIONE: Thank you.

23 BY MR. VECCHIONE:

24           Q. And once again would you have notes or  
25 recordings of that conversation?

1           A. We never recorded the calls. If I had --  
2 I didn't take many notes, but if there was anything  
3 it would be in Word or email.

4           MR. VECCHIONE: You can put 8 aside,  
5 Exhibit 8 aside.

6           (Plaintiffs' Exhibit 9 marked.)

7 BY MR. VECCHIONE:

8           **Q. In this, if you'll just an initial look at**  
9 **it you can tell me. I just ask you to -- I'd like**  
10 **you to identify it and tell me the date of the**  
11 **email.**

12          A. The subject is Misinfo on two issues. And  
13 the date of the email is May 6, 2021.

14          **Q. All right. You can continue to read it.**

15          A. Read the email?

16          **Q. Yeah.**

17          A. "Payton, Genelle" --

18          **Q. No, no. I mean, to yourself.**

19          A. Oh.

20          **Q. Just scan through it.**

21          A. Sorry. Thank you.

22          **Q. I want you to be a little familiar with**  
23 **it.**

24          MR. GILLIGAN: Good clarification.

25          A. Okay.

1 BY MR. VECCHIONE:

2 Q. All right. So can you tell us why you  
3 were flagging misinformation about the vaccines for  
4 Facebook?

5 MS. SNOW: Objection. Mischaracterizes  
6 the document.

7 BY MR. VECCHIONE:

8 Q. Well, let's take a look at it for a  
9 moment. It's from you; right?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. And then it's to Ms. Theme under a new  
12 name Gennelle Adrien. Do you know her and what her  
13 role was?

14 A. I think she was one of Payton's  
15 assistants.

16 Q. All right. And then you're cc'ing Sam  
17 Huxley at [REDACTED]@Reingold.com. Do you know who that  
18 is?

19 A. Yeah, now that I see the name. Sam was a  
20 contractor for Census that was often on our phone  
21 calls with Christopher and Jen.

22 Q. And that's Christopher Lewitzke; right?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. And then Jennifer Shopkorn, I apologize if  
25 you told me who that was, but who was that?

1           A. She's with Census, and I believe she's the  
2 director for their digital team.

3           **Q. And Lynn Sokler?**

4           A. Lynn Sokler is a counterpart of mine in  
5 OADC who was working on this partnership with Census  
6 along with myself.

7           **Q. All right. And then it says:**

8           **"Payton/Genelle. As mentioned, here are two issues**  
9           **we are seeing a great deal of misinfo on that we**  
10           **wanted to flag for you all -- vaccine shedding and**  
11           **microchips"; right? You wrote that?**

12           A. Yes.

13           **Q. Can you tell us why you were flagging**  
14           **misinformation about the vaccines for Facebook?**

15           A. Because we had had conversations with  
16 Facebook about ways that we could address  
17 misinformation, and my recollection is that one  
18 suggestion that was -- that came up in that  
19 conversation was to let them know if we were seeing  
20 major themes that CDC had scientific information on,  
21 or had web content that would address.

22           I believe that is why I was sending these,  
23 because these were two large areas of  
24 misinformation.

25           **Q. What did you mean by the term "flag" or**

1 **flagging?**

2 A. Pointing out.

3 **Q. What was the expectation of what Facebook**  
4 **would do when something was flagged?**

5 A. I don't recall having a specific  
6 recollection of what I thought that they would do.

7 I do know that the platforms have a  
8 variety of ways to address misinformation. They  
9 might tag it as something that people should look  
10 more into. I think that they have the -- I think,  
11 but I do not know, that they have the ability to  
12 control how often some of these things show up in  
13 peoples' feeds. And I do know that removing them is  
14 an option that they could consider.

15 So I didn't know exactly what they might  
16 do with it, but I felt like it was worth pointing  
17 out what we knew, that we had seen these myths and  
18 that we were going to have information up soon.

19 **Q. All right. And what was the consequence**  
20 **to Facebook if they didn't do anything with your**  
21 **flagging of these items?**

22 A. Nothing.

23 **Q. All right. What were you hoping to**  
24 **accomplish by flagging these items for Facebook?**

25 A. I mean, our goal always is to be sure that



1 people have credible health information so that they  
2 can make the correct health decisions for  
3 themselves. There were a lot of things circulating  
4 that were not accurate information about COVID. And  
5 so we were trying to point out and make the credible  
6 information more available to users.

7 **Q. How did you decide on these particular**  
8 **posts?**

9 A. I don't remember specifically this  
10 conversation, or what made us decide. But I do know  
11 generally that these were two very high-volume  
12 misconceptions online at the time about vaccines.

13 **Q. All right. Do you recall whether you had**  
14 **any criteria in determining which posts to flag?**

15 A. I don't recall that we had any criteria on  
16 what we pointed out to Facebook other than it had to  
17 be something that was in CDC's lane that we had  
18 information for, you know, to offer about it, and  
19 something that had been -- you know, was high  
20 volume, that was worth pointing out to this entity.

21 **Q. Did you or anyone at CDC have concerns**  
22 **about the government working with Facebook and**  
23 **telling them what should be flagged or not?**

24 MS. SNOW: Objection. Mischaracterizes  
25 testimony, calls for speculation.

1 BY MR. VECCHIONE:

2 Q. You can answer.

3 A. Can you rephrase the question again, or  
4 say it again?

5 Q. Yeah. Did you or anyone at CDC have any  
6 concerns about CDC or the government flagging  
7 materials for Facebook when you knew they took some  
8 things down?

9 A. I can't speculate what others at CDC might  
10 have thought about it. Personally, because I didn't  
11 believe we were asking them to remove content  
12 specifically, I did think getting credible  
13 information out was important.

14 Q. Where did this information about  
15 microchips and the shedding, what kind of  
16 information did the Census team have on those posts  
17 at that time?

18 A. My recollection is that we were pointing  
19 out to Facebook that there were these themes going  
20 around pretty heavily, and these probably came from  
21 the social listening tools, you know, that can  
22 consolidate examples. And we provided some examples  
23 of what we meant.

24 Q. Okay. You can put that aside.

25 A. Thank you.

1 (Plaintiffs' Exhibit 10 marked.)

2 BY MR. VECCHIONE:

3 Q. And, again, I'll give you a chance to read  
4 it, but if you could just identify the document and  
5 the subject line?

6 MR. GILLIGAN: The document being  
7 Exhibit 10?

8 MR. VECCHIONE: Exhibit 10.

9 A. It says: Subject CV19 misinfo reporting  
10 channel. May 10, 2021.

11 BY MR. VECCHIONE:

12 Q. All right. What is -- I presume CV19 is  
13 COVID-19?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. "Misinfo" is misinformation?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. All right. What is the COVID-19  
18 misinformation channel?

19 A. Well, I don't think I -- just rereading  
20 this email, I don't think I understood this at  
21 first, what she was referring to. I think I thought  
22 that this was CrowdTangle, just by reading the  
23 chain, but I now know what it was was Facebook  
24 apparently has a portal or reporting channel where  
25 you can report misinformation or threats or things

1 from a specific log-in that I believe they only  
2 provide to like federal agencies.

3 **Q. All right. And who used it at the CDC?**

4 A. To my recollection, the only person that  
5 ever logged in at CDC was Brook Aspinall.

6 **Q. Who was that?**

7 A. She was part of our social media team.

8 **Q. For what?**

9 A. For COVID.

10 **Q. For what did she log on?**

11 A. Oh. Why did she log on?

12 **Q. Yeah.**

13 A. My memory is that we log on one time to  
14 see what it was -- what the system was and  
15 understand what we could do in it. And she logged  
16 on one time, and I think reported two or three -- I  
17 don't remember what they were -- two or three posts  
18 or threats or one or the other.

19 **Q. All right. Would you have a record of  
20 what she put on there?**

21 A. I believe so. But I only really remember  
22 this from pulling documents at some point related to  
23 this litigation earlier in the process. I recall  
24 there was an email that listed it, but I don't  
25 remember what they said. But I believe that there

1 is a record of it because I recall seeing it during  
2 that process.

3 **Q. All right.**

4 MR. VECCHIONE: I would request that as  
5 well, Counsel. But I'll put it in writing.

6 BY MR. VECCHIONE:

7 **Q. Well, I'll just ask this question. I**  
8 **usually ask this question earlier, but I might as**  
9 **well. In preparation for your deposition today, did**  
10 **you review any documents?**

11 A. No. Well, we -- the only one I reviewed  
12 happened to be one of the ones you had during our  
13 practice.

14 **Q. Good. All right. That's fine. Do you**  
15 **know which one it was?**

16 MS. SNOW: Objection.

17 A. Oh, sorry.

18 MS. SNOW: To the extent this calls for --

19 MR. GILLIGAN: Does call for.

20 MS. SNOW: The question calls for  
21 information that's covered by the attorney-client  
22 privilege. So I direct the witness not to answer.

23 MR. VECCHIONE: No, it doesn't. What  
24 she's reviewed I'm allowed to know. That's --

25 MR. GILLIGAN: Not if it didn't refresh

1 her recollection.

2 MS. SNOW: Yeah.

3 MR. VECCHIONE: Doesn't matter. She  
4 reviewed it. I'm allowed to know it.

5 MR. GILLIGAN: No, you're not.

6 MS. SNOW: Not if it did not refresh her  
7 recollection about the facts.

8 MR. VECCHIONE: She's been shown the  
9 document today. I'm allowed to know which one she  
10 reviewed if she's been shown it today.

11 MS. SNOW: You're asking about documents  
12 that --

13 MR. VECCHIONE: That she saw today.

14 MS. SNOW: -- she reviewed in  
15 preparation --

16 MR. VECCHIONE: Yeah.

17 MS. SNOW: -- for the deposition?

18 MR. VECCHIONE: Yes.

19 MS. SNOW: Yes, that is covered by  
20 attorney-client.

21 MR. VECCHIONE: She said she's been shown  
22 it today. There is no attorney-client privilege for  
23 that.

24 MR. GILLIGAN: I don't know that -- I  
25 don't know that she said that she was shown it

1 today.

2 BY MR. VECCHIONE:

3 **Q. I'll ask. Were you shown it today?**

4 A. One of them, yes.

5 MR. GILLIGAN: It's still --

6 MR. VECCHIONE: It's an improper  
7 objection, but it's not that important, so I'm going  
8 to let it go for now.

9 MR. GILLIGAN: All right. Well, if you  
10 care to raise the issue again later, we'll be happy  
11 to discuss it later.

12 BY MR. VECCHIONE:

13 **Q. All right. So who's responsible for**  
14 **creating this channel, this COVID-19 channel?**

15 A. Well, I have a small recollection of this  
16 channel, and I never looked at it myself to my  
17 memory. But it's, to my understanding, you log onto  
18 Facebook as an administrator, and it's something  
19 that they make available to you as a federal agency.

20 **Q. Okay. So Facebook made it?**

21 A. Yeah. It's like a place you can go and  
22 report something. I -- "channel" does feel like an  
23 odd description of it to me.

24 **Q. Okay. How do you know that it was made**  
25 **available to, like, law enforcement? Do you know**

1     **that from this document, or do you know that from**  
2     **your own memory?**

3             MS. SNOW: Objection. Facts not in  
4     evidence.

5             MR. VECCHIONE: She testified to it a  
6     minute ago.

7             MS. SNOW: Okay. Sorry. My apologies. I  
8     missed that. Sorry.

9     BY MR. VECCHIONE:

10            **Q. So how do you know that? Like, why is**  
11     **that your understanding?**

12            A. I guess I can't say I know that. I have a  
13     vague recollection of it being described to me as  
14     something that other, like, official groups could  
15     use to report, that it wasn't something that was  
16     generally available. But I might be wrong.

17            **Q. Okay.**

18            A. I don't know for sure.

19            **Q. That's fine. Now, at the end of this**  
20     **email there is a list of other email lists; right?**  
21     **She says: Thank you, Genelle. And then she lists**  
22     **some government people and some Census people and**  
23     **CDC people and Reingold again.**

24            A. I see it.

25            **Q. So those -- and she asks you to confirm if**



1 the below emails are correct for onboarding to the  
2 reporting channel; right?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. All right. Are any of those people the  
5 Ms. Aspinall I think you told me before?

6 A. Those emails are so difficult, I don't  
7 know. Perhaps it's [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] or [REDACTED], but I don't  
8 know peoples' user IDs, so I can't answer.

9 I would also like to clarify that when I  
10 was reviewing this based on this chain, I thought  
11 this was about CrowdTangle access.

12 Q. Okay. At that time?

13 A. At this -- yes, so.

14 Q. You don't believe that now, but that's  
15 what you thought when you received it?

16 A. Yes. I can see in this chain that that's  
17 what I thought was happening with this.

18 Q. All right. Do you know how this list of  
19 employees, whether you recognize them or not, do you  
20 know how the people for access were selected,  
21 like --

22 (REPORTER'S NOTE: Loud audio noise heard  
23 over loud speakers in room.)

24 (Comments off the record.)

25 MR. VECCHIONE: Let's go off record.

1 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: Off record at 11:51.

2 (Comments off the record.)

3 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: Back on record at  
4 11:53.

5 BY MR. VECCHIONE:

6 Q. All right. So the question is, the  
7 question on the floor, before we were so rudely  
8 interrupted, was how was this list of employees or  
9 contractors selected?

10 A. I don't know. Maybe from a meeting  
11 invite. Maybe people that were on a meeting, but I  
12 don't know.

13 Q. Do you know whether there was any training  
14 involved in using this COVID-19 misinformation  
15 channel?

16 A. I don't remember any training. The email  
17 looks like perhaps there was.

18 Q. Do you know whether CDC employees or  
19 contractors asked to flag or report certain kinds of  
20 information to Facebook?

21 A. Yes. On occasion there were people saying  
22 "we saw this." Usually they were around threats  
23 that they wanted us to report, which you can do as  
24 an administrator for Facebook now.

25 In terms of this, I only remember the one

1 occasion that I mentioned a minute ago.

2 **Q. Was Facebook asked to flag certain types**  
3 **of material to report to CDC or to Census?**

4 MS. SNOW: Objection. Vague.

5 BY MR. VECCHIONE:

6 **Q. I mean, I have asked whether or not CDC**  
7 **asked to flag things to Facebook, and you've**  
8 **answered that question. Did Facebook ask CDC to**  
9 **flag things to them?**

10 A. Well, the way I have been using "flag" in  
11 these emails is to point out.

12 **Q. Right.**

13 A. I don't recall asking them to point  
14 anything out to us, but I can maybe recall us saying  
15 something are you seeing this too, are y'all  
16 considering this too?

17 **Q. Do you know whether or not we have any**  
18 **documents that were given to CDC staff or**  
19 **contractors regarding the training on this COVID-19**  
20 **channel?**

21 A. I don't recall.

22 **Q. Okay. Did the meeting -- I think it was**  
23 **from May 18th. Let me look at the document for a**  
24 **second.**

25 Okay. You had a meeting that she -- that

1 Genelle Adrienne refers to on May 7, 2021, 11:27  
2 a.m. "Hi, Carol following up from our meeting  
3 yesterday it looks like Monday May 17th at 12 will  
4 work for onboarding meeting."

5 Do you know whether that onboarding  
6 meeting ever occurred for this channel?

7 A. I don't have any recollection of the  
8 onboarding meeting.

9 Q. And once again would you have a calendar  
10 mark for that onboarding meeting, if it occurred?

11 A. If I was invited I would.

12 MR. VECCHIONE: And once again, I'll put  
13 that in a letter to you, Counsel.

14 MS. SNOW: We'll note that document  
15 discovery has closed, but we'll take it under  
16 advisement.

17 MR. VECCHIONE: I got you.

18 BY MR. VECCHIONE:

19 Q. And you can put Exhibit 10 aside.

20 Oh, you know, might need it for this, but  
21 I don't know if you do.

22 The Reingold contractors. Why did CDC  
23 need contractors? What were they doing? Did they  
24 have concern -- let me withdraw the question.

25 Why did CDC have the contractors, the

1 **Reingold contractors, involved in this?**

2 MS. SNOW: Objection. Mischaracterizes  
3 testimony.

4 BY MR. VECCHIONE:

5 **Q. Was it Census?**

6 MS. SNOW: Objection. Vague.

7 BY MR. VECCHIONE:

8 **Q. Why were the Reingold contractors involved**  
9 **in all this?**

10 A. They were contractors working with Census.

11 **Q. Okay. Did you know why they were**  
12 **contractors and not Census directly?**

13 A. No.

14 **Q. Do you know if their duties involve**  
15 **content moderation?**

16 A. I don't.

17 **Q. Do you know whether their duties involve**  
18 **flagging or reporting on certain kinds of opinions**  
19 **expressed by U.S. citizens?**

20 MS. SNOW: Objection. Vague, calls for  
21 speculation.

22 BY MR. VECCHIONE:

23 **Q. You can answer.**

24 A. I really don't know. I wouldn't know what  
25 they had them do.

1 MR. VECCHIONE: All right. That's it for  
2 10. I could go on to 11, and or we could break here  
3 and fix the sound. You go -- you could have lunch.  
4 Decide what the witness --

5 MR. GILLIGAN: It's up to the witness to  
6 break.

7 THE WITNESS: Let's break. Let's break.

8 MR. VECCHIONE: There you go.

9 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: Off record at 11:59.  
10 (Lunch recess 11:59 a.m. - 12:51 p.m.)

11 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: Back on record at  
12 12:51.

13 MS. SNOW: And, defense counsel, just like  
14 to note that we've reestablished the Zoom connection  
15 and shared a call-in phone number again, which is  
16 being forwarded to plaintiffs' counsel pursuant to  
17 the previous agreement that it not be shared, the  
18 Zoom link not be shared beyond plaintiffs' counsel  
19 or the Zoom, or the call recorded using the Zoom  
20 call-in number.

21 MR. VECCHIONE: That's fine.

22 (Plaintiffs' Exhibit 11 marked.)

23 BY MR. VECCHIONE:

24 Q. All right. Ms. Crawford, I have handed  
25 you -- once again can you identify Exhibit 11 and

1 then tell me what the subject matter of the -- what  
2 the subject line is, and then you can continue to  
3 read it.

4 A. Agenda item for CDC call this week.  
5 May 20th, '21.

6 Okay.

7 Q. Can you tell me who Liz Lagone is?

8 A. My understanding is that Liz is on their  
9 Trust and Safety team, or the Misinformation team,  
10 which I don't know what the official name of it is.

11 Q. Meaning Facebook's?

12 A. Yes, Facebook's. Sorry.

13 Q. And in these emails Ms. Lagone identified  
14 the, quote, "Content Policies" of Facebook as  
15 guiding which posts get removed; right?

16 A. It says "we may reduce, remove or inform."

17 Q. And I think she describes these policies  
18 as evolving?

19 A. Yes, I see that.

20 Q. Okay. Did you or anyone at the CDC  
21 participate in the crafting of the content policy of  
22 Facebook?

23 A. No.

24 Q. Did you or anyone at CDC contribute to the  
25 terms of service or community standards of Facebook?

1 A. No.

2 Q. Any other policy at Facebook that they  
3 contributed to?

4 A. No.

5 Q. Did you do so at any other social media  
6 company?

7 A. No.

8 Q. Did you or anyone at CDC ever give input  
9 on what such a policy should look like?

10 A. No.

11 Q. Did you, or --

12 A. I should clarify.

13 Q. Go ahead.

14 A. I'm speaking from my -- no one in my group  
15 or my office. I can't imagine anyone else did.

16 Q. To your knowledge?

17 A. Yes, yes.

18 Q. You're only testifying to your knowledge.

19 I understand that.

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Thank you.

22 Did you or anyone at the CDC either advise  
23 or help Facebook on how to enforce or apply their  
24 policies to any particular social media post?

25 A. Not that I recall.



1 Q. Same question for other social media. Did  
2 you ever -- did you or anyone at CDC help any other  
3 social media company on how they should apply their  
4 policies to -- toward a particular post?

5 A. No. We didn't -- I have never seen their  
6 policies.

7 Q. Did you or anyone at CDC ever discuss with  
8 Ms. Lagone any manner relating to any enforcement of  
9 the policies that she's discussing here?

10 MS. SNOW: Objection. Vague.

11 BY MR. VECCHIONE:

12 Q. Well, she's discussing these policies  
13 here. Did you ever discuss with her their  
14 development and enforcement?

15 A. No. We did not discuss the development of  
16 their policies, or the enforcement of their  
17 policies. What we did provide was scientific  
18 information that I did assume that they might use to  
19 do those things.

20 Q. Okay. I'd like you to take a look at one  
21 of -- she -- Payton Itheme lays out a number of items  
22 that I think she says at May 19th, 4:19: To help  
23 with scoping on your end for Thursday, here's some  
24 of the COVID content items that Liz will be flagging  
25 for you the CDC team.

1           And here she seems to be flagging items  
2 for you at CDC. And then she goes through them.  
3 And what did you do when they flagged some of these  
4 to you? What -- why was she flagging those to you,  
5 and then what did you do in response?

6           MS. SNOW: Objection. Compound.

7 BY MR. VECCHIONE:

8           **Q. You can answer.**

9           A. So why were they flagging this to us?  
10 First part. They were wanting our feedback on  
11 whether these things were true or false statements  
12 that they were seeing. Did the CDC have science  
13 around this, did we have content on our website.

14           Can you refresh me on the second part of  
15 the question?

16           **Q. And what did you do in response to the**  
17 **flagging?**

18           A. Typically what we would do is try to  
19 let -- if we knew, if we had something or we had  
20 science on these items, we would point to it or  
21 provide them an answer. If we didn't, we wouldn't  
22 provide it.

23           My recollection, this might have been one  
24 of the first times they asked in this type of  
25 format. And I think we talked about that on the

1 call, like, who knew -- some of these people, I  
2 thought, could help answer whether -- what we had on  
3 these topics.

4 **Q. All right. And you had -- and let's,**  
5 **since you just pointed out, we'll just say --**

6 A. Mm-hmm (affirmative).

7 **Q. -- your response was: Thanks for the**  
8 **additional info. And then you say you're going to**  
9 **have these folks joining.**

10 **And you've got the Census team members**  
11 **joining this. Cynthia Jorgensen, director of Comms**  
12 **for NCIRD. What's that?**

13 A. National Center for Immunization and  
14 Respiratory Diseases at CDC.

15 **Q. "And our joint information center**  
16 **co-lead." So is she that as well? She's the joint**  
17 **information center co-lead, or is that a different**  
18 **person?**

19 A. She was serving both roles. She -- we  
20 deployed to the response, and she was -- at this  
21 point in time was deployed as the co-lead for the  
22 joint information center, but her regular job is the  
23 ADCS. So she had a lot of knowledge regarding this  
24 topic.

25 **Q. And then you've got Rosie**

1     **Bretthauer-Mueller and Demi Haynes. And they are**  
2     **co-leads for consumer vaccine content development.**

3             **Is that content development on your**  
4     **website at CDC?**

5             A. Yes.

6             **Q. Okay. And they say: "I'm not going to**  
7     **have SME join."**

8             **Is that subject matter experts?**

9             A. Yes.

10            **Q. What are those?**

11            A. That would have been like an actual  
12 scientist that studied these issues, or knew what  
13 the science was on it. When I -- I believe when I  
14 scanned this I thought we probably had readily  
15 answered -- we probably had a lot of this already  
16 addressed on the website, and the content folks  
17 would be able to point that out. We didn't have to  
18 have the expert on the call.

19            **Q. I have -- if you look at 11.**

20            A. Mm-hmm (affirmative).

21            **Q. "Is the claim 'COVID-19 manmade' false,**  
22 **unproven, unsupported by evidence, or true?"**

23            **Do you know whether or not CDC ever**  
24 **responded to that inquiry?**

25            A. I don't know for sure, but I doubt we

1 would have.

2 **Q. And why do you think that?**

3 A. I don't recall us having any information  
4 on this posted on our website. I know it came up a  
5 lot, but I don't remember us having it like an FAQ  
6 on it.

7 **Q. All right.**

8 A. But I'm not an expert on all the content  
9 we had on the web. I don't develop the content.

10 **Q. I understand.**

11 A. Okay.

12 **Q. I'm just -- I appreciate the information  
13 and why you thought it.**

14 I have a -- so this -- Census is now in.  
15 Is this after the IAA you mentioned to me yesterday?  
16 Earlier today. It's not yesterday yet. Before  
17 lunch?

18 A. Yes.

19 **Q. Okay. So what is the -- what's your  
20 understanding of what an interagency memo is, or an  
21 interagency agreement is?**

22 A. I'm definitely not an expert on IAAs. But  
23 it's an agreement between two agencies to conduct  
24 some kind of work between them. Sometimes you're  
25 given fundings to do it. Usually you are. I

1 don't -- I wasn't -- I didn't create the IAA, so I  
2 don't have a lot of details on what was in it.

3 **Q. Have you seen it?**

4 A. I do believe I saw it.

5 **Q. Is it related just to COVID, or is it**  
6 **broader than that?**

7 MS. SNOW: Objection. Assumes facts not  
8 in evidence.

9 BY MR. VECCHIONE:

10 **Q. Okay. Is it related to COVID?**

11 A. I cannot say for sure what was stated in  
12 the IAA, but we were only engaging on COVID  
13 misinformation. But we were learning about how they  
14 operated a general misinformation team along the way  
15 to --

16 **Q. How Census did?**

17 A. How Census did it, yes.

18 **Q. And did you -- was part of the IAA --**  
19 **well, I'll ask it in two parts first. Was part**  
20 **of -- was the purpose of the IAA so that CDC could**  
21 **learn what they did and perhaps replicate it?**

22 A. Was that the purpose of the IAA? No, I  
23 wouldn't say it. I think that we were learning from  
24 it to determine if we needed to do it. I really  
25 don't recall the wording in the IAA.

1           **Q. Okay. What was your understanding of what**  
2           **the AII was about?**

3           A. To let us partner with the Census to learn  
4           how they handled misinformation and help us with the  
5           COVID misinformation. We were shorthanded. They  
6           seemed to have more knowledge than we did.

7           **Q. All right. And do you know if the IAA is**  
8           **still in place?**

9           A. Well, we haven't been working with Census  
10          in quite some time. I don't know the actual date on  
11          the end of the IAA, though.

12          **Q. All right. If you look at item eight of**  
13          **the items flagged: "COVID-19 vaccine cause bell's**  
14          **palsy." Do you see that?**

15          A. Yes.

16          **Q. Do you know whether you gave any input on**  
17          **that question?**

18          A. I don't recall.

19          **Q. And how about item number nine: "COVID-19**  
20          **has 99.96% survival rate"?**

21          A. I don't remember what we said about that  
22          one.

23          **Q. All right.**

24                 MR. VECCHIONE: I will hand over these all  
25          at once because I'm going to ask the same question

1 about them.

2 MR. GILLIGAN: 31?

3 MR. VECCHIONE: 12. No, no, no, 12  
4 through 14, how about that?

5 (Plaintiffs' Exhibit 12 and Exhibit 13  
6 marked.)

7 BY MR. VECCHIONE:

8 Q. And you don't have to read through these.  
9 You can just look at them all at once. I'll let  
10 counsel look at them for a second, and then I'll ask  
11 the question.

12 Now, I'll just represent to you what these  
13 are, unless you can tell me you've seen them before.

14 A. I haven't seen them before.

15 Q. All right. So Exhibit 12 is a scientific  
16 paper on the relationship between Bell's palsy and  
17 SARS CoV-2, as is 13.

18 Do you know whether or not in relationship  
19 to Exhibit 11 and Bell's palsy, that whether or not  
20 any of these scientific articles or others on Bell's  
21 palsy were flagged by CDC to Facebook?

22 MS. SNOW: Objection. Calls for  
23 speculation. Lack of foundation.

24 BY MR. VECCHIONE:

25 Q. You can answer, if you know.



1           A. I wouldn't know. I mean, I didn't flag  
2 them.

3                   (Plaintiffs' Exhibit 14 marked.)

4 BY MR. VECCHIONE:

5           **Q. Okay. And then on 14, Plaintiffs'**  
6 **Exhibit 14, have you seen this before?**

7           A. No.

8           **Q. And this is another scientific paper on**  
9 **the percentage survival rate of COVID patients.**

10                   **Do you know whether this was flagged by**  
11 **CDC to Facebook or other social media?**

12           A. We didn't flag this, or specific things.  
13 We provided CDC content.

14           **Q. All right. And that means things that**  
15 **either CDC had on its website, or it knew**  
16 **internally?**

17           A. I think primarily it was things that were  
18 on CDC's site, but I can't say that for sure. I did  
19 not, not -- none of the communicators answered the  
20 questions directly.

21           **Q. Okay.**

22           A. Unless we had it on our website.

23           **Q. So what you do is would you refer them to**  
24 **subject matter experts?**

25           A. Those questions would -- if they were on

1 an email, they would go, you know, we would -- I  
2 didn't.

3 **Q. Right.**

4 A. People in the response would ask the SMEs  
5 about them. That's my understanding of what  
6 happened when they were circulated.

7 **Q. So I'm trying to get the trail of how they**  
8 **get -- how Facebook or the other social media get**  
9 **information. You're the contact point oftentimes.**  
10 **They send you things like this?**

11 A. Mm-hmm (affirmative).

12 **Q. Then somebody -- and we've already**  
13 **determined, you're not -- you don't do science,**  
14 **you're a communicator, right? And a tech person?**  
15 **So where do you send this material to get those**  
16 **answers if it's not on the website? Because you've**  
17 **told me if it's on the website we just send it over**  
18 **to them.**

19 A. I didn't even always check to see if it  
20 was on the website myself or in my office. I would  
21 let the communicator that was assigned to whatever  
22 the area was. For instance, Rosie on the Exhibit 11  
23 was working with this area, and she would have the  
24 contacts with the experts.

25 **Q. Okay.**

1           A. I don't know what they -- how they got the  
2 answers back in every instance.

3           **Q. Because you weren't always the person to**  
4 **send the answer back?**

5           A. I sent the answers back, but I didn't  
6 collect them. Usually they required multiple  
7 experts.

8           **Q. Okay. All right. And in Exhibit 11**  
9 **again -- you can put 12 to 14 aside. Do you know if**  
10 **Cynthia Jorgensen and Rosie Bretthauer-Mueller and**  
11 **Demi Haynes joined the meeting, as indicated?**

12           MS. SNOW: Objection. Vague.

13           MR. VECCHIONE: They're the people she's  
14 going to bring in for the meeting.

15           A. I think they probably did. I don't know  
16 if all three of them did.

17 BY MR. VECCHIONE:

18           **Q. And what is -- do you know what the role**  
19 **is of a co-lead for consumer vaccine content**  
20 **development is?**

21           A. She would help write all the materials on  
22 vaccines that were on the website, or in a fact  
23 sheet.

24           **Q. And do you recall this meeting taking**  
25 **place?**

1           A. I don't recall the specific meeting. I do  
2 recall meetings such as -- like this. I mean, maybe  
3 it's this one I have in my mind. I don't know for  
4 sure.

5           **Q. Well, if it's -- what was discussed at the**  
6 **meeting, to the best of your recollection?**

7           A. Sometimes in these meetings they would ask  
8 do we know if this is true or false, which is what  
9 they were doing. And then if we knew, the  
10 communicators knew the answer, we would provide it.  
11 If not, I would say, we would say, I'll have to get  
12 back to you later, we'll talk to our SMEs.

13                   And then that's why I was referring to not  
14 going to have an SME going, but we can go back to  
15 the group after the meeting if needed was the gist.

16           **Q. Do you have notes or other records of what**  
17 **was said on the call?**

18           A. I didn't take notes. I don't believe  
19 notes were taken.

20           **Q. But once again, on a calendar you might**  
21 **have that calendared?**

22           A. I would have -- the appointment would be  
23 there, but it wouldn't necessarily say if Cynthia  
24 joined or not. She would have been invited.

25           **Q. All right. And we discussed earlier today**

1 your conversations with at least Facebook, but some  
2 social media on misinformation. And you said it was  
3 on -- I think you said it was on a general level,  
4 you couldn't remember anything specific.

5 After looking at these documents, has  
6 anything changed in your response? Do you remember  
7 any specific misinformation you discussed with the  
8 social media organizations around here, around 2021?

9 A. I mean, I remember seeing this list before  
10 now that you've showed it, but I don't remember what  
11 we sent back, or what we said on the phone  
12 specifically about each of these items.

13 Q. And did you -- did CDC -- when I say "you"  
14 here I mean you or anyone you know at CDC.

15 A. Mm-hmm (affirmative).

16 Q. Ever monitor whether Facebook or other  
17 social media company took down material that you  
18 have indicated was false?

19 A. I do think that Census was at least  
20 periodically checking on things that they had  
21 flagged, or they had seen come up.

22 Q. Okay. Thank you. And why do you believe  
23 that?

24 A. Because I have vague recollections of them  
25 mentioning it or asking it in the meetings, and I

1 believe that was in one of these exhibits.

2 **Q. Got it. That you reviewed during this**  
3 **deposition, or before?**

4 A. In this one.

5 **Q. Okay. You can put Exhibit 11 aside.**

6 A. Okay.

7 (Plaintiffs' Exhibit 15 marked.)

8 BY MR. VECCHIONE:

9 **Q. And let's go to Exhibit 15.**

10 MR. GILLIGAN: Just a moment, Counsel,  
11 before you ask your next question.

12 (REPORTER'S NOTE: Mr. Gilligan conferring  
13 with witness.)

14 MR. VECCHIONE: The witness has conferred  
15 with counsel.

16 BY MR. VECCHIONE:

17 **Q. And, again, I'd just ask you to identify**  
18 **it by the subject of the re: line and the date, and**  
19 **then continue reviewing it.**

20 MR. GILLIGAN: Referring to Exhibit 15?

21 BY MR. VECCHIONE:

22 **Q. Referring to Exhibit 15.**

23 A. "It was this list, sorry. Agenda item for  
24 CDC call this week." It was June 2nd, 2021.

25 **Q. Now, please take a look.**

1           A.   Okay.

2           Q.   All right.  Now, I think the end of this  
3   email is pretty much the same as the one that was  
4   Exhibit 14; right?

5           A.   It is.

6           Q.   So let's just start with the email that's  
7   from Liz Lagone to you on May 24 at 1:57 p.m., and  
8   she ccs Carrie Adams at Facebook, it looks like,  
9   from the email.  Who's Carrie Adams?

10          A.   She was part of Liz -- of Payton's team,  
11   now Carrie is my main point of contact at Facebook,  
12   Payton has since left.

13          Q.   And can you tell me -- so she says on this  
14   email:  "Thanks so much again for you and team's  
15   help in debunking a few COVID-19 and vaccine  
16   misinformation claims for us.  As a followup to our  
17   meeting, please see the list of claims below with  
18   notes from our conversation last Thursday morning."

19                 So if this is Monday May 24th, is it fair  
20   to say that the meeting was Thursday May 20th, if  
21   that's the Thursday of the previous week?

22          A.   It appears that way to me too.

23          Q.   Okay.  So do you recall who met at that  
24   meeting, and where it was?

25          A.   Well, as we were discussing on the other

1 exhibit, it was a phone conference, and I think that  
2 Cynthia and Rosie and Demi may have attended. I  
3 can't say for sure all three of them attended, but I  
4 know that they were at least two of them were  
5 probably on the line.

6 Q. All right. And she's listed a number of  
7 those items that we saw before that they had  
8 questions about. And the first one that she lists,  
9 although it's not in the same order, she sent it to  
10 you earlier; right?

11 A. It does appear in a different order, yes.

12 Q. But, she says: "Is the claim, quote,  
13 'COVID-19 is manmade' false, unproven, unsupported  
14 by evidence or true?" And the answer's:  
15 Inclusive [sic] -- inconclusive; right?

16 And then she also goes on to say: It's  
17 probably from animals jumping to humans.

18 And my question here is she says: The CDC  
19 director in her testimony yesterday said being  
20 manmade was technically possible because we did not  
21 know the origin still.

22 And was that the CDC dir- -- I think I  
23 saw Walensky in this email beforehand. Is that your  
24 understanding of who that is?

25 A. In May that would be Walensky.



1           **Q. Okay. Now, why is Liz Lagone sending this**  
2 **email to you about -- why is she sending this email**  
3 **to you to confirm the conclusions below about the**  
4 **COVID vaccine?**

5           MS. SNOW: Objection. Calls for  
6 speculation.

7 BY MR. VECCHIONE:

8           **Q. You can answer.**

9           A. I don't know why Liz specifically sent it  
10 for sure. But I -- because I just mentioned -- when  
11 we were talking about the other exhibit -- that we  
12 were communicators and not experts, there were  
13 probably -- I'm sure we were saying we're pretty  
14 sure this is correct. We might have to go back and  
15 check on stuff. And I think she was trying to give  
16 us something to go and follow up.

17           And I can see I said let's -- I'd like to  
18 note that we have no scientific experts on the call  
19 so these are our thoughts, but we'll definitely  
20 check on this on our end.

21           **Q. Okay. So you didn't -- but you didn't**  
22 **respond that she had misheard anything on the**  
23 **conversation; right? You just said you needed to**  
24 **check with scientists; right?**

25           A. Correct. That's what I said in the email.

1           Q. Okay. And then I will just to -- later on  
2 the COVID-19 vaccine causes various things, these  
3 things had been proposed: Alzheimer's, Prion's,  
4 cytokine storm. And you respond inconclusive. We  
5 don't know right now; right? You just didn't have  
6 anything at hand?

7           A. That appears to be what we said on the  
8 call, and that Liz, in theory, wrote down what we  
9 said correctly.

10          **Q. Right.**

11          A. That's not clear from this chain.

12          **Q. And then --**

13          A. But how I'm interpreting it.

14          **Q. And then once again the survival rate,**  
15 **they say it's inconclusive but it's a hard number to**  
16 **prove, and -- correct, that's what she says?**

17          A. "Not able to debunk now, inconclusive.  
18 Scientists would be hesitant to attach a correct  
19 number to the survival rates," so.

20          **Q. Okay. Yes. And then it says "Note, this**  
21 **claim is tied to the VAERS issue."**

22                   **What's VAERS?**

23          A. VAERS is a Vaccine Adverse Events  
24 Reporting system.

25          **Q. And is it your understanding that doctors**

1     **around the country report adverse events for**  
2     **patients as a matter of course?**

3             MS. SNOW: Objection. Calls for  
4     speculation.

5             A. I'm not an expert on the system.

6     BY MR. VECCHIONE:

7             **Q. But the system, who puts the information**  
8     **there, do you know?**

9             A. I actually believe anyone is able to  
10    report an adverse event. It doesn't have to only be  
11    physicians. It can be any of us that wanted to.

12            **Q. Okay.**

13            A. I believe.

14            **Q. Right. And so it could be someone who**  
15    **doesn't know whether it's connected to the vaccine,**  
16    **or someone else?**

17            A. I think any kind of -- any kind of thing  
18    can be reported.

19            **Q. Okay. In this email do you know who the**  
20    **science experts, the subject matter experts you**  
21    **mention in your email, do you know who they were, or**  
22    **who you checked with?**

23            A. No. Because people deployed in and out of  
24    the response, and I was not usually the person  
25    asking the SMEs directly. It was the communicators

1 assigned to the topic group such as Rosie who was  
2 the communicator for vaccines. She was talking to  
3 the SMEs.

4 **Q. All right. And then would she talk --**  
5 **could she talk directly to Facebook or the other**  
6 **social media after that?**

7 A. Almost always she'd send back to me, and I  
8 would consolidate responses and send them back.  
9 Sometimes if I was out, Rosie would respond directly  
10 with a copy to me or something. I don't know that  
11 that happened ever, but it might have.

12 **Q. All right. Now, on May 24 at 1:57 she**  
13 **does thank you for your and your team's help in**  
14 **debunking a few COVID-19 and vaccine misinformation**  
15 **claims; correct?**

16 A. Where do you see the thank you?

17 **Q. On May 24th, 2021 at 1:57. The Bates**  
18 **stamp at the bottom ends in 539.**

19 A. Sorry. I'm on the wrong --

20 **Q. Yeah.**

21 A. Yeah, she does say that. But then I note  
22 that we haven't had scientific experts review this  
23 yet right after she sent that to clarify.

24 **Q. All right. But you were going to check**  
25 **with them so that it could be debunked; correct?**

1           A. Correct. If it was supposed to be  
2 debunked.

3           **Q. If it --**

4           A. Yes.

5           **Q. Yes, if it was. I thought -- I'm not**  
6 **seeing it now. One second.**

7                   Ah, here it is on the very first page of  
8 **Exhibit 15. Liz Lagone refers to a Sam. "Also I**  
9 **meant to ask in my email earlier but I recall it was**  
10 **either you or Sam mentioning that you could share a**  
11 **transcript." Who's Sam?**

12           A. I assume that was Sam with the Census  
13 team.

14           **Q. Got it. And have we talked about him**  
15 **before? Is he --**

16           A. We mentioned that he was one of the Census  
17 folks. I didn't remember his name until the  
18 exhibits, but yes.

19           **Q. And do you know if the transcript of**  
20 **Dr. Walensky was just her testimony to Congress, or**  
21 **something else?**

22           A. In re-reading this, my recollection is is  
23 that they asked about this, and several of us said I  
24 think we heard her address this in the press event,  
25 or maybe it was the testimony. I'm not sure. I

1 guess it was the testimony because I was looking for  
2 the transcript, and we mentioned it. And we were  
3 looking for it because that was the only thing that  
4 we knew of that might exist to help them with their  
5 question.

6 MR. VECCHIONE: All right. You can put  
7 that aside.

8 (Plaintiffs' Exhibit 16 marked.)

9 BY MR. VECCHIONE:

10 Q. And once again if you could just tell me  
11 the subject line and the date, and then --

12 MS. SNOW: And this is Exhibit 16?

13 BY MR. VECCHIONE:

14 Q. Exhibit 16.

15 A. "It was this list, sorry. Agenda item for  
16 the CDC call this week." June 3rd.

17 Q. Okay. Now, let's go to the back again.  
18 And Liz Lagone writes to you on June 1st, 2021,  
19 8:49 p.m.: "Hi, Carol, I hope you're well and had a  
20 restful long weekend. I want to follow up on my  
21 below email and see if you needed any further  
22 information or context about COVID-19 vaccine claims  
23 below. We'd love CDC's help in debunking."

24 And the next one from June 2nd, 2021 at  
25 6:58, that's from you; right?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. And that's to Liz Lagone; right?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. And what -- could you read what you say to  
5 her?

6 A. "Notes below on some. I hope this helps.  
7 I will let you know when we have cleared points."

8 Q. And then stop there.

9 A. Okay.

10 Q. Then "COVID-19 vaccines causing  
11 magnetism." And, surprisingly, "debunked."

12 Then you'll say "will have cleared TP  
13 soon." What's TP?

14 A. Talking point.

15 Q. How does a talking point get cleared?

16 Well, I'll withdraw that. What is a talking point?

17 A. Usually it's a bullet or a paragraph on  
18 whatever the subject is that one could refer to.

19 Q. And how does it get cleared? What's the  
20 process?

21 A. I mean, I'm not sure why I was looking for  
22 TP instead of web content. I don't know if that was  
23 just a mistype or not, but -- or maybe -- maybe it  
24 was going to be a talking point. But usually any  
25 content that's going outside of the agency goes

1 through a very specific clearance process. There  
2 was a clearance process for COVID. I wasn't -- I  
3 rarely cleared things myself, but there -- many  
4 people have to sign off on content before it leaves  
5 the Agency.

6 **Q. Got it. And I'll just notice -- I'll just**  
7 **point out that the bottom about the COVID-19**  
8 **vaccines causing erectile dysfunction, again, you**  
9 **say "will have a cleared TP soon"; right?**

10 A. Yeah. I believe thinking more about why I  
11 said TP, we often provide media with talking points  
12 when they ask questions. And that was -- we were  
13 also looking at things that we were providing to  
14 media in addition to web content because that was  
15 similar, there were similar questions coming. So  
16 perhaps that's why this says TP instead of web  
17 content.

18 **Q. All right.**

19 A. I can't say for 100 percent sure, but I  
20 think that might be likely.

21 **Q. And you use web content in other -- in**  
22 **other of these points. So my question there is with**  
23 **respect to items 3, 4 and 6, which, I think if you**  
24 **look at it, that's what they are.**

25 A. Mm-hmm (affirmative).



1           **Q. What does it mean that, quote, "web**  
2           **content to debunk is in clearance"?**

3           A. Well, I think what we were referring to is  
4 posting a more specific kind of FAQ or myth. We had  
5 a myths page where we would more directly address  
6 the myth. You know, sometimes answers to things  
7 were buried in guidance or scientific papers, and we  
8 were trying to make it easier for people to  
9 understand the myths. So I think this is in  
10 reference to adding a myth or an FAQ to the site.

11           **Q. All right. And then you said -- well, my**  
12           **next question: So what does CDC do to debunk the**  
13           **claims that -- I'll make it more specific here.**  
14           **What did CDC do to debunk each of these claims?**  
15           **What process does it go through to debunk them?**

16           A. I can't -- I can't answer what the --  
17 because that's a scientific process that I'm not  
18 part of.

19           **Q. Okay. So they give these questions to**  
20           **you, and you send it out to a scientist or a subject**  
21           **matter expert, let's call them.**

22           A. Mm-hmm (affirmative).

23           **Q. I take it -- I take it from the responses**  
24           **there is a number of different CDC answers. One is**  
25           **inconclusive. You say that a number of times. They**

1 didn't have the information at that time, is that  
2 fair?

3 A. That's my assumption of what was meant by  
4 that.

5 Q. Okay. And sometimes they'd say  
6 inconclusive, but give here's what we know now?

7 A. Mm-hmm (affirmative).

8 Q. And then in other times it's just  
9 debunked.

10 What did you get from the subject matter  
11 experts when they send that back? Did they just  
12 send back "debunked," or do they have some reference  
13 or explanatory note?

14 A. On -- I think it varied. For this one I'm  
15 not sure. I don't remember if I saw all the  
16 explanations, or if they were discussed in meetings  
17 with the experts. I've seen some that seemed to  
18 have a little more description when I have asked it,  
19 but -- or well, maybe when I was asking the SME they  
20 might have given me, but I was really the one  
21 discussing it directly with the SME.

22 Q. Now you've also described already some  
23 things they'd already done and put on your website?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. All right. So do you know if CDC

1 conducted any experiment or processes to debunk any  
2 of these items?

3 A. I wouldn't know.

4 Q. Do you know whether they did surveys of  
5 the medical literature of the vaccines?

6 MS. SNOW: Objection. Vague.

7 BY MR. VECCHIONE:

8 Q. In order to debunk claims do you know  
9 whether they checked medical literature, or what  
10 they reviewed?

11 A. I wasn't part of the scientific process,  
12 so I wouldn't even want to speculate.

13 Q. So I think if you look at Exhibit 15.

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Do you have it? If you go to the  
16 second-to-last page it's where they start. And  
17 Payton Iheme sends you this list of a number of  
18 claims. And the date of that is May 19th; right?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. And then if you look at 16 by June 3rd at  
21 2021, 2:57 you write about the last ones that you  
22 hadn't told her about: "Yes, they are debunked and  
23 we will also have content on it soon"; correct?

24 A. I see that, yes.

25 Q. All right. So that is about two weeks'

1     **time to debunk these claims that?**

2             A. That seems like the dates, yes.

3             **Q. So given that short time frame, would you**  
4 **agree with me that CDC didn't do any experiment to**  
5 **debunk these proposals?**

6             MS. SNOW: Objection. Mischaracterizes  
7 the documents and the testimony.

8             A. I feel like it took us two weeks to  
9 respond back to Facebook. I don't think it was fair  
10 to characterize it as the time it took CDC to  
11 potentially collect science on this.

12     BY MR. VECCHIONE:

13             **Q. Thank you. Do you know who -- when you**  
14 **give your initial proposals to Facebook, when --**  
15 **like the discussions we saw earlier where you said**  
16 **those were our discussions but we have to check with**  
17 **the subject matter experts, who in that**  
18 **conversation, when you're meeting with them, who**  
19 **makes those proposals? Is that you, or is that one**  
20 **of the co-chairs we mentioned?**

21             MS. SNOW: Objection. Vague.

22             A. What do you mean by proposals?

23     BY MR. VECCHIONE:

24             **Q. Well, they put together these matters to**  
25 **be debunked; right? And we saw -- and you can put**

1 15 next to 16. And if you look at 15, as we  
2 discussed earlier, Liz Lagone sends you: This is  
3 the conversation we had. It's kind of --

4 MR. GILLIGAN: Which page?

5 MR. VECCHIONE: Page -- on page 15 [sic],  
6 second page.

7 MR. GILLIGAN: Thank you.

8 MR. VECCHIONE: Exhibit 15.

9 BY MR. VECCHIONE:

10 Q. So she says, and we've discussed this  
11 before: "Please confirm the conclusions I have  
12 noted below based on our discussion."

13 So you had a discussion and she got these  
14 impressions. But who gave her these impressions?  
15 In other words, who was the person in the room who  
16 could say, nah, I don't think that's right, but  
17 we'll get back to you with the subject matter  
18 expert?

19 A. I don't remember this call specifically in  
20 any kind of detail, but I do believe it was one of  
21 the first times they had sent us a list, and I think  
22 that Cynthia and Rosie or Demi, who had a lot more  
23 knowledge of the content, piped in mostly on what  
24 they thought was available.

25 Q. Okay.

1           A. But I believe we characterized it during  
2 the call that we would need the expert, and I  
3 followed up that way at the end.

4           **Q. In the subsequent emails?**

5           A. Yes.

6           **Q. And then -- so then finally there is at  
7 the end: "Yes, these are debunked" --**

8           A. Mm-hmm (affirmative).

9           **Q. -- and you'll "have content on it soon."  
10           And that content, is that talking points,  
11 or is that web content when you use that term?**

12          A. When I use what term?

13          **Q. Content.**

14          A. Web content, it could have been a FAQ on  
15 the web, it could have been a myth, it could have  
16 been a fact sheet on the web. Anything on the  
17 web --

18          **Q. All right.**

19          A. -- that was for consumers.

20          **Q. But you considered that debunked by the  
21 CDC by June 3rd, 2021?**

22                MS. SNOW: Objection. Vague.

23 BY MR. VECCHIONE:

24           **Q. Well, she says: "Yes, they are debunked  
25 and we will also have content on it soon" in**

1 **Plaintiffs' Exhibit 16, June 3rd, 2021.**

2 A. We reported to Facebook that they were  
3 debunked at this time.

4 MR. VECCHIONE: Thank you. Exhibit 17.  
5 You know what, take this one, too, because it will  
6 be real quick, I hope.

7 BY MR. VECCHIONE:

8 **Q. So I'll -- one more question on 16. On**  
9 **that June 3rd date where you said these are**  
10 **debunked, who makes the final calls that they are**  
11 **debunked before you send it Facebook?**

12 A. The communicators or the SME that I'm  
13 working with would decide if it was okay to send it  
14 back to Facebook. The communicator would get that  
15 from the SME that they were working with.

16 For instance, my team posts the web, but I  
17 don't know how every piece is exactly cleared, but  
18 yet when they send it to us to post it there were  
19 trusted people that send it to me, and we assume  
20 that it's cleared and we post it.

21 It's very similar. Rosie was also in  
22 charge of clearing other things, and so she would  
23 assure to me that she had discussed it with the SMEs  
24 of authority.

25 **Q. Okay. And do you know of any, the names**

1 of any of these SMEs?

2 A. No, not off the top of my head. I mean,  
3 people were in and out of the response, and I don't  
4 recall.

5 Q. All right. I'll ask you to take a look at  
6 Plaintiffs' Exhibit 16 again.

7 A. Okay.

8 Q. Can you read item seven, and the answer on  
9 -- it's Bates stamped 533. It's on the second page.

10 A. Of which exhibit?

11 Q. Exhibit 16.

12 A. Of 533.

13 Q. The bottom at the number is called a Bates  
14 stamp.

15 A. Oh, sorry.

16 Q. That page, if you go up -- yeah, not  
17 everybody knows that and I have to say that --

18 MR. GILLIGAN: Nobody actually uses a  
19 Bates stamp any more either.

20 MR. VECCHIONE: What do they do?

21 MR. GILLIGAN: They're all electronically  
22 applied.

23 MR. VECCHIONE: I gotcha. I remember.

24 BY MR. VECCHIONE:

25 Q. In any event, could you read item 7 from



1     **the email that you sent?**

2           A. "People who are receiving COVID-19  
3 vaccines are subject to medical experiments."

4           **Q. And then the answer at 7(a)?**

5           A. "Debunked. CDC notes this likely stems  
6 from the vaccines only having EUA now and equating  
7 lack of full authorization as being involuntary part  
8 of a medical experiment."

9           **Q. And WhatsApp EUA?**

10          A. Emergency use authorization.

11          **Q. All right. And that's when the FTC -- FDA  
12 has given an emergency use authorization for certain  
13 medicines?**

14          A. This is not my area of expertise, but yes,  
15 I believe that's --

16          **Q. That's your understanding?**

17          A. Yes.

18          **Q. So were you aware at this time that  
19 vaccine mandates had been employed by governments,  
20 employers and colleges as a condition of maintaining  
21 employment or enrollment?**

22                 MS. SNOW: Objection. Assumes facts not  
23 in evidence.

24     BY MR. VECCHIONE:

25           **Q. Have you ever heard of such a thing?**

1 A. Yes. I don't know --

2 Q. Does getting a vaccine as a requirement of  
3 maintaining employment or enrollment affect  
4 voluntariness?

5 MS. SNOW: Objection. Calls for  
6 speculation, assumes facts not in evidence,  
7 argumentative.

8 A. This is really not my area of expertise of  
9 any account. I don't have anything really to  
10 provide on that.

11 BY MR. VECCHIONE:

12 Q. Did you instruct Facebook to do anything  
13 with debunked claims?

14 A. No.

15 Q. Did you have an understanding of what they  
16 were going to do with any claims that the CDC said  
17 were debunked?

18 A. I knew that they had options, but I think  
19 we also discussed on a previous exhibit, which is to  
20 inform people, to maybe reduce it in the algorithm,  
21 or to remove it. I -- they probably had other  
22 options, but I knew of at least those.

23 (Plaintiffs' Exhibit 17 presented.)

24 Q. Thank you. Exhibit 17. And, again, just  
25 tell me the subject line and the date.

1           A. "FB misinformation claims help debunking,"  
2 misspelled. The date is 7/26/2021.

3           Q. So on July 26, 2021 it's Liz Langone to  
4 you again; right?

5           A. Yes.

6           Q. And she says: "Our Misinformation Policy  
7 Team," meaning Facebook's do you believe?

8           A. Yes.

9           Q. "Has identified some claims that we were  
10 hoping your team could help us understand if they  
11 are false and can lead to harm"; right?

12          A. Yes.

13          Q. And she has spike proteins in COVID-19  
14 vaccines, Guillain-Barre syndrome -- which I will  
15 use GBS from now on as well -- is possible side  
16 effect, and heart inflammation as a possible side  
17 effect of all COVID-19 vaccines.

18                   Those were the questions that she sent  
19 you; right?

20          A. Yes.

21          Q. Do you know why she's asking you, or do  
22 you have an understanding? I'll withdraw it.

23                   Do you have an understanding of why she's  
24 asking you at CDC whether the claims are true or  
25 false?

1           A. Because CDC would have credible health  
2 information about the claims or scientific  
3 information that would benefit their policy making  
4 is the way I understood it.

5           **Q. Okay. And she then asks you she was**  
6 **"wondering if your team was aware of any global**  
7 **source of truth/database for vaccine adverse effects**  
8 **including possibly vaccine-related deaths."**

9           Do you see that?

10          A. Yes.

11          **Q. Did there ever come a time when WHO or**  
12 **some foreign medical health agency differed with the**  
13 **CDC on any of these vaccine topics that you recall?**

14          A. That's not my area of expertise, and I  
15 don't recall any specifics.

16          **Q. Do you know whether on these three**  
17 **requests that you did another response on debunking,**  
18 **inconclusive, or not known like you did in the**  
19 **previous one, exhibits we looked at?**

20          A. I don't remember what I specifically  
21 answered with this.

22          **Q. Okay.**

23          A. I know generally what I -- how I handled  
24 them, but not what I did with this.

25          **Q. Okay. And generally how you handled them**

1 we've already discussed?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. And you have nothing different to add on  
4 this particular request?

5 A. No.

6 (Plaintiffs' Exhibit 18 presented.)

7 Q. Okay. You can go to Exhibit 18. And once  
8 again could you please give me the subject line and  
9 the date of Exhibit 18?

10 A. Yes. CrowdTangle COVID-19 reports.  
11 7/20/21.

12 Q. Okay. And please take a look at it.

13 A. I've scanned this one.

14 Q. Who's -- at the top, at the very end, I  
15 guess I should say the end, the very top?

16 A. Mm-hmm (affirmative).

17 Q. It's Carol Crawford to Tyler Woods. Who  
18 is that?

19 A. Tyler Woods was a name on another exhibit.  
20 I mentioned at that time I'm pretty sure that Tyler  
21 Woods took over the reporting from Kelly Perron, and  
22 that appears to be the case here. There is a  
23 transfer on the first page saying -- from Kelly  
24 saying Tyler is going to be sending the reports in  
25 the future.

1 Q. Okay. And once again these are the  
2 CrowdTangle reports that I think we discussed at one  
3 point you were receiving biweekly?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. And were you doing anything different with  
6 this information at this time than you've described  
7 to me earlier?

8 A. Not that I recall.

9 Q. Okay. And at this time, June 9th, 2021,  
10 are they reporting this to you for the same reasons  
11 as you've described previously when we first  
12 mentioned CrowdTangle?

13 A. That's my recollection of it.

14 Q. On the very last page, which is the  
15 beginning of it, June 8th, 2021, 8:13 p.m.,  
16 "vaccination lawsuits" --

17 A. I see it.

18 Q. -- highlighted. Do you know what they are  
19 referring to there?

20 A. Sounds like the lawsuits around the  
21 mandates that you mentioned previously.

22 Q. Okay. Like the OSHA mandate or CMS  
23 mandates?

24 MS. SNOW: Objection. Assumes facts not  
25 in evidence. Calls for speculation.

1           A. I really am speculating.

2 BY MR. VECCHIONE:

3           **Q. You're not sure?**

4           A. I don't know. This is not really an area  
5 of my expertise. This is simply a report of  
6 conversations that are occurring on social media.

7           **Q. All right. When you received it, did you**  
8 **have an understanding of what the vaccine lawsuits**  
9 **they were referring to were?**

10          A. I had a recollection of that from watching  
11 the news in my personal life.

12          **Q. Okay. On that same page "Deciding to Get**  
13 **Vaccinated" she's highlighted.**

14                 **Why does the CDC need to be updated on the**  
15 **statements of public physicians?**

16          MS. SNOW: Objection. Mischaracterizes  
17 testimony and the document.

18 BY MR. VECCHIONE:

19          **Q. Why were you updated on those statements?**

20          A. Again, these are reports that characterize  
21 the overall conversation of social media. They are  
22 not -- I don't believe these were picked out  
23 specifically for CDC. I think these are a report of  
24 the trends of conversation on social media.

25          **Q. And I'd like you to turn to the next page**

1 where Tyler Woods takes over and he sends a June  
2 22nd, 4:43 p.m. summary to you.

3 A. Okay.

4 Q. At the end of it it says: "Let us know if  
5 you have any questions or specific keywords/topics  
6 you'd like us to explore in the next report. As  
7 always, please do not share."

8 Did there come a time that you shared  
9 keywords or topics with Facebook that you wanted  
10 them to check in?

11 A. I don't recall doing it.

12 Q. All right. Turn to the first page of  
13 Exhibit 18. Once again, this is Tyler Woods to you?

14 A. Yes. Sorry.

15 Q. Thank you. The very, very mistake on my  
16 instructions at the beginning. You're to be  
17 commended, because it usually happens a lot more  
18 until now.

19 So the last, the last item that's  
20 highlighted: Door-to-door vaccines. Do you know  
21 whether he's referring to any public statements made  
22 on this topic by any plaintiff in this case,  
23 including Governor Mike Parson?

24 A. I wouldn't know.

25 MR. VECCHIONE: You can put that aside.



1 (Plaintiffs' Exhibit 19 marked.)

2 BY MR. VECCHIONE:

3 Q. And once again please identify it to me by  
4 subject matter and date of Exhibit 19, and then  
5 please read it to yourself.

6 A. CrowdTangle COVID-19 reports, 8/18/21. I  
7 didn't hear your last part of to yourself, what.

8 Q. Just read it to yourself. In other words,  
9 you get to review the document but you don't have to  
10 read it out loud?

11 A. I'm sorry about that. Okay.

12 Q. I'm not caught up to you.

13 Okay. So as we've discussed, this, once  
14 again, is one of the CrowdTangle reports but that  
15 Tyler Woods is now sending; correct?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Let's go back to the August 3rd exchange  
18 on this. So on August 3rd Tyler Woods writes to you  
19 at 6:16 p.m.?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. And once again the purpose of this you've  
22 already testified to; it hasn't changed, why you're  
23 getting these?

24 A. Correct.

25 Q. All right. So did the CDC at this time

1 have proof that, quote, "the recent uptick in  
2 hospitalizations and deaths is being driven by  
3 unvaccinated individuals"?

4 A. I'm not an expert in that area and I  
5 wouldn't be able to answer that question.

6 Q. All right. Do you know whether subsequent  
7 evidence the CDC had supported that view?

8 A. I'm not an expert in this area, and I  
9 don't feel comfortable. I don't know.

10 Q. The email exchange that Tyler would send  
11 you on July 20th, 2021, the Bates stamp number at  
12 the bottom is 2440 of this document.

13 A. I see it.

14 Q. You there? So, once again, when he sends  
15 you material from CrowdTangle concerning allowing  
16 people to return to religious services, that's  
17 because it's appearing on CrowdTangle and not  
18 because you asked for it?

19 A. Correct.

20 Q. And let's go to the first page here, but  
21 I'll ask you to take a look at the August 17th  
22 exchange. Once again, Tyler Woods sending you the  
23 CrowdTangle reports?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Now, by August 17th, 2021 are you still

1     **using CrowdTangle for the same purposes you**  
2     **discussed earlier?**

3             A. Yes. But this isn't about us using  
4     CrowdTangle. This is about them sending us  
5     CrowdTangle reports.

6             **Q. Okay.**

7             A. But either way it's all the same purpose.  
8     I just wanted to clarify that.

9             **Q. Okay. Because by now you may be using**  
10    **CrowdTangle in a different way. You might be**  
11    **getting the summaries and going in directly?**

12            A. Well, we had access to go in directly to  
13    CrowdTangle and run in reports I think from early  
14    2020.

15            **Q. Okay.**

16            A. And I mentioned that our research team, I  
17    think, searched in it and looked in it to create  
18    their reports, and I believe other teams did too. I  
19    did not personally. These are reports that were  
20    sent to us. So that's different than the way you  
21    stated it.

22            **Q. I see.**

23            A. I did not use these reports in any  
24    different way than I have been saying in previous.

25            **Q. But just to clarify.**

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. So these are reports from Facebook to you?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. As we've discussed?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. I might ask you if something's changed,  
7 but you've already testified to that. But within  
8 CDC you had access to CrowdTangle, and created your  
9 own reports?

10 A. That we could -- I don't know that we  
11 created reports. I know that we did searches in  
12 CrowdTangle, the same way we do searches in other  
13 social media and listening tools that we have to  
14 create, to understand what's being discussed in the  
15 environment, to update our communication material,  
16 as I was explaining this morning.

17 Q. Okay. So on this particular one that  
18 we're discussing, once again Facebook has sent you  
19 their CrowdTangle summary. And I-- the COVID 19  
20 mandates at the bottom there that's highlighted. It  
21 says: "On the other hand, many conservative  
22 politicians are calling for an end to government  
23 mandated restrictions and vaccinations."

24 And my question is do you know whether or  
25 not there was any CrowdTangle information about

1 **either Attorney General Schmitt or Attorney General**  
2 **Landry in these CrowdTangle briefings?**

3 A. I'm not -- I wouldn't even say I flipped  
4 open this -- every report. I don't know. I  
5 couldn't remember any of the details.

6 They did often put pictures of the posts,  
7 of a post as examples.

8 **Q. Oh, okay.**

9 A. But I don't know.

10 **Q. That they're finding? Sort of like that**  
11 **that attachment we saw earlier where they were**  
12 **asking you about the wording? Like, in other words,**  
13 **it wouldn't look like this. It would be some**  
14 **something they had taken off Facebook?**

15 A. Yeah. But that was -- those samples I  
16 feel like you're referencing are different. This  
17 would just be like they are saying a lot of people  
18 are talking about COVID-19 mandates; they might put  
19 a few example posts someone put in the slide deck to  
20 show what they were talking about.

21 **Q. Got it. Thank you.**

22 MR. VECCHIONE: Exhibit 20.

23 THE WITNESS: After Exhibit 20, could we  
24 take a short break?

25 MR. VECCHIONE: Let's take one now.

1 THE WITNESS: Could we take one now?

2 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: Off record at 2:06.

3 (Recess 2:06 p.m. - 2:19 p.m.)

4 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: We are back on the  
5 record at 2:19.

6 (Plaintiffs' Exhibit 20 marked.)

7 BY MR. VECCHIONE:

8 **Q. Okay. Ms. Crawford, have you had a chance**  
9 **to look at Plaintiffs' Exhibit 20?**

10 A. I did.

11 **Q. All right. And could you tell me the**  
12 **subject line and who's it from, who's it to and what**  
13 **the date is?**

14 A. Yes. The subject is VAERS policy  
15 consultation on 8/19, 2021. The first email is from  
16 me to Carrie Adams at Facebook.

17 **Q. All right. What's your understanding of**  
18 **why the CDC was asking to meet with the VAERS**  
19 **experts for consultation about misinformation?**

20 A. I don't recall a lot of the details, but  
21 VAERS, the topic of VAERS was an area that was  
22 widely discussed on social media, and there was a  
23 lot of areas of confusion about what VAERS data was.  
24 There was myths about VAERS data, and there was  
25 misinformation about VAERS data. So it was always

1 one of the things that rose to the top in terms of  
2 volume of discussion of people were very confused  
3 about VAERS.

4 **Q. And do you know whether this meeting ever**  
5 **took place?**

6 A. I don't remember if the one we were  
7 discussing at this time took place and the Singapore  
8 team attended for sure. But we did have a session  
9 with the VAERS experts with Facebook.

10 **Q. Okay.**

11 A. Probably as a result of this, I feel like  
12 it might have dragged out a little bit after this  
13 for a few weeks.

14 **Q. And do you know what was discussed at that**  
15 **meeting? First, did you attend it?**

16 A. I did attend it.

17 **Q. And do you recall what was discussed at**  
18 **that meeting?**

19 A. We had one of the experts for VAERS,  
20 and -- maybe it was two experts for VAERS and a  
21 couple of their communication experts on the line  
22 with Facebook's team. I believe it was like their  
23 misinformation and policy type team like that Liz  
24 was part of, but I don't know who -- I don't  
25 remember specifically who was on there. And we

1 offered the SME just to answer their questions about  
2 what VAERS was and what it wasn't.

3 And my recollection is they asked a lot of  
4 questions like, you know, what does -- what does --  
5 who can report something on VAERS and things like  
6 that during the session.

7 **Q. Okay. Do you know who the subject matter**  
8 **experts on VAERS were at CDC?**

9 A. Goodness. I'm just totally blanking on  
10 their names. I'm sorry.

11 **Q. If you recall during the course of this**  
12 **deposition, please let me know.**

13 A. Okay.

14 MR. VECCHIONE: We can move on to the next  
15 document.

16 (Plaintiffs' Exhibit 21 marked.)

17 A. Thank you.

18 BY MR. VECCHIONE:

19 **Q. And once again if you could just read the**  
20 **subject line, and then who -- what the date was and**  
21 **then read it to yourself.**

22 MS. SNOW: Is this for Exhibit 21?

23 MR. VECCHIONE: 21.

24 A. Subject BOLO, CDC lab alert and  
25 misinformation. September 1st. It's from me to



1 Carrie Adams at Facebook.

2 I have read it.

3 BY MR. VECCHIONE:

4 **Q. Okay. So do you recall this email?**

5 A. I do now that I'm seeing it, yes.

6 **Q. What are you telling Adams in this email?**

7 A. I can't see the attachment. But there was  
8 a misinterpretation of a lab alert that we issued,  
9 and so I think we put together a deck -- a power  
10 point or a two-page just saying what the facts were  
11 about this lab alert.

12 **Q. Okay. What is a lab alert?**

13 A. I don't know if this was a HAN alert or if  
14 was some other kind of alert they sent straight to  
15 laboratory. So I don't remember the details.

16 **Q. What is a HAN alert?**

17 A. A health advisory alert. We send it --  
18 no, Network. Health Advisory Network alert. Sorry.

19 **Q. And you have: "Carrie - BOLO."**

20 **What's BOLO?**

21 A. Be on the lookout.

22 **Q. Why were you concerned about this?**

23 A. Similar to all the other BOLOs, we still  
24 thought it was good to point out if we had facts  
25 around something that was widely circulating as a

1 cause of misinformation to the platforms to assist  
2 them in whatever they were going to do with their  
3 policy or not do. And this was one that was kind of  
4 growing, and we had a lot of facts about it, and the  
5 team was concerned about this, this  
6 misunderstanding.

7 **Q. Do you recall whether Facebook did**  
8 **anything upon receiving this information from you?**

9 A. I don't recall.

10 **Q. How did you know that it was a small but**  
11 **growing area of misinformation?**

12 A. I vaguely recall that we ran some  
13 Meltwater reports, and that people -- that  
14 conversation regarding this topic -- Meltwater is  
15 sort of like CrowdTangle but for all the  
16 platforms -- and that the conversation around this  
17 was growing.

18 **Q. Got it. Now, tell me about Meltwater.**  
19 **Does it aggregate all the platforms and you search**  
20 **across them?**

21 A. Yes. And social media listening tools are  
22 used by every social media team, I believe. I mean,  
23 it's widely common practice, and, yes, it will  
24 search. The CrowdTangle can see more on the Meta  
25 properties. So it's nicer if you're just looking at

1 Meta properties. Meltwater gives you social media  
2 at large. The Meta platforms, to clarify.

3 Q. Do you know what the nature of the  
4 misinterpretation was? I know we don't have the  
5 attachment, but do you know?

6 A. I don't recall any longer.

7 (Plaintiffs' Exhibit 22 marked.)

8 BY MR. VECCHIONE:

9 Q. Go to Exhibit 22. So what -- before we  
10 look at that exhibit --

11 A. Mm-hmm (affirmative).

12 Q. -- when you said "be on the lookout," what  
13 did you expect them to do once they were on the  
14 lookout for Facebook?

15 A. The same thing I have been describing. I  
16 knew that they had various options. They could have  
17 just used it to inform people. They could have  
18 considered it in their algorithm, I believe. I did  
19 understand that potentially removing posts was  
20 something that they might do.

21 Q. So if you could, just please identify  
22 Exhibit 22 to me the same way by its re: line --

23 A. Okay.

24 Q. -- and its date and then read it to  
25 yourself.

1           A. November 2nd, 2021. Subject New Claims  
2 and Policy Updates Following EUA Authorization for 5  
3 to 11-year-olds.

4           It's from me to a group, but I think  
5 primarily it was to Facebook. Also -- never mind.  
6 I thought I missed part of the subject. Sorry.  
7 Okay.

8           **Q. All right. So this is the first one**  
9 **that -- she actually signs off with Meta this time;**  
10 **right? So I guess whatever he did took place --**

11          A. I see that.

12          **Q. -- changed over by then.**

13                 **All right. The -- can you read the first**  
14 **two paragraphs she writes to you on November 2nd,**  
15 **1:22 p.m. into the record?**

16          A. Yes. "Kristen, thanks so much for  
17 confirming the ability for the claims in question  
18 last week having the risk of causing vaccine  
19 refusals. And thank you all so much for your input  
20 over the last week on our many questions about  
21 vaccine misinformation relative to the EUA."

22          **Q. And second paragraph?**

23          A. (As read) I wanted to share that as a  
24 result of our work together, when the FDA give  
25 emergency use authorization to the Pfizer vaccine

1 for children last week, we immediately updated our  
2 policies globally to remove false claims about the  
3 COVID-19 vaccine for children, e.g., the COVID  
4 vaccine is not safe for kids, we also launched a new  
5 feature on Instagram where accounts that repeatedly  
6 post content that violates our polices on COVID-19  
7 or vaccine misinformation may now lose the ability  
8 to be tagged or mentioned or may see pop-ups asking  
9 if they'd like to delete certain posts that violate  
10 our policies.

11 **Q. And then she goes on to say: Now we've**  
12 **identified new claims; right? And then she lists**  
13 **them?**

14 A. Yes.

15 **Q. And she asks you could you tell her**  
16 **whether the claim is false, and if believed this**  
17 **claim could contribute to vaccine refusals; right?**

18 A. Yes.

19 **Q. All right. And this is similar to the**  
20 **other lists she had sent you earlier that we looked**  
21 **at to be debunked or not?**

22 A. This is similar. This time, though,  
23 they -- I think -- I don't know if this is the first  
24 time, but this added the whole "could this  
25 contribute to vaccine refusals" element that I don't

1 think we had on the last one.

2 Q. Okay. What was your understanding of why  
3 she was reporting to you Meta's policies on  
4 childhood vaccines?

5 MS. SNOW: Objection. Mischaracterizes  
6 the document.

7 BY MR. VECCHIONE:

8 Q. You can answer.

9 A. Would you reask the question?

10 Q. Yeah. What was your understanding of why  
11 she was telling you what Meta's policy was on  
12 pediatric vaccines?

13 A. Well, I don't know what -- why she was  
14 doing it specifically because I can't speculate on  
15 that, but I received it as a thank you for assisting  
16 with the claims or the facts about this that we  
17 could provide.

18 Q. And then why did you think she was asking  
19 you to tell her which claims were true and which  
20 were false on that further list?

21 MS. SNOW: Objection.

22 A. Sorry?

23 MS. SNOW: Mischaracterizes the document.

24 BY MR. VECCHIONE:

25 Q. Okay. You can answer.

1 A. Ask the question again.

2 Q. Yeah. What was your understanding of what  
3 Langone was asking -- why she was asking you to tell  
4 her which of these claims were true and which were  
5 false, and, as you said, which would lead to vaccine  
6 hesitancy?

7 A. It was still my interpretation that she  
8 was asking to inform their policies. They were  
9 looking for CDC, who would have the scientific  
10 facts, to provide them with scientific facts.

11 Q. And didn't this email give you a pretty  
12 good idea that when CDC said something was false  
13 that Meta was going to take it down?

14 MS. SNOW: Objection. Calls for  
15 speculation.

16 BY MR. VECCHIONE:

17 Q. You can answer.

18 A. I did not have a recollection of this  
19 email, and -- when I think about the work we did,  
20 but it definitely says here that they updated the  
21 policy globally to remove additional false claims.

22 Q. All right. Upon getting your information;  
23 correct?

24 A. It doesn't say upon getting our  
25 information. It just says that when the FDA gave

1 the emergency use authorization we immediately  
2 updated our policies. It doesn't say upon getting  
3 our information.

4 **Q. She goes on to say: I wanted to share**  
5 **that as a result of our work together; right?**

6 A. Yes. But I assume this was -- I mean, I  
7 don't -- I'm reading it now. I don't have memory of  
8 this email. I'm interpreting it more of like the  
9 ongoing work for us to provide the facts to them.  
10 It could have been something specific, but I don't  
11 remember something specific regarding the -- this.

12 **Q. Do you know whether -- and then you say --**  
13 **hang on. I'll get back to it.**

14 **You then respond to her on 11/2. I think**  
15 **it's 2:54:26. It's down to the second. "Got it,**  
16 **Liz. I'm going to work on this one with some other**  
17 **vaccine staff and take this one off of Kristen."**

18 **So who are the other vaccine staff?**

19 A. Kristen Nordlund is a press officer for  
20 the National Center -- or at the time was a press  
21 officer for the National Center for Immunization,  
22 Respiratory Diseases where the vaccine work was, and  
23 she was very involved in the COVID response.

24 And I don't see it in this chain, and I  
25 cannot be sure, but what I think happened was that



1 Kristen helped on some questions regarding this in a  
2 previous set of emails or maybe a conversation.

3 Q. All right. And then you say: "I hope we  
4 can do it by Monday."

5 So it's going to take a little less than a  
6 week. But you're going to hope to get back to her  
7 by then. This is a Tuesday.

8 A. Yes. I see that, yes.

9 Q. But then you say: "Thank you so much for  
10 the feedback on what you've been able to do. This  
11 is very good to know." Right?

12 A. I do say that, yes.

13 Q. So you're approving of her taking down the  
14 COVID vaccine is not safe for kids off the Meta  
15 platforms; right?

16 MS. SNOW: Objection. Mischaracterizes  
17 document and testimony.

18 BY MR. VECCHIONE:

19 Q. You can answer.

20 A. I did not mean it generally. I never felt  
21 that my role, or CDC's role, was to determine what  
22 to do with the scientific information that we  
23 provided. But I'm happy that providing the  
24 scientific information led to less spread of  
25 misinformation. In this email I think what's what I

1 was reflecting.

2 Q. So you were pleased that people who  
3 believed that the COVID vaccine was not safe for  
4 kids were taken off the platforms of Meta?

5 MS. SNOW: Objection. Mischaracterizes  
6 testimony.

7 A. I don't think that's what she's saying in  
8 here.

9 BY MR. VECCHIONE:

10 Q. (As read) We immediately updated our  
11 policies globally to remove additional false claims  
12 about COVID vaccine for children, e.g. the COVID  
13 vaccine is not safe for kids.

14 That doesn't tell you that she's removing  
15 those people from the platform?

16 MS. SNOW: Objection. Mischaracterizes  
17 document.

18 A. No.

19 BY MR. VECCHIONE:

20 Q. What is she doing then?

21 A. I understand that she's removing claims  
22 that have -- that are not scientifically accurate.

23 Q. Okay. Well, let me put it another way.  
24 People who post that statement will have that  
25 statement removed from Meta; correct?

1 MS. SNOW: Objection. It calls for  
2 speculation, mischaracterizes the document.

3 BY MR. VECCHIONE:

4 Q. That was your understanding of this email;  
5 right?

6 A. I think we'd have to just look at what's  
7 written here.

8 Q. And it is in English; right?

9 MS. SNOW: Objection.

10 MR. GILLIGAN: Argumentative.

11 A. I don't think you're characterizing it  
12 correctly. Sorry.

13 (Plaintiffs' Exhibit 23 marked.)

14 BY MR. VECCHIONE:

15 Q. Move on to Exhibit 23. And once again I'd  
16 like you to just read the subject line and the date,  
17 and then read the rest to yourself.

18 A. New claims and policy updates following  
19 EAU authorization for 5 to 11-year olds.

20 This is on November 8th, 2021 from me to  
21 Liz and some others at CDC.

22 Okay.

23 Q. All right. So once again in Exhibit 23  
24 she's asking you a number of questions, particularly  
25 number one was COVID-19 vaccines weaken the immune

1 system. And then the same question she's asked  
2 before: "Is this false? Could this lead to vaccine  
3 refusals?" Right?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. And you've -- and you've responded,  
6 "false"; right? "COVID vaccination will help people  
7 from getting COVID-19. Adults and children may have  
8 some side effects from vaccine which is normal signs  
9 that their body is building protection. These side  
10 effects may affect their ability to do daily  
11 activities but they should go away in a few days.  
12 Some people have no side effects, and allergic  
13 reactions are rare. Learn how mRNA vaccines work."  
14 Right? That's your response to her?

15 A. That I received from the content teams,  
16 yes.

17 (Plaintiffs' Exhibit 24 marked.)

18 BY MR. VECCHIONE:

19 Q. Okay. I'm going to give you Exhibit 24.  
20 I'll just represent to you this is a report about  
21 European's Medicines Agency.

22 Do you know whether or not CDC looked to  
23 other worldwide agencies' view of the vaccines in  
24 order to inform Facebook on what was true and false?

25 A. That's completely out of my expertise or

1 knowledge.

2 Q. Have you seen this document before?

3 A. No.

4 Q. And you don't know whether it was used to  
5 formulate any response you gave to Ms. Lagone?

6 A. No.

7 MS. SNOW: Objection. Asked and answered.

8 BY MR. VECCHIONE:

9 Q. That's fine. You said no.

10 A. (Nods head.)

11 Q. And then let's look at -- I think I tossed  
12 my document aside. Yeah.

13 I'll direct you to item number six that  
14 you responded to Lagone about breast milk from  
15 vaccinated parents, harmful to babies and children.

16 MR. GILLIGAN: What document you referring  
17 to again, John?

18 MR. VECCHIONE: It's number 23. It's  
19 number six of the Lagone proposals.

20 MR. GILLIGAN: Thank you.

21 MR. VECCHIONE: You know what, I'm going  
22 to let that -- we're going to move on.

23 MR. GILLIGAN: Okay. No objection.

24 BY MR. VECCHIONE:

25 Q. All right. We're going to Exhibit 26.

1     **We're going to skip Exhibit 25.**

2                   **(Plaintiffs' Exhibit 26 marked.)**

3     BY MR. VECCHIONE:

4             **Q. And once again I ask you to tell me what**  
5     **the subject line is, and the date, and then read it**  
6     **to yourself of Exhibit 26.**

7             A. Vaccine misinformation questions for CDC.  
8     February 3rd, 2022.

9             I have read it. I didn't read all the  
10    questions.

11            **Q. I got. I'll direct you too. So this is a**  
12    **long email, so let's go by it in pieces.**

13            A. Mm-hmm (affirmative).

14            **Q. If you see Liz Lagone writes to you on**  
15    **February 3rd, 2022 4:36; right?**

16            A. Yes.

17            **Q. The very front page. She says: Hi,**  
18    **Carol. And could you please read her paragraph**  
19    **there?**

20            A. (As read) I hope your team are well and  
21    staying healthy. Thank you so much for the  
22    information you provided on claims we asked about  
23    last month. Since we last spoke, I wanted to share  
24    updates we made as a result of our work together. I  
25    also wanted to ask for your assessment of a few

1 things, including three additional claims we've  
2 become aware of from our regular monitoring; how FDA  
3 EUA authorization for children under five might  
4 impact our policies; and three, CDC's insights  
5 regarding deaths from vaccines. As always, please  
6 do let me know if it's easier to set up a time to  
7 talk. Otherwise could we get input before  
8 February 9.

9 **Q. Okay. Time to talk through any of these**  
10 **live; right?**

11 A. Excuse me?

12 **Q. I think you just --**

13 A. Oh, did I miss a sentence?

14 **Q. I think you just skipped.**

15 A. Sorry. "Set up a time to talk through any  
16 of these live." I apologize.

17 **Q. So what was your understanding of what she**  
18 **meant by as a result of our work together?**

19 A. I believe the result of the work together  
20 is us providing the scientific information for the  
21 questions that they were asking us periodically like  
22 these in this email.

23 **Q. All right. And if you'd look -- I'd ask**  
24 **you to go to the back of the document, the very**  
25 **back. And the first at three, she says: "COVID-19**

1 vaccines have caused thousands/millions of deaths."

2 And she says: (As read) Under our current  
3 policy, we remove posts that claim that COVID-19  
4 vaccines kill people or lead to death. We removed  
5 these posts on the grounds that the claim is false  
6 and that it's harmful because people believe it, it  
7 might make them less likely to get vaccinated;  
8 right?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. And then she notes that: In fact,  
11 vaccines -- some people might have an adverse  
12 reaction that leads to death; right?

13 MS. SNOW: Objection. Mischaracterizes  
14 the document.

15 A. I also can't --

16 BY MR. VECCHIONE:

17 Q. Okay.

18 A. I'm not a scientist.

19 Q. I understand that. But she's telling you  
20 her understanding. Putting millions and thousands  
21 of deaths aside, we have this -- she's bringing to  
22 you a problem now.

23 A. Okay. If you'd -- I lost where you're  
24 reading from.

25 Q. Okay. So on the last page she says: We



1 understand that in general COVID-19 vaccines do not  
2 cause death. However, we are aware that some deaths  
3 have been linked to COVID-19 vaccination such as  
4 detailed in this correspondence in The Lancet...  
5 reporting death rates from TTS following AstraZeneca  
6 vaccination in a number of countries.

7 And then she's saying we're going to  
8 reconsider our policies, and she's asking you for  
9 your advice; correct?

10 A. She's asking us for scientific  
11 information.

12 Q. I'll ask you to go to the second page of  
13 this document, which is Bates stamped 1684 at the  
14 bottom. And in the middle of the page under number  
15 2 of the Claims about COVID vaccines for children  
16 under five years of age.

17 And she says: We understand the FDA is  
18 considering giving emergency use authorization for  
19 COVID-19 vaccine for children under five in coming  
20 weeks. We are considering how our existing policy  
21 on COVID-19 vaccines (see below) should apply to  
22 claims about children 6 months to 4 years once the  
23 vaccine is approved for use. Can you please assess  
24 for each claim whether it is false for children in  
25 this age range and if believed, likely to contribute

1 to vaccine hesitancy or refusal?

2 And then: Please let us know if it's  
3 easiest to set up a time to meet and discuss each  
4 one.

5 And then she tells you what their policies  
6 are; correct?

7 A. No. I don't -- I haven't interpreted any  
8 of this as being the policies. These are the  
9 claims.

10 Q. Okay.

11 A. These are the things or -- they're saying  
12 are these true or false or unknown.

13 Q. Well, at the first one we read, though,  
14 they -- she did tell you under our current policy,  
15 remove posts that claim COVID-19 vaccines kill  
16 people or lead to death; right?

17 A. But the policy is not the same as the  
18 claims. The claims are the -- what she's asking us  
19 about, which is I know that they're using our  
20 scientific information to determine their policy,  
21 but they're asking us about the science.

22 Q. Okay. And your response was: "PS - the  
23 update is very helpful. Thank you for including  
24 that." Right?

25 A. Yes.

1           **Q. But and in this you don't respond on**  
2 **whether anything's debunked or not?**

3           A. Yes. I don't remember if we did or not.

4           **Q. And what did you find helpful about this?**

5           A. I think what I think is helpful for us is  
6 to have her ask us specifically what she needs input  
7 on. So it's been helpful when she started just  
8 sending us the things she's wanting us to do.

9           I also think it is helpful to know that  
10 they're actually using the responses that we have in  
11 some form or fashion because it takes time to put  
12 them together.

13           **Q. Thank you. You can put that aside.**

14           A. Okay.

15           (Plaintiffs' Exhibit 27 marked.)

16 BY MR. VECCHIONE:

17           **Q. And just again tell me the subject matter,**  
18 **the date, and then read it to yourself.**

19           A. Okay.

20           MS. SNOW: What exhibit is it?

21           MR. VECCHIONE: Exhibit 27.

22           A. Have five minutes to chat. E: Vaccine  
23 Misinformation questions for CDC February 4th, 2022.

24           Okay.

25           (Reporter clarifying exhibit number.)

1 BY MR. VECCHIONE:

2 Q. All right. And I think this is the same,  
3 at least part of the email is the same, as the last  
4 one we looked at; right?

5 A. I agree.

6 Q. But there is a different chain on top of  
7 hers saying she -- the part where she says she hopes  
8 you and your team are well and staying healthy.

9 A. Can I see 26?

10 Q. When you say on February 3rd at 5:21:  
11 I'll talk to the vaccine program and see what I can  
12 do -- or what we can do. Excuse me. You say: I  
13 will talk to the vaccine program and see what we can  
14 do; right?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Is that to have a meeting on these  
17 questions that she'd presented?

18 A. Well, I mean, I guess it could have been a  
19 meeting, but I was -- I was meeting -- I'll see if  
20 they could -- it was a lot of claims she gave in  
21 this email.

22 Q. Right.

23 A. And I was thinking I don't know that we're  
24 going to be able to address all of these. So I  
25 think I was thinking I would talk to them and see if

1 would even be willing to look at this many of them  
2 because she's asking for input on them within a  
3 couple of days.

4 **Q. And it would be difficult to give input on**  
5 **all those questions that quickly?**

6 A. I thought so.

7 **Q. And do you know if this phone call**  
8 **occurred that you say at the very top of it in**  
9 **Exhibit 27?**

10 A. I don't know for sure. I think that she  
11 called, and I just said, look, I don't think that  
12 we're going to be able to -- I was going out of  
13 town. I do remember that much. I think I -- I  
14 think she may have called, or I had emailed her  
15 separately when we didn't catch up, and said I don't  
16 think we're going to have it this quickly, it  
17 probably will be when I return.

18 MR. VECCHIONE: Aren't you glad you came?

19 MR. KUMAR: Make myself useful, yeah.

20 (Plaintiffs' Exhibit 28 marked.)

21 BY MR. VECCHIONE:

22 **Q. And once again I'd ask you to read, for**  
23 **Exhibit 28 read the subject line and the date and**  
24 **read it to yourself.**

25 A. Okay. COVID Misinfo Project. 3/23/2021.

1           Okay.

2           **Q. Okay. We have a new cast of characters.**  
3           **I'd like you to take a look at the bottom here, the**  
4           **March 18, 2021 portion of the email chain.**

5           A. Yes.

6           **Q. And that's from you to Stanley Onyimba at**  
7           **a Google -- it's [REDACTED] [REDACTED]@google.com and Jan**  
8           **Antonaros at -- [REDACTED]@google.com.**

9           **Do you recognize those names?**

10          A. Yes. And Stanley was the name I couldn't  
11          remember when you asked me who my POCs were at  
12          Google.

13          **Q. Okay. Stanley.**

14                 **So you wrote to them on March 18 -- well,**  
15          **read that out loud to me what you wrote to them:**  
16          **"Stanley/Jan"?**

17          A. (As read) As I believe we discussed  
18          previously, CDC is now working with Census to  
19          leverage some of their infrastructure to help  
20          identify and address COVID vaccine misinfo. As I  
21          understand it from the Census team, when they were  
22          doing this for the Census project last year, they  
23          met regularly with a Google/YouTube Trust team. Is  
24          it possible for us to start regular meetings on this  
25          topic or maybe use our existing time? Let us know

1 if you want to discuss in more depth.

2 **Q. All right. So what did you mean by CDC is**  
3 **now working with Census to leverage some of their**  
4 **infrastructure to help identify and address COVID**  
5 **vaccine misinfo?**

6 A. That was the work of the IAA with Census  
7 to help consult and work with us on the COVID  
8 misinformation information. I just -- put COVID  
9 information one time. That's what I'm referring to  
10 here. This is more specific. This is when I refer  
11 to infrastructure, I was referring to the fact that  
12 Christopher ran those reports and looked for  
13 misinformation on these areas for us.

14 **Q. All right. And you refer to the Census**  
15 **project last year in which they met -- meet**  
16 **regularly with Google YouTube Trust team.**

17 **Was that a different project?**

18 A. That was their -- I believe this was the  
19 2020 Census.

20 **Q. And that's what you think you're referring**  
21 **to there?**

22 A. Yes.

23 **Q. Do you know whether or not the Census**  
24 **engaged in content moderation with Google?**

25 A. I don't know.

1 MS. SNOW: Objection. Vague.

2 BY MR. VECCHIONE:

3 Q. So and here I am not using censorship --  
4 anyways, still drawing objections.

5 All right. Let's take a look at  
6 March 23rd, 2021. Jan Antonaros to you, and cc's  
7 Stanley Onyimba. Can you read that response out  
8 loud?

9 A. Yes. But before I do, I want to go back  
10 to the clarification that she objected. When you  
11 asked me did Census do content moderation, I assumed  
12 you meant for the Census project, and I answered for  
13 that.

14 Q. Okay. How about for --

15 A. I wondered if there was more vagueness  
16 to --

17 Q. And how about for the COVID-19 vaccine  
18 project?

19 A. Not to my knowledge either.

20 Q. Okay.

21 A. But I thought you were referring to their  
22 project.

23 Q. All right. So please read Mr. Antonaros'  
24 response to you.

25 A. Hey, Carol -- or "Hi, Carol, Thank you for



1 your patience as we identified the right colleagues  
2 from Google to pull into this effort. Would it be  
3 possible to schedule a call for later this week to  
4 learn more about how the CDC and Census envision  
5 working together on this important topic."

6 **Q. What was your understanding of what**  
7 **Antonaros meant by the right colleague from Google**  
8 **to pull into this effort?**

9 A. I believe she was going to ask people on  
10 their trust team, or whatever their name for their,  
11 that kind of team is.

12 **Q. Okay. Did you -- do you know now or did**  
13 **you know then who these people were and what their**  
14 **titles were, or are?**

15 A. No. I mean, I might have known then.  
16 They may have participated in the meeting.

17 **Q. But you can't remember now?**

18 A. But I don't know their names now.

19 **Q. And what's your response to him?**

20 A. "Sounds good to check in first -- would  
21 Friday around 3:30 work?"

22 **Q. All right. And do you know whether or not**  
23 **you had that call with him?**

24 A. I don't remember.

25 **Q. All right. So you don't recall who was on**

1     **the call besides you, if it took place?**

2             MS. SNOW:  Objection.  Mischaracterizes  
3     testimony.

4             A.  I --

5             MS. SNOW:  Sorry.

6             (Inaudible crosstalk.)

7             MR. VECCHIONE:  I'll rephrase.

8     BY MR. VECCHIONE:

9             **Q.  You don't recall whether the call happened**  
10     **and who was on it?**

11            A.  Correct.

12            **Q.  All right.  And do you know whether you'd**  
13     **have a calendar with that call on it, by any chance?**

14            A.  If we had a call, we typically had a  
15     calendar appointment.

16            **Q.  Okay.  All right.  And what was -- you say**  
17     **"sounds good to check in first."**

18                    **What did you want to check in with him**  
19     **for?  What were you -- what did you want to talk**  
20     **about first?**

21            A.  I mean, I'm doing this from reading the  
22     email.  I think she's saying let's check in before  
23     our regular meeting.

24            **Q.  Okay.**

25            A.  I think that's what -- I mean, that's how

1 I interpreted the "check in first."

2 **Q. And by this time were you already having**  
3 **regular meetings with Google like we've seen with**  
4 **Facebook?**

5 A. Yeah. This was in 2021. So we had been  
6 meeting pretty regularly with Google by this time.

7 MR. VECCHIONE: Okay. You can put that  
8 aside.

9 (Plaintiffs' Exhibit 29 marked.)

10 BY MR. VECCHIONE:

11 **Q. Let's try Exhibit 29. Same thing, read me**  
12 **the subject line, the date, and then take a look at**  
13 **it.**

14 A. Okay. Okay. Subject line's: Followup on  
15 misinformation, or misinfo conversation. It's  
16 4/5/2021.

17 THE WITNESS: Can I see this?

18 MS. SNOW: Yes.

19 A. Okay.

20 BY MR. VECCHIONE:

21 **Q. All right. So can you go to the very end,**  
22 **I guess, the very last page, read what you said on**  
23 **March 29 at 9:52.**

24 A. "Are you all open to using our regular 4pm  
25 meetings to go over things with Census, or what is

1 preferred? I wasn't clear how interested you all  
2 were on this effort or who the players are on your  
3 end."

4 **Q. So what were the regular 4:00 p.m.**  
5 **meetings you refer to?**

6 A. I think -- because I still have a  
7 4:00 p.m. meeting every other Monday with Google. I  
8 think that these were the same every-other-week  
9 check-in meetings. Sometimes we wouldn't have them.  
10 Sometimes we would have them and discuss things.

11 **Q. Did you have similar regular meetings with**  
12 **the other platforms we've been discussing, Face- --**  
13 **Meta and Twitter?**

14 A. We -- you asked some of this earlier.

15 **Q. I did.**

16 A. The same answer. So we had regular  
17 meetings with Google, and we had regular meetings  
18 with Meta. Most -- you know, the frequency changed.  
19 So, you know, I don't meet as often. I mean, Google  
20 we meet every other week. Right now with Meta it's  
21 more ad hoc.

22 **Q. Okay.**

23 A. We had had a regular meeting with  
24 Pinterest for a short period of time, and we had my  
25 memory was just more ad hoc meetings on occasion

1 with Twitter.

2 **Q. So on the regular meetings with either**  
3 **Google or Facebook?**

4 A. Mm-hmm (affirmative).

5 **Q. Well, let me ask the question this way.**  
6 **From the CDC end, were the same people usually**  
7 **attending those meetings with each social media?**

8 A. It could vary. I mean, I was always -- I  
9 mean, with Google, it was typically me and Fred  
10 Smith, who's our technical lead, because often the  
11 Google questions would be more about technical  
12 implementations that we might have to work on. We  
13 were usually always on it. Sometimes I would --  
14 depending on the subject, I would bring in other  
15 people.

16 With Meta, I was pretty much always on  
17 there. Jay typically listened in. And then I would  
18 bring people in depending on the subject.

19 **Q. All right. And what were the -- were the**  
20 **topics typically misinformation, or technical**  
21 **subjects?**

22 A. They -- by and large, they were mostly  
23 about things other than misinformation; though  
24 misinformation was discussed in the meetings. But  
25 they were originated about getting our credible

1 information out to our audiences and some of the  
2 examples I gave this morning.

3 **Q. Okay. And what did you mean by with we're**  
4 **going to check with -- "to go over things with**  
5 **Census, or what is preferred"? What does that mean?**

6 A. I don't -- I don't have direct memory of  
7 it. I'm only assuming that -- what I recall doing  
8 is asking through this chain is like is it okay if  
9 we bring Census in? Do you like -- what format is  
10 best to talk about misinformation?

11 Maybe we didn't resolve it on this call  
12 from the previous exhibit. I can't say for sure  
13 what I meant by it.

14 **Q. Okay. And then could you read Onyimba's**  
15 **response to you on that, following that on**  
16 **March 29th?**

17 A. (As read) We would like to follow up on  
18 our discussion with your colleague, Cynthia, on  
19 vaccine information a few months ago. Specifically,  
20 we plan to share a new list of common vaccine  
21 misinformation claims and would love it if Cynthia  
22 or other vaccine experts can join. We can also save  
23 a few minutes for me, you and Jan to discuss  
24 potential next steps regarding Census, but will not  
25 need the broader team for that discussion.

1           **Q. So who's Cynthia?**

2           A. Cynthia Jorgensen, which was on a previous  
3 exhibit. She was the -- I mean, at the time of the  
4 other exhibits, she was the co-lead and the  
5 associate director for communication. I don't know  
6 what role she was -- she was definitely the ACS  
7 during this. I don't know if he was in their JIC  
8 during this period of time.

9           **Q. Do you know what vaccine information she**  
10 **provided to Google?**

11          A. I don't recall specifically. But they --  
12 so they were trying to be sure that they had the  
13 right information when someone Googled something.  
14 When you Google COVID, for instance, there are these  
15 little tabs that come up. They'll say, like,  
16 symptoms, treatment, vaccines. And that content,  
17 some of the things came from the CDC website. So  
18 from time to time they wanted to update information  
19 like that, and would ask us to have an expert on  
20 that could talk about it.

21          **Q. Got it.**

22          A. I don't remember this question, but I'm  
23 sure that's what it's in reference to.

24          **Q. All right. Do you know what Google did**  
25 **with the list of common vaccine misinformation**

1 **claims?**

2 A. I don't remember the list of claims, or  
3 what the format was or what they asked us about it.  
4 Maybe if you have future exhibits I'll remember, but  
5 I don't recall from this.

6 Q. All right. And then he says and -- "can  
7 save a few minutes for you, me and Jan to discuss  
8 potential next steps regarding the Census but will  
9 not need the broader team for the discussion."

10 Is that your understanding that it's a  
11 discussion about Census, or with Census, like are  
12 they there?

13 A. I don't know for sure what this was in  
14 reference to. But it -- I think that it is in  
15 reference to discussing how to engage on an ongoing  
16 basis about misinformation and the Census suggestion  
17 that we have regular meetings with them just on that  
18 topic.

19 Q. I got it. And you respond that you're  
20 going to get those subject matter experts on the  
21 next call?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. I think I might as well add, and Census  
24 won't be there, but you'll discuss how to engage  
25 with them. Is that the meaning of that, that they



1 are not going to be at the next meeting but we'll  
2 talk about them?

3 A. That's my assumption.

4 Q. Okay.

5 A. I don't know if it's because they weren't  
6 available, or if there was some reason we didn't  
7 invite them.

8 Q. Do you recall what your discussion with  
9 Census was about Google at that time?

10 A. I don't recall, but I still believe this  
11 is just about how to engage more regularly about  
12 misinformation, or whatever -- whatever Census had  
13 done with Google and YouTube, should we have a  
14 similar structure with CDC. I believe that is what  
15 is not resolved in these chains.

16 Q. All right. And then Mr. Onyimba asked you  
17 another question on Friday April 2nd, 2021.

18 A. Mm-hmm (affirmative).

19 Q. He says: "Thanks again for your time this  
20 week. Attached are some of the claims we discussed  
21 for your reference," and they are not attached so we  
22 can't see those. But it says: "On a separate but  
23 related note would you happen to know if the CDC has  
24 statistics on hospitalization or death for people in  
25 the 40-49 age category who do not have underlying

1 **health conditions or co-morbidities?"**

2 **You see that?**

3 A. Yes.

4 **Q. Do you know why he was asking you that?**

5 A. No, I don't know why he was asking me  
6 that.

7 **Q. And you responded on April 5th that you**  
8 **couldn't respond over the weekend, but then you -- I**  
9 **think you sent him this chart?**

10 A. Yes.

11 **Q. What is that chart?**

12 A. I thought that this chart would answer his  
13 question. It's the -- it was from the CDC's data  
14 tracker. It's a chart on hospitalizations.

15 **Q. But it's a chart of people with asthma;**  
16 **right?**

17 A. That's -- the link worked -- you could --  
18 that's a drop-down where you can pick anything you  
19 want I think I'd screenshot so he'd know what was  
20 going to be on the link.

21 **Q. So you could pick without asthma if you**  
22 **wanted?**

23 A. Yeah. I think I just was showing him what  
24 it was.

25 **Q. Okay.**

1 A. But the link was more interactive.

2 Q. Okay. And so if he went there, if you go  
3 to this website, theoretically he can take out  
4 asthma and put in whatever age range he wants?

5 A. Mm-hmm (affirmative). And you could pick  
6 a different major category or an age.

7 MR. VECCHIONE: Thank you. Put that  
8 aside.

9 (Plaintiffs' Exhibit 30 marked.)

10 BY MR. VECCHIONE:

11 Q. Plaintiffs' Exhibit 30. Again, could you  
12 just tell us the subject matter and the date and  
13 then read it to yourself.

14 A. Subject: Follow up on mis-info  
15 conversation. 4/12/21. 4 -- yeah, 2021. Sorry.

16 Okay.

17 Q. So would you agree with me that this is  
18 also, if you look at Plaintiffs' Exhibit 29, that  
19 bottom link you had sent is the same link, and then  
20 there is just a new chain on the top of this?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. And then you ask him: "Can you give me an  
23 idea what topics we'll be covering? But yes, I'll  
24 ask them to attend."

25 I guess we ought to read. Could you

1 **please read to me what question he asked you?**

2 A. "For tomorrow's call would it be possible  
3 to include Cynthia or other COVID-19 treatment SMEs  
4 to follow up on some additional questions?"

5 Q. **And then you say: "Can you give me an  
6 idea of what topics we'll be covering? But, yes,  
7 I'll ask them to attend"?**

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. **Was this a BOLO meeting or a regular  
10 meeting? Like, was this for something that had just  
11 occurred that you wanted to alert them to, or was  
12 this a regular meeting?**

13 A. I don't believe this was a BOLO meeting  
14 because I don't think we had started BOLO meetings  
15 in April. I think we started those in May. I don't  
16 know for sure, but I don't feel like that's what  
17 this was.

18 I -- without that attachment, I don't  
19 remember what it was, but it wasn't uncommon for  
20 them to have just general questions about things and  
21 ask us to bring people to a meeting to help go over  
22 it. Maybe they were trying to display something in  
23 the search or whatever. I just -- I don't remember  
24 this context.

25 (Plaintiffs' Exhibit 31 marked.)

1 BY MR. VECCHIONE:

2 Q. All right. Go to Exhibit 31.

3 A. Thank you.

4 Q. Once again for Exhibit 31 could you tell  
5 me the date and the subject matter line, and then  
6 read it to yourself.

7 A. Subject: Omicron page. Sent December 21,  
8 2021.

9 Okay.

10 Q. All right. We can go to the back again,  
11 the last page. And you have an email exchange you  
12 sent on December 21, 2021 at 10:38?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Who did you send it to?

15 A. That's -- I -- probably to Jan and  
16 Stanley.

17 Q. Okay. And why are you sending information  
18 about Omicron-specific pages to them?

19 A. Very similar to how I described how we've  
20 been working with them. This was a really big thing  
21 at the time, and they are trying to also be sure  
22 that people can find things in the search results,  
23 and they were -- they were highlighting CDC content  
24 and what they -- I call it the knowledge panel,  
25 those little tabs on Google.

1           So, if something big like this was  
2           happening I would let them know if we had new key  
3           pages that they were likely getting a high number of  
4           searches on. And I'm pretty sure everyone was  
5           searching for Omicron around December of 2021. So  
6           that is why I sent it to them so they would have  
7           awareness of this brand new piece of content, and  
8           because I was seeing this -- I know. I have a  
9           point.

10           **Q. Right.**

11           A. This is a screenshot of what I call the  
12           knowledge panel with the tabs, and it wasn't coming  
13           up with the newer piece of content. So I wanted to  
14           alert them to it.

15           **Q. Okay. So what you've cut and pasted I**  
16           **think in there, says, like, coronavirus virus**  
17           **disease, and then there is overview statistic**  
18           **symptoms?**

19           A. Yes.

20           **Q. And then below it has the information on**  
21           **variants.**

22           A. Mm-hmm (affirmative).

23           **Q. All right. So let me understand this,**  
24           **because I'm not quite sure I'm getting it.**

25           **You say: "I see our main Variant page."**

1       **That means CDC's variant page; right?**

2           A. Yes.

3           **Q. "Is coming up at the top of the**  
4       **Omicron/variant panel."**

5           **What -- was that Google search?**

6           A. Yes.

7           **Q. Or what are you referring to then?**

8           A. So this -- when you search Google, you  
9       would get -- this is a screenshot --

10          **Q. Got it.**

11          A. -- of the Google results.

12          **Q. Okay.**

13          A. This is not our site. This is their site.  
14       They have these little things that say overview  
15       symptom -- I mean, statistic symptoms. Some of  
16       these were populated by CDC's content. There was  
17       one here that's cut off that said variants.

18          **Q. Got it.**

19          A. That was going to just the general  
20       variants page. But I know people were looking --  
21       because we'd saw all the search terms, they were  
22       looking for Omicron specifically, and I wanted to  
23       make them aware that they may want to swap the links  
24       out.

25          **Q. Okay. And so you said: "So I want to be**

1     **sure you were aware that this Omicron specific page**  
2     **is maturing and I expect further updates."**

3             **What does that mean, the Omicron-specific**  
4     **page is maturing? The one at CDC?**

5             A. Yes. This was our page, like -- you know,  
6     this is pretty early in the Omicron, I believe, I  
7     don't have the timetable in it, but -- so we're  
8     always updating our web pages as situations changes.  
9     So I don't think this -- at the time I sent it I had  
10    just tons of concrete information, but it -- we were  
11    going to add to it, and I thought it was a better  
12    place to send people that were searching for  
13    Omicron.

14            **Q. And what did you want them to do with it?**

15            A. Well, they have always been clear that the  
16    search results are not something that they mess  
17    with, but this part, the knowledge panel, is  
18    something that they manually assembled and worked  
19    with us on. So I thought they might want to switch  
20    this. (Indicating.)

21            **Q. Got it. And then he responds -- at least**  
22     **it looks like Jan Antonaros responds to you; right?**

23            A. Jan does, yes.

24            **Q. "Thanks for heads up. Our health team,**  
25     **including our Chief Health Officer, is tracking U.S.**



1 federal announcements today closely. Stanley and I  
2 will take this back to our team."

3 Do you know who the chief health officer  
4 was?

5 A. I think -- I think it may be Karen  
6 DeSalvo.

7 Q. Okay.

8 A. But on their end. That's their chief  
9 health officer. I think that's her title.

10 Q. And when he says tracking U.S. federal  
11 announcements today closely, does he mean on Google?  
12 What does he mean by that, in your understanding?

13 MS. SNOW: Objection. Calls for  
14 speculation.

15 BY MR. VECCHIONE:

16 Q. What did you understand that term?

17 A. I don't remember. I'm guessing there was  
18 some announcements then, but I don't recall.

19 Q. Had Google been instructed by the CDC to  
20 update following the CDC guidance?

21 A. To update what?

22 Q. To update their search engine, or for  
23 their panels to follow the CDC guidance?

24 MS. SNOW: Objection. Compound.

25 BY MR. VECCHIONE:

1           **Q. You could answer if you understand.**

2           A. We did not instruct Google to update their  
3 search engines, or their panels. But I did suggest  
4 that -- and he said about CDC guidance. This was --  
5 this wasn't about -- this was a consumer page about  
6 what people would need to know about Omicron. I --  
7 it was more of just correcting what I thought was a  
8 better link in the panels that we had provided input  
9 on before.

10           Google is already -- has always made it  
11 clear that the search engine is sacred. There is  
12 nothing we can say to have them fix their search  
13 engine, or change their search engine to something  
14 else.

15           **Q. All right. But how about the panel**  
16 **itself? What -- I guess what I'm trying to**  
17 **understand is what -- you send them this panel --**  
18 **because apparently it's going to the wrong place on**  
19 **the CDC -- if you put in certain search terms, it's**  
20 **going to the wrong place on the CDC website?**

21           A. So I think what's hard to understand about  
22 this is this is not a typical way that Google  
23 presents things. You will have to ask Google how  
24 they considered when they added it. But my  
25 perception is that because of the substantial demand

1 of searches for COVID, they added this that I call a  
2 knowledge panel. I think they may have another word  
3 for it. So that there is this layer before the  
4 search results come up, and it looks like this  
5 screenshot.

6 **Q. What you're pointing --**

7 A. But normally when you search, you don't  
8 get that on other topics. I think they do have it  
9 for a few other topics, but I rarely run into it  
10 when I do searches.

11 **Q. Okay. And then on December 21st I think**  
12 **Stanley Onyimba writes to you?**

13 A. Yes.

14 **Q. And he again said he explains how it's**  
15 **working and what they are going to do; right?**

16 A. Yes.

17 **Q. And then he says again: "As Jan mentioned,**  
18 **we are tracking announcements closely and will**  
19 **continue to update our products to reflect the**  
20 **latest guidance."**

21 **What did you understand that to mean?**

22 A. I think he is saying -- I -- gosh, I don't  
23 remember what was happening the week of December 21.  
24 There seems to be a reference to announcements that  
25 I just, at this moment I'm not sure. So I think I'm

1 missing some context to what he's saying.

2 **Q. And at the top?**

3 A. Mm-hmm (affirmative).

4 **Q. Then you say: "Glad you all are**  
5 **tracking." You sign off.**

6 A. That would mean I'm glad you're watching  
7 what's happening, but I don't -- unfortunately, I  
8 can't remember what was happening that week that  
9 they're referencing. But when they say reflect the  
10 latest guidance, what I believe he's referring to is  
11 what I said before is that we helped populate some  
12 of these tabs.

13 **Q. You can put that aside.**

14 A. Okay.

15 (Plaintiffs' Exhibit 32 marked.)

16 BY MR. VECCHIONE:

17 **Q. Exhibit 32. And once again I'll ask you**  
18 **for Exhibit 32 to read the subject line and the**  
19 **date, and then read it to yourself.**

20 A. Subject: Request for problem accounts.  
21 Sent April 9, 2021.

22 Okay.

23 **Q. All right. This is from you to Todd**  
24 **O'Boyle at the top. And then it's from Todd O'Boyle**  
25 **to you at the bottom, right, on April 8th, 2021?**

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Can you read what he writes to you, and  
3 then your response?

4 A. "Hi, Carol, I'm looking forward to setting  
5 up regular chats; my team has asked for examples of  
6 problematic content so we can examine trends. All  
7 examples of misinformation are helpful, but in  
8 particular, if you have examples of fraud such as  
9 fraudulent COVID cures, fraudulent vaccine cards,  
10 et cetera, that will be very helpful."

11 And I said: "Yes, we will get back to you  
12 early this week."

13 Q. "Thanks for checking in"; right?

14 So did you -- had you talked to Todd  
15 O'Boyle before this exchange?

16 A. I don't recall. But I think this is  
17 around the time that Census was helping us, and I  
18 believe I asked Todd, similar to I asked the other  
19 ones, like: Is there a good way that we should  
20 start engaging on misinformation? And this is  
21 probably a followup to either that email or phone  
22 call.

23 Q. And so first, who's Todd O'Boyle? And he  
24 says at Twitter.com, so I assume he's at Twitter?

25 A. Yes, Todd's at Twitter. And I know he was

1 a point of contact that I received for the topic of  
2 misinformation. I don't know what his title was  
3 specifically.

4 **Q. Okay. Have you ever met him in person?**

5 A. No. And as a clarification, I think I  
6 called him Todd O'Brien when you asked me earlier  
7 who the POCs were. Until I see this, I didn't  
8 remember his name correctly.

9 **Q. So O'Boyle, different, yes.**

10 A. Yes.

11 **Q. That's fine. At this time did you set up**  
12 **regular meetings with Twitter?**

13 A. My memory is is that we never got regular  
14 meetings with Twitter set up. I mean, around this  
15 time. I know they participated in the BOLO  
16 meetings, but I don't recall any kind of regular  
17 schedule with them. I don't remember many occasions  
18 we actually got on a phone call and discussed  
19 anything during COVID. There was a couple, but not  
20 many.

21 **Q. How many BOLO meetings did you have with**  
22 **the social media companies from the beginning of**  
23 **COVID to, say, now?**

24 A. I think that we only had two. And then I  
25 think that I sent one time a -- in lieu of a meeting

1 a PowerPoint. And I didn't recall it but we sent  
2 another PowerPoint regarding that lab issue that was  
3 in a previous exhibit.

4 **Q. Do you know who directed Mr. O'Boyle to**  
5 **send misinformation on Twitter to you?**

6 MS. SNOW: Objection. Mischaracterizes  
7 testimony.

8 A. Say again.

9 BY MR. VECCHIONE:

10 **Q. Excuse me. Do you know who directed him**  
11 **to ask you for examples of misinformation?**

12 A. No.

13 **Q. And do you know whether you sent him any?**

14 A. No.

15 **Q. Okay.**

16 A. Could --

17 **Q. Yeah, go ahead.**

18 A. Can I get you to clarify? What do you  
19 mean by directed him to?

20 **Q. I just wanted to -- I'll put it this way.**  
21 **Todd O'Boyle was your point of contact with Twitter?**

22 A. Yes.

23 **Q. Was -- did you know of anyone over him**  
24 **telling him to do things?**

25 A. That's how I interpreted it. No.

1           **Q. He says that examples of misinformation**  
2           **are helpful, particularly fraud. Do you know what**  
3           **he was doing that it would be helpful to him to get**  
4           **this information?**

5           A. I don't remember the exact context of this  
6           email, but I believe, as I mentioned before, this  
7           was probably part of me saying how could we work  
8           together on misinformation.

9                   And it sounds like he's kind of wondering  
10           what we're seeing that we want to bring up, and he's  
11           asking for some examples. This is how I'm reading  
12           it now. And it sounds familiar based on what we,  
13           you know, my memory of this time.

14                   MR. VECCHIONE: You can put that aside.

15                   (Plaintiffs' Exhibit 33 marked.)

16           BY MR. VECCHIONE:

17           **Q. Exhibit 33. And once again please read**  
18           **the subject matter and the date, and then read it to**  
19           **yourself for Exhibit 33.**

20           A. Twitter CDC examples. 4-13-21 xlsx is the  
21           extension. 4/14/2021.

22           **Q. Can you read his request to you, and then**  
23           **your response?**

24           A. This is the same email from before. "I'm  
25           looking forward to setting up regular chats. My



1 team has asked for examples of problematic content  
2 so we can examine trends. All examples of  
3 misinformation are helpful, but in particular, if  
4 you have examples of fraud such as fraudulent COVID  
5 cures, fraudulent vaccine cards, et cetera, that  
6 would be very helpful."

7 **Q. And then this time you respond, though?**

8 A. Yes. I didn't recall if we sent them, but  
9 we did.

10 **Q. And what do you say?**

11 A. "The Census team put together this  
12 spreadsheet with four examples. Is this what you  
13 had in mind?"

14 **Q. And then you have examples: Vaccines  
15 aren't FDA approved. Fraudulent cures. VAERS data  
16 taken out of context and infertility; right?**

17 A. Yes.

18 **Q. What did you mean by the subject word --  
19 what was your understanding of the subject "request  
20 for problem accounts"?**

21 A. I don't know --

22 **Q. Okay.**

23 A. -- why the subject read that. But what he  
24 asked for in the email is for examples of  
25 misinformation.

1           **Q. Okay. And when you met with him, did you**  
2 **have a spreadsheet like this?**

3           A. I don't -- we, we sent him a spreadsheet.  
4 I don't remember meeting with Todd --

5           **Q. Okay.**

6           A. -- besides the BOLO meetings. We might  
7 have, but I don't recall.

8           **Q. And if -- and if you look at this email --**

9           A. Mm-hmm (affirmative).

10          **Q. -- it has attachments?**

11          A. Yes.

12          **Q. And it's Twitter CDC examples. So you've**  
13 **attached the spreadsheet to this?**

14          A. Right.

15          **Q. Okay.**

16          A. I thought you were asking about when we  
17 met with him --

18          **Q. No --**

19          A. -- did we have spreadsheets.

20          **Q. -- that's -- I was asking that.**

21          A. Okay.

22          **Q. Do you know who in the Census put this**  
23 **spreadsheet together?**

24          A. I don't know for sure, but likely it was  
25 Christopher.

1 Q. Christopher, remind me.

2 A. Lewitzke.

3 Q. Lewitzke, yes. I got it.

4 A. Something close to that name.

5 Q. We discussed him earlier. He appears on  
6 those emails?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Not a new guy?

9 A. No. I feel like we're saying his name  
10 wrong, though.

11 Q. I think that's correct. Lewitzke.

12 (Comment off the record.)

13 BY MR. VECCHIONE:

14 Q. Do you know whether that Census team had  
15 any medical professionals on it?

16 A. No.

17 Q. And what was the definition of fraudulent  
18 cures?

19 A. I don't remember what that was.

20 Q. And what is the category: Vaccines aren't  
21 FDA approved? Is that a claim, or is that a  
22 statement about vaccines that you're making? What  
23 is that?

24 A. I'm interpreting this whole list as things  
25 that they saw that were being stated as

1 misinformation, that there were claims that vaccines  
2 aren't FDA approved.

3 **Q. All right. And as far as VAERS data taken**  
4 **out of context, is your understanding that that's**  
5 **the same problem we discussed earlier with VAERS**  
6 **reports?**

7 A. Yes.

8 **Q. All right. It's not something different?**

9 A. Yes.

10 **Q. Let me rephrase. No, it's not something**  
11 **different?**

12 A. I believe this VAERS data taken out of  
13 context is the same kind of thing we were discussing  
14 earlier.

15 **Q. Thank you. And what do you believe**  
16 **"infertility" is?**

17 A. I'm assuming this was people claiming that  
18 getting the vaccines led to infertility.

19 **Q. Okay. And why did you give this chart and**  
20 **this information to Mr. O'Boyle?**

21 A. He asked for examples. And I believe he  
22 was asking for these examples in this email because  
23 he was wondering what we would -- what would come up  
24 in BOLO meetings, or what we would be discussing. I  
25 think he wanted some sense of what we would be

1 bringing to point out. That's my memory of it.

2 **Q. You can put that aside.**

3 MS. SNOW: Can we take like a five-minute  
4 break?

5 MR. VECCHIONE: Sure, sure. We have --  
6 we're -- I was cooking with gas, though, so, you  
7 know --

8 (Comments off the record.)

9 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: Off the record at 3:37.

10 (Recess 3:37 p.m. - 3:51 p.m.)

11 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: Back on record at 3:51.

12 BY MR. VECCHIONE:

13 **Q. And I will again direct the witness to**  
14 **read the subject line and the date, and then read**  
15 **this one. And this one is a little more hefty. You**  
16 **may want to take a look through it.**

17 MS. SNOW: What exhibit?

18 MR. VECCHIONE: Exhibit 34.

19 (Plaintiffs' Exhibit 34 marked.)

20 A. Subject line is COVID Misinformation.  
21 Sent 6/30/2021.

22 MS. SNOW: Mine is stapled out of order, I  
23 just realized. I want to make sure, it might just  
24 be mine, if you want to clarify.

25 MR. VECCHIONE: Let's do the Bates stamps.

1 The bottom right I have it ends 496, 497, 498, 499  
2 and 500.

3 MS. SNOW: I think I have all those. They  
4 are just out of order. I just want to make sure no  
5 one else's was.

6 MR. VECCHIONE: No, I appreciate that.

7 MS. SNOW: Yeah.

8 MR. GILLIGAN: Is Carol's right?

9 MS. SNOW: Yeah.

10 A. Mine was correct.

11 BY MR. VECCHIONE:

12 **Q. Tell me when you're ready.**

13 A. I'm ready.

14 **Q. All right. Can you identify Exhibit 34**  
15 **for me?**

16 A. The subject line is COVID misinformation.  
17 6/30/2021.

18 **Q. Do you recognize this document?**

19 A. This, yes, feels familiar to me.

20 **Q. And what is it?**

21 A. It's a discussion about accessing  
22 Twitter's partner support portal where you can flag  
23 information to be reviewed by Twitter.

24 **Q. Let's take a look. As usual, these chains**  
25 **start at the back.**

1 A. Mm-hmm (affirmative).

2 Q. I think the first one in this chain is  
3 May 10, 2021 at 1:50 p.m. and is that from you to  
4 Todd O'Boyle?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. And I think that we've seen this list of  
7 items before to other -- to other social media  
8 outlets about --

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. And it's concerned -- it's mainly  
11 concerned about shedding?

12 A. And microchips.

13 Q. And microchips. And you attach sort of a  
14 chart. Could you tell us what that chart is?

15 A. Just a table of example posts regarding  
16 this, those two issues, vaccine shedding and  
17 microchips. It's not really a chart. It's just  
18 formatted in a table.

19 Q. Okay. Could you read what you say to him  
20 right above the table?

21 A. (As read) We wanted to point out two  
22 issues that we are seeing a great deal of misinfo  
23 about, vaccine shedding and microchips. These  
24 are -- the below are just some example posts. We do  
25 plan to post something shortly to address vaccine

1 shedding, and I can send that link too. Our Census  
2 team copied here has much more info on it if needed.

3 **Q. Okay. And so you have copied the Census**  
4 **team that we've discussed earlier.**

5 A. Yes.

6 **Q. And then you say -- could you read what**  
7 **you say next?**

8 A. (As read) We're -- also we're standing up  
9 a BOLO COVID misinformation meeting and inviting all  
10 tech platforms. We are shooting for 12 p.m. on  
11 Friday for our first meeting. I'll include you on  
12 the invite but if you'd like to propose an alternate  
13 approach or would like me to include others, just  
14 let me know.

15 **Q. All right. Tell us. We discussed a**  
16 **little bit the BOLO meetings that you had with the**  
17 **tech companies. And this BOLO COVID meeting, is**  
18 **this the first one? Where does it stand amongst**  
19 **those you've discussed?**

20 A. I -- without having the date --

21 **Q. Right.**

22 A. -- in front of me, I think this is in  
23 reference to the very first meeting.

24 **Q. Okay. And BOLO, we said, is be on the**  
25 **lookout. And this was -- you were sending this to**



1     **Mr. O'Boyle so that he would be on the lookout for**  
2     **these things appearing on Twitter?**

3             A. Yes.

4             **Q. Did you have a prior conversation with him**  
5     **about this before you sent it, do you know?**

6             A. I don't think I had a prior conversation  
7     about vaccine shedding and microchips, and these are  
8     examples of that. I mean, we saw on the other one  
9     we had sort of general conversations about how we  
10    could -- how we should have meetings or not have  
11    meetings. And I probably asked about the BOLO, like  
12    is the BOLO format, since it was used previously, a  
13    good format.

14            **Q. Okay. And what is that format? So it's**  
15    **just -- we've seen the previous one, you said to him**  
16    **I'll include you on the invite, but if you'd like to**  
17    **propose an alternative approach, or would like me to**  
18    **include others, just let me know.**

19            **Did you have some view of whether Twitter**  
20    **wanted to meet alone, or separately? Is that what**  
21    **that means?**

22            A. No. But I had a view that I couldn't tell  
23    if the platforms wanted to do the BOLO meetings the  
24    way Census had done them for their own work, so I  
25    was checking.

1           **Q. Had you been at any -- invited to any of**  
2 **the Census BOLOs?**

3           A. No. I don't think they were doing BOLOs  
4 by the time that we were meeting.

5           **Q. So they had done that for the Census?**

6           A. That's my understanding.

7           **Q. And it had been in relation to the 2020**  
8 **Census?**

9           A. That's my understanding.

10          **Q. All right. Did you talk to anyone at**  
11 **Census about how they ran BOLO meetings?**

12          A. Yes.

13          **Q. Okay. In order to create your own?**

14          A. Yes.

15          **Q. And what did they tell you?**

16          A. Well, they explained how they did it. In  
17 fact, they drafted the slide deck. We talked about  
18 this earlier. They drafted it and showed me how  
19 they thought that we should do it, and that it was  
20 just we would give examples, we would give the  
21 science, and then they -- people could follow up  
22 separately. I mean, I believe we changed some of  
23 the format of the PowerPoint, what we did for CDC of  
24 course, but they -- you know, they kind of told us  
25 how they had done it in the past.

1 Q. Okay. Let's go to his response to you.  
2 He says to you -- and here we see  
3 Mr. Lewitzke's name spelled correctly; right?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Okay. So Todd O'Boyle writes to you on  
6 May 10, 2021 on Exhibit 34. "Hi, Carol. Thanks for  
7 sharing this."

8 And you took that to mean your chart,  
9 right, or table, you called it?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. "Agree these are important trends to note.  
12 A quick scan shows that at least some of these have  
13 been previously reviewed and actioned. I will now  
14 ask the team to review the others."

15 What did you take that to mean?

16 A. I don't know how Todd meant it  
17 specifically, but I interpreted it as Twitter made  
18 decisions about the areas of misinformation based on  
19 whatever policy they had.

20 Q. And he says: "Carol, remind me: Did you  
21 have a chance to enroll in our partner support  
22 portal? In the future that's the best way to get a  
23 spreadsheet like this reviewed."

24 So you mentioned that Partner Support  
25 Portal. What is that?

1           A. My understanding of it, and I don't  
2 believe I ever successfully got into it, but it's  
3 similar to what I described for Meta. It's an  
4 offering where you log in and you can report  
5 misinformation or threats or problematic posted  
6 content in this portal, and it puts it in a system  
7 for review.

8           **Q. Did you know what happened at Twitter to**  
9 **reports that were deemed actionable?**

10          A. I assume similar to Meta that they  
11 probably had multiple options. I am sure some were  
12 removed. I am sure some may have had -- were  
13 flagged. I see flags all the time on the Twitter  
14 posts. I am sure some were just maybe -- I don't  
15 know what they do, but maybe they weren't  
16 distributed as much on peoples' feeds.

17          **Q. Where do you see Twitter? Do you have a**  
18 **Twitter?**

19          A. Yeah. I mean, my responsibility is social  
20 media for CDC, so I do look at Twitter, and we have  
21 Twitter accounts at CDC.

22          **Q. And CDC -- well, I'll just go back for one**  
23 **second. You -- prior -- on May 10 you were**  
24 **discussing a Friday meeting that you'd invited**  
25 **Mr. O'Boyle to. And do you know whether that**

1 **meeting occurred?**

2 A. I mean, I think we set up the first BOLO  
3 meeting in May. And this was May 10th, and the  
4 Friday was there so I suspect it did occur.

5 **Q. Okay. And you said you didn't use the**  
6 **portal. Did anyone else at CDC use the portal?**

7 A. No, I don't -- I don't recall anyone else  
8 trying to get access besides myself.

9 **Q. Had you talked to him about the partner**  
10 **support portal beforehand, before this email chain?**

11 A. I don't remember. I'm inferring from this  
12 chain that perhaps not.

13 **Q. All right. Had you talked to Census about**  
14 **the portal?**

15 A. I don't recall if we discussed the Twitter  
16 portal per se. But I did know from discussions with  
17 them that one technique I think that they used was  
18 using portals to -- for their work to report  
19 information. I don't remember if we discussed  
20 Twitter or not.

21 **Q. Okay.**

22 A. Or if it was all about Meta.

23 **Q. But it was your understanding that Census**  
24 **did use such devices when offered?**

25 A. That, or they told me it was an option for

1 us. I'm worried I'm mischaracterizing their work  
2 with very little actual memory on it.

3 Q. Okay. And you respond to him: "Todd, I  
4 don't think we have info on how to enroll, but we'd  
5 be happy to get on it if you'd send some info";  
6 right?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. And he responds that -- on May 10th at  
9 8:51, he says he's happy to enroll you, and it  
10 allows you a special, expedited reporting flow in  
11 the Twitter Help Center. That's the purpose of it.

12 A. Yes, I see that.

13 Q. What's the Twitter Help Center?

14 A. The portal is part of their help center  
15 somehow. I mean, I'm not an expert, but I -- it's  
16 seeming -- I think the screenshot might even show  
17 how it's part of it.

18 No, it doesn't. But I believe it's like a  
19 link on the help center page.

20 Q. And he says it worked very well with  
21 Census colleagues last year; right?

22 A. Well, there we go.

23 Q. Yeah.

24 A. That's why he came up with that.

25 Q. Okay. And did you give him a Twitter

1     **account to enroll?**

2             A. I asked him -- I can see that I asked him  
3     does it have to be our official CDC account, or is  
4     it supposed to be personal. And I gave him my  
5     personal one.

6             **Q. Okay. And what was your problem with**  
7     **using -- did you have a technical problem with using**  
8     **it? What happened?**

9             A. It was not a priority for me, for one. I  
10    wasn't thinking that we would probably want to use  
11    this portal on a regular basis. I thought that let  
12    me just myself, instead of asking my staff to get  
13    involved, I want to see what the portal is myself  
14    because I wasn't able to look at the Meta portal  
15    myself because you had to be administrator.

16            So I wanted to look at it and see what it  
17    it looked like, but I -- it wasn't a priority. So  
18    every now and then I would try to get on it, and I  
19    don't remember ever solving the problem. All I know  
20    is I think when I clicked it nothing happened, or I  
21    didn't get drop-downs. That's -- and I felt like  
22    maybe I wasn't in the right place.

23            **Q. Okay.**

24            A. But I am --

25            **Q. Okay.**

1 A. -- unclear of what exactly was wrong.

2 Sorry.

3 Q. I got it. But here's -- so then I see  
4 **May 24th, 2021, 2:28 email from Christopher Lewitzke**  
5 **that I think Todd forwards it to you. Is that how**  
6 **that works? How does that page -- could you tell me**  
7 **what's happening on this page?**

8 A. The way the reply works from the email  
9 it's unclear if I was copied or not, so I can't say.  
10 But I definitely was copied on Todd's response to  
11 Christopher. I'm not sure if Christopher copied me  
12 on his email to Todd, which is what I think you're  
13 asking me.

14 Q. Okay. But on May 24th at least it looks  
15 **like Lewitzke sent a note to Todd?**

16 A. Mm-hmm (affirmative). And then 30 minutes  
17 later Todd hit reply with everyone on it.

18 Q. Okay. And Carol says I had -- (as read)  
19 **Carol and I had a sidebar, and I requested her**  
20 **account be enrolled. Your email reminds me that the**  
21 **process should have been completed by now. I'll**  
22 **check with the team to make sure it's properly**  
23 **enrolled.**

24 **And that's your recollection that's how it**  
25 **occurred?**



1           A. That's my recollection. I don't recall  
2 the sidebar, but I do know that I wanted it to be  
3 CDC people in these portals versus Census. I felt  
4 like that was more appropriate.

5           **Q. And remind me, who's Christopher Lewitzke?**

6           A. He's a -- he's a Census contractor.

7           **Q. Okay. With this Reingold outfit we talked**  
8 **about?**

9           A. Mm-hmm.

10          **Q. He says: We want to have at least some**  
11 **CDC accounts whitelisted. What does whitelisted**  
12 **mean?**

13          A. Let me read this. I'm not sure.

14          **Q. You've never heard that term before?**

15          A. I have heard of whitelisted. I don't  
16 understand it in this context.

17          **Q. What was your understanding of whitelisted**  
18 **meaning?**

19          A. Like my under -- my general understanding  
20 of whitelisting is you can have kind of a list of  
21 things that maybe -- of servers that are allowed or  
22 not allowed is an example of a list of whitelist.

23          **Q. Okay. And then do you know which Census**  
24 **accounts had access to this portal?**

25          A. My memory was that none. And I think this

1 email supports my memory, and that Todd responding  
2 that I'm going to be the account that's enrolled.

3 Q. Oh.

4 A. For CDC.

5 Q. For CDC.

6 A. For CDC at least.

7 Q. But do you know which Census accounts?

8 A. Oh, no.

9 Q. Okay.

10 A. I wouldn't have any knowledge of what they  
11 did.

12 Q. Okay. And then let's read up to May 27th,  
13 2021, 2:30. And you say haven't seen anything come  
14 through. And then Todd says: You should now be  
15 up -- should be fully -- and period. You should be  
16 fully period, he says.

17 Then he says: "When you visit the Twitter  
18 help center logged in with your account you should  
19 see additional reporting options."

20 Do you know what he meant by that?

21 A. Yes. This portal, like I think when  
22 anyone goes to the health center -- help center, I  
23 think there is, like, you can flag threats and  
24 things, I believe. I think he was saying I would  
25 have had something more. But I never could locate

1 that.

2 Q. Okay. And you tell him: "Hi, Todd. I  
3 have been trying to enter info but I realize I have  
4 been unclear on where to enter them. I went to  
5 /forms and there is a drop down on things to submit,  
6 but none of them seem relevant to misinformation.  
7 Am I in the right place?"

8 So is that the problem you had?

9 A. I -- based on this email I think it was  
10 one of the problems. I don't -- I think at the  
11 beginning I didn't get the links, I couldn't find it  
12 on the help center. There's probably additional  
13 chains, I suspect, regarding this.

14 Q. Okay. But you don't recall what they  
15 were?

16 A. No.

17 MR. VECCHIONE: All right. Put that  
18 aside.

19 (Plaintiffs' Exhibit 35 marked.)

20 BY MR. VECCHIONE:

21 Q. 35. And once again for Exhibit 35 tell me  
22 what the subject line is and what's the date at the  
23 top.

24 A. The subject line: BOLO CDC lab alert  
25 misinformation. Sent September 2nd, 2021.

1           **Q. And I think we've seen this alert before**  
2           **for another social media recipient, am I correct**  
3           **about that?**

4           A. You're correct.

5           **Q. All right. Is this anything different**  
6           **than when you testified last time about this BOLO?**

7           A. The only difference is this email is going  
8           to Twitter.

9           **Q. Okay. And what was your intent in telling**  
10          **Twitter through O'Boyle to be on the lookout for**  
11          **misinformation about PCR testing?**

12          A. I mean, I, again, I think CDC's role is to  
13          provide the facts around issues. We saw this  
14          confusion about this alert brewing and more posts  
15          were going up with confusion, and we thought it  
16          would be a good idea to provide the platforms with  
17          the facts before it became something bigger.

18          **Q. And what did you believe he'd do with the**  
19          **information?**

20          A. I believed that they would consider it in  
21          their -- I knew their policy teams or their trust  
22          teams or misinfo teams, whatever they -- whatever  
23          they called their teams, would evaluate it.

24          **Q. And perhaps remove it?**

25          A. I knew that removal was one of the options

1 that they had, yes.

2 MR. VECCHIONE: You can put that aside.

3 (Plaintiffs' Exhibit 36 marked.)

4 BY MR. VECCHIONE:

5 **Q. Exhibit 36. And once again, if you could,**  
6 **for Exhibit 36 tell me the date and the subject**  
7 **line, and then read it to yourself.**

8 A. Subject: Call or VC-Facebook weekly sync  
9 with CDC (CDC to invite other agencies as needed.)  
10 And this was sent on April 15, 2021.

11 **Q. And then please read it to yourself.**

12 A. Okay.

13 **Q. All right. Do you know who created the**  
14 **meeting agenda there?**

15 A. I think Payton probably inserted these  
16 agenda items because it was her appointment.

17 **Q. And what was on that agenda?**

18 A. New attendees intro, CDC needs/questions,  
19 FB product updates/feedback requests. (COVID-HUB).  
20 And then COVID-19 projects, and several are listed  
21 CMU/FB data survey. Update -- data survey update.  
22 Excuse me. Misinfo collab status. Others.

23 **Q. Let's go through this. What's COVID-HUB?**

24 A. I believe the COVID-HUB is what they  
25 called when I mentioned you're on Facebook and you

1 could search for COVID, they actually provided  
2 in-app content on COVID that they pulled from WHO,  
3 CDC and other sources and I believe they call that  
4 internally the COVID-HUB.

5 **Q. All right. And I think we have some new**  
6 **names here in the middle. Let's see if we see most**  
7 **of them. Kang-Xing Jin. Do you know who that was?**

8 A. Looks like a Facebook employee, but I  
9 don't recall.

10 **Q. And I think we've discussed Raena Saddler,**  
11 **but I've forgotten. Do you recall?**

12 A. I mean, she's with Facebook, or he is with  
13 Facebook, but I don't know who they are.

14 **Q. All right. And then she cc'd a number of**  
15 **people. Do you recognize any of those names besides**  
16 **Liz Lagone?**

17 A. Yes, Airton, the first name.

18 **Q. Yeah.**

19 A. He was definitely with Facebook, and he  
20 seemed to be an expert on like Facebook ads how to  
21 run Facebook ads.

22 Julia Eisman is someone we talked to  
23 regularly. I think she's in, like, their public  
24 relations type office. She occasionally would be on  
25 the calls with Payton. Kate Thornton, I don't

1 recall. Carrie Adams, I mentioned is the new point  
2 of contact I have now. And Ursula Phoenix Weir was  
3 -- is someone at CDC. I assume that for this  
4 meeting she was probably deployed in a -- something  
5 that was related to what I thought was going to be  
6 discussed here.

7 **Q. And what was her title?**

8 A. Ursula's?

9 **Q. Yeah.**

10 A. I'm not sure. When people deploy into  
11 something -- Ursula probably had several roles  
12 during COVID, as many of us did. I just don't -- I  
13 can't tell why I invited her to this meeting from  
14 looking at this.

15 **Q. Where was she normally?**

16 A. I believe -- I believe. I believe she's  
17 in the National Center for Birth Defects.

18 **Q. Now, the subject says "Call or VC," I**  
19 **assume that's voice chat?**

20 A. Yes.

21 **Q. "Facebook weekly sync." That's**  
22 **synchronization with CDC?**

23 A. That's how I interpret sync, yes.

24 **Q. CDC to invite other agendas as -- agencies**  
25 **as-needed. Okay.**

1                   **What did you understand CDC needs**  
2                   **questions to be about in this agenda?**

3                   A. I think that that was often just listed.  
4 I mean, it would just be if we had a question that  
5 we needed, we wanted to ask Facebook about, or if we  
6 had something that we -- was upcoming that we wanted  
7 their assistance with or something. I know, like,  
8 for instance, Airton's on this because sometimes  
9 we'd have technical questions about how to run an ad  
10 or the live chat, that kind of -- that we talked  
11 about earlier, how to make it work.

12                   **Q. All right. And then the COVID-19**  
13 **projects, she seems to have split them up. Were**  
14 **they split up this way within CDC or within**  
15 **Facebook, to your knowledge?**

16                   A. No. I think it's just a list of things  
17 that were just put together in one area. But I  
18 don't recall.

19                   **Q. What's your understanding of CMU/FB?**

20                   A. I think this was -- oh, gosh. I think  
21 this was about some surveying that Facebook was  
22 doing regarding COVID maybe, and they wanted to just  
23 let us know they were doing it. But I'm very fuzzy  
24 on that, on the details of it.

25                   **Q. All right. And is data and survey**



1       **separate?**

2           A. I think that's all one update. CMU at  
3 slash FB data survey update. That's how I believe  
4 this to be.

5           **Q. All right. And misinformation. "Misinfo"**  
6 **is misinformation?**

7           A. "Collab status" is one thing.

8           **Q. Oh, that's one thing?**

9           A. Yeah.

10          **Q. Okay. And "collab" is collaboration?**

11          A. Yes.

12          **Q. And then others, I take it, is everything**  
13 **else?**

14          A. Yes.

15          **Q. So when this meeting took place do you**  
16 **know if there is any notes or recordings of it?**

17          A. We didn't record them. I don't -- like  
18 I've been saying, I rarely took notes. If something  
19 was jotted down, it would have been in an email or a  
20 Word doc.

21          **Q. Do you recall if all these agenda items**  
22 **were discussed on this call?**

23          A. No.

24          **Q. What do you remember about that meeting?**

25          A. I don't remember the specific meeting at

1 all.

2 MR. VECCHIONE: Okay. You can put that  
3 aside.

4 (Plaintiffs' Exhibit 37 marked.)

5 BY MR. VECCHIONE:

6 Q. 37. And once again for Plaintiffs'  
7 Exhibit 37 please read the date and the subject line  
8 of, and then read it to yourself, please.

9 A. Subject line: CDC "guides," in quotes,  
10 and this week's meeting. And that was sent on  
11 4/29/2021.

12 Okay.

13 Q. All right. And can you identify what this  
14 is?

15 A. This is an email chain about -- that's  
16 called "CDC 'Guides' and this week's meeting."

17 Q. Okay. And at this time -- I think we've  
18 talked about biweekly meetings. At this time could  
19 you have been having weekly meetings with Facebook?

20 A. We might have. There definitely were  
21 times that we were talking weekly.

22 Q. All right. Let's do it -- let's go to the  
23 back, the last page.

24 She writes to you: "Hi, Carol, we want to  
25 flag a couple of items for you this week," right?

1     **And she says: "Instagram Guides Promotion**  
2     **Opportunity. Our Instagram team is looking to run**  
3     **promotion to amplify vaccine-related Instagram**  
4     **Guides. We saw that CDC has a great one on its**  
5     **feed." And then she provides a link; is that right?**  
6     **Am I correct? Did I read that correctly?**

7             A. Yes.

8             **Q. What is an Instagram Guides? I --**

9             A. I honestly don't remember. I noticed I  
10     added our social lead to pipe in more of the guides.  
11     I think it might have been like a reel, like the  
12     little video snippets you can see on Instagram. But  
13     I honestly cannot remember what they were at the  
14     time.

15            **Q. Okay.**

16            A. I don't know that Instagram guides still  
17     exist.

18            **Q. Let's talk about it just for a moment,**  
19     **though, because we talked about various types of**  
20     **social media. Instagram is usually like a photo and**  
21     **then some words under it?**

22            A. That is one type of Instagram post, and  
23     then there is more like a video version of it.

24            **Q. Okay. And how long -- does the video run**  
25     **a long time like YouTube, or is it short?**

1 A. No, it's short.

2 Q. And then she says: "The team is planning  
3 to launch an in-feed promotion of the Guides on  
4 Monday."

5 What's an in-feed promotion?

6 A. If I'm not sure what they meant by in-feed  
7 promotion. But what I'm -- as reading this at this  
8 moment, I believe they were -- it would, you know,  
9 it would get highlighted more often in a user's  
10 feed. They would -- the content would be promoted  
11 more to the users in their scrolling.

12 Q. Okay. And then it says that this launch  
13 in-feed promotion would run for three weeks, and the  
14 anticipated reach is 60 to 80 percent of the people  
15 in the U.S. on Instagram.

16 So that's 60 to 80 percent of the people  
17 that -- the United States people on that platform,  
18 is that your understanding?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. And then she says: (As read) "We wanted  
21 to know if the Guide above is up-to-date, or if  
22 you'd be willing to update it (if needed) and if it  
23 is something" you can include in the -- "we can  
24 include in the promotion. Happy to discuss further  
25 if this is something you may be interested in, or if

1     **you have any questions."**

2             **Did I read that correctly?**

3             A. Yes.

4             **Q. Who decides whether the guide is up to**  
5 **date or not?**

6             A. That would be us because it's our post.

7             **Q. Okay.**

8             A. Like if the guide is like a story -- I  
9 called it a reel earlier, but a story is better for  
10 Instagram. It's something that CDC has posted, so  
11 it's our content to update.

12            **Q. Got it.**

13            A. And I'll add, to clarify, I can see on the  
14 url it says "/CDC gov." So it's definitely  
15 something we have posted, and if I'm incorrect about  
16 the format of it I still can tell it's something  
17 we've posted.

18            **Q. Okay. Then also "FYI", which I think is**  
19 **for your information, "we are hoping for an update**  
20 **on our COVID-19 misinfo reporting, but that is not**  
21 **ready for this week."**

22            **What did you -- did I read that correctly?**

23            A. You read it correctly.

24            **Q. And what did you take that to mean?**

25            A. I am not sure, but I'm -- it might have

1 been about those CrowdTangle reports and sending  
2 them to us.

3 **Q. Can you read your response at 2:32 on the**  
4 **same day, the 28th?**

5 A. Read the whole response?

6 **Q. Yeah.**

7 A. Okay. (As read) plus Jay to weigh in on  
8 that guide. I think he'll have the latest info. I  
9 think it would be great to get that kind of  
10 promotion on it. Thanks for offering. I still hope  
11 to get you some health equity info, but agree we can  
12 pull that meeting down tomorrow. Are you being  
13 asked by the White House to do anything on  
14 vaccine.gov or vaccinefinder? If so, can you share  
15 any plans in a nutshell via email?

16 **Q. All right. So, first, what's health**  
17 **equity info?**

18 A. I can't recall the context of why we were  
19 discussing it, or what prompted me to write that.  
20 But CDC had posted, I believe around this time,  
21 information on health equity. I'm thinking that we  
22 either -- they wanted it, or we wanted to mention it  
23 to them, but I don't recall which.

24 **Q. And you asked about the White House. You**  
25 **asked her whether the White House is asking her to**

1 do anything on vaccine.gov or vaccinefinder. What's  
2 "vaccinefinder"?

3 A. Vaccines.gov originally was called  
4 vaccinefinder.gov. But we renamed it vaccine.gov or  
5 vaccines.gov when the vac- -- COVID vaccines came  
6 out. But a lot of us still think of it as the  
7 "vaccinefinder site" because when you go to that  
8 site, in effect, the main thing it does is you can  
9 put in your ZIP code and find out where COVID  
10 vaccines are offered. So it helps you find the  
11 vaccine.

12 Q. Why did you suspect the White House was  
13 asking her or Facebook to do something about that  
14 site?

15 MS. SNOW: Objection, calls for  
16 speculation.

17 BY MR. VECCHIONE:

18 Q. And you wrote down: "Are you being asked  
19 by the White House?" You asked her that. Why did  
20 you do that?

21 A. I --

22 MR. GILLIGAN: You asked her why she  
23 suspected something.

24 BY MR. VECCHIONE:

25 Q. Why did you -- why did you ask whether the

1 **White House had asked her to do anything?**

2 A. I don't remember specifically. But it was  
3 not uncommon because there was multiple major  
4 agencies such as the White House working on things.  
5 And so Payton had meetings with lots of federal  
6 agencies, and we were -- the vaccine.gov site was  
7 something CDC, HHS and the White House were  
8 collaboratively working on.

9 So it might have been me just trying to  
10 understand if we were about to promote vaccines.gov  
11 on -- maybe it was in the guides; maybe I was just  
12 trying to see if she knew something related to what  
13 we were doing. We did overlap from time to time and  
14 ask Payton similar things.

15 **Q. So you knew that Facebook could also have**  
16 **been being contacted by other agencies besides CDC?**

17 A. Yes. They -- she -- I'm fairly confident  
18 that she was speaking to several federal agencies  
19 during the COVID response.

20 **Q. Including HHS?**

21 A. I believe so, yes.

22 **Q. And including the White House?**

23 A. I think. I believe so, yes. I don't -- I  
24 didn't ask her her meeting schedule, but she often  
25 would be up to date.



1           **Q. Did she ever mention to you who her**  
2 **contact was at the White House?**

3           A. No.

4           **Q. Do you know that of your own knowledge**  
5 **from some other source?**

6           A. No.

7           **Q. Were you ever on a call with any of the**  
8 **agencies in the White House?**

9           A. Yes. Sometimes what I remember was that  
10 when vaccines.gov was coming out, that was involving  
11 multiple agencies including people at the White  
12 House and the U.S. Design System team and HHS and  
13 CDC, and I do believe there might have been some  
14 joint calls to discuss some of the promotion of  
15 vaccine.gov.

16           **Q. All right. And U.S. Design are the people**  
17 **who design the websites for the government?**

18           A. Yes. I think in my mind when I say White  
19 House, they are the people in the White House that  
20 I'm talking about because that's my counterparts in  
21 the White House are digital people. I should have  
22 clarified. I should have clarified that earlier.

23           **Q. All right. And do you know of anyone, any**  
24 **names?**

25           A. There was several of them that were

1 involved with vaccines.gov.

2 Q. Okay. Do you recall any names?

3 A. I really don't.

4 Q. All right. Did anyone from the White  
5 House, any office in the White House, direct you to  
6 engage with social media companies independent of  
7 your supervisor at the CDC?

8 A. No.

9 Q. All right. Let's take a look at the next  
10 one. Payton to you on April 29 at 6:23. Can you  
11 read her response to you?

12 A. (As read) Thank you, Carol. Regarding  
13 vaccines.gov -- or vaccine.gov -- we haven't had any  
14 specific requests from the White House on this.  
15 We've been working at the state level on our vaccine  
16 finders tools and promotions. I also want to  
17 followup on our COVID-19 misinfo reporting. Our  
18 team is looking to schedule a training with CDC and  
19 Census colleagues who will be reporting content  
20 through the tool. It will cover Community  
21 Standards, COVID-19 misinformation and harm policies  
22 and a walkthrough of the reporting tool.

23 Q. Let's stop there.

24 A. Okay.

25 Q. Did that training occur with CDC?

1           A. To my recollection, that training never  
2 occurred. But I might not have been a part of it,  
3 and that's why I don't recall it.

4           **Q. Do you recall whether or not Census was**  
5 **involved in such a training?**

6           A. No, because I'm not sure that we had the  
7 training, so I don't know who would have attended  
8 it.

9           **Q. Okay. And then could you continue reading**  
10 **where you have the asterisks?**

11          A. "Could you share back some times that may  
12 work to schedule? We'll probably need 1.5 hours to  
13 cover. If needed, we can break the training up if a  
14 longer block is hard to schedule."

15          **Q. All right. And then you'll respond that**  
16 **you'll check with Census; right?**

17          A. Yes.

18          **Q. But do you know whether or not you checked**  
19 **with Census?**

20          A. No.

21          **Q. Do you recall anything more than what**  
22 **you've told me about this training?**

23          A. I recall that when this -- well, can I ask  
24 my -- can I ask counsel a question first?

25               MR. GILLIGAN: Yes, you may.

1 (Witness conferring with counsel.)

2 MR. VECCHIONE: Let the record reflect  
3 that the witness has consulted with counsel.

4 BY MR. VECCHIONE:

5 **Q. Can you answer my question?**

6 A. Oh. Yes. When we went through discovery,  
7 I was pulling documents for discovery, and I was  
8 asked if we had used the portal by I believe the CDC  
9 lawyer that I have been working with, and I could  
10 not recall.

11 So I went through a lot of emails at that  
12 time, and I concluded that my memory was correct  
13 that we really did not use the portal more than the  
14 one time that I mentioned earlier, and that's why I  
15 don't believe the training occurred. I don't have  
16 any memory of going through the training, or setting  
17 up the training. But it's pos- -- I mean, I have a  
18 lot of emails, but that was what I thought after I  
19 did discovery.

20 BY MR. VECCHIONE:

21 **Q. Right. And that's what you think now**  
22 **sitting here?**

23 A. Yes.

24 **Q. All right. Thank you. You can put that**  
25 **aside.**

1           A.   Okay.

2                   (Plaintiffs' Exhibit 38 marked.)

3   BY MR. VECCHIONE:

4           **Q.   And, again, for Exhibit 38 just tell me**  
5 **the date and the subject line, and then read it to**  
6 **yourself.**

7           A.   I'm sorry. The subject, Wyoming issue.  
8   April 30th, 2021. Okay.

9           **Q.   So let's start from the back again.**

10                   **On April 23rd you write to Payton Itheme**  
11 **again. Can you write what you say to her?**

12           A.   (As read) The Wyoming Department of  
13   Health mentioned to one of our groups that the  
14   algorithms that Facebook and other social media are  
15   apparently using to screen out postings by sources  
16   of vaccine misinformation are also apparently  
17   screening out valid public health messaging,  
18   including Wyoming Health communications. They were  
19   looking for advice about how to work with social  
20   media networks to ensure that verifiable information  
21   sources are not blocked. Do you have someone that  
22   she could talk to -- sorry. Do you have someone  
23   that could perhaps talk to the state about this?

24           **Q.   And then before you get a response you say**  
25 **on top: "Anything you all can do to help on this?"**

1 I guess -- you say that five days later, is that why  
2 you sent it again?

3 A. They hadn't responded.

4 Q. Okay. Who decided what a verifiable  
5 information source was at this time?

6 A. I don't know.

7 Q. Now, on April 28th at 6:37 you get an  
8 email back from Adrien Genelle, I think or Genelle  
9 Adrien. Excuse me.

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. And she says that her colleague can solve  
12 this problem?

13 MS. SNOW: Objection, mischaracterizes  
14 document.

15 BY MR. VECCHIONE:

16 Q. Did she direct you to another person to  
17 take care of the problem?

18 A. She looped in another colleague to provide  
19 additional guidance, or to connect directly with the  
20 state health department that asked.

21 Q. Okay. And then you say, you tell her that  
22 you don't have an email chain to loop anyone in  
23 because it was received via meeting. Do you know  
24 what meeting it was received in?

25 A. Yes. Well, no, I don't know exactly which

1 meeting it was in, but it was just relayed to me  
2 during one of the COVID internal meetings that, hey,  
3 we got a call from Wyoming, do we know anyone to  
4 connect them with.

5 **Q. And you connected to Holly Scheer? Is**  
6 **that what you're doing there?**

7 A. Yes.

8 **Q. And do you know anything more about Eva**  
9 **Guidarini than what she states here about her? Did**  
10 **you ever deal with her?**

11 A. No.

12 MR. VECCHIONE: You can put that aside.

13 Exhibit 39. I believe they are all  
14 one-pagers, and they are all stapled together, so  
15 give me one moment.

16 (Plaintiffs' Exhibit 39 marked.)

17 BY MR. VECCHIONE:

18 **Q. Once again, could you just read the -- 39,**  
19 **could you read the subject line and the date?**

20 A. Join with new info E: Call or VC-Facebook  
21 weekly sync with CDC (CDC to invite other agencies  
22 as needed). May 6, 2021.

23 **Q. Okay. Tell me when you're ready.**

24 A. Oh, I'm ready. I'm sorry.

25 **Q. And I think we've seen this meeting**

1 before, but I just want to make sure it's not a  
2 separate one. Was -- this was just with Facebook;  
3 right?

4 A. This was.

5 Q. Okay. And the -- and we've already  
6 discussed the items that were -- that were on the  
7 agenda; right?

8 A. We did. But I'm just now noticing that  
9 the items in the agenda might be a cut-and-paste  
10 from the same thing and maybe weren't updated  
11 regularly.

12 Q. I see. That's my question. All right.  
13 So do you have any memory of this particular  
14 meeting?

15 A. I don't.

16 Q. And you don't recall what was said one way  
17 or another?

18 A. Don't recall, excuse me?

19 Q. Okay.

20 A. I didn't catch -- I'm sorry. I didn't  
21 catch what you asked me.

22 Q. Oh, oh. Do you recall anything that was  
23 said at that meeting?

24 A. On May 6? No.

25 Q. And do you know if the format was in Zoom,



1 or what the format, or Microsoft Teams, or in  
2 person, or?

3 A. It was always on either teams or they had  
4 BlueJeans that we used occasionally.

5 Q. Okay. What's BlueJeans?

6 A. It's something like a Teams or a Zoom.

7 Q. Okay. And, once again, do you know if  
8 there is any notes or record kept of the meeting?

9 A. I did not take any notes at the meeting  
10 that I recall. I mean, same answer I have been  
11 giving. If there were any, it was minor and they  
12 would have been in Word or email.

13 Q. Okay.

14 MR. VECCHIONE: 40.

15 MR. GILLIGAN: I remember when everybody  
16 just used Skype when it was simpler times.

17 (Plaintiffs' Exhibit 40 marked.)

18 BY MR. VECCHIONE:

19 Q. Exhibit 40. Once again the date and the  
20 subject line, and then read it to yourself.

21 A. Subject line: COVID BOLO meetings on  
22 misinformation, sent on May 10, 2021.

23 Okay.

24 Q. All right. Let's go back to the back page  
25 of this that's Bates number 682.

1 A. Okay.

2 Q. Now, this is -- I think we've said this  
3 date. It's May 10th of 2021?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. And you send to Facebook the COVID BOLO  
6 misinformation meeting request; right?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. And could you please read that for me?

9 A. (As read) We would like to establish  
10 COVID BOLO meetings on misinformation and invite all  
11 platforms to join the meetings. We are aiming for  
12 the first one on Friday at noon. I know you were  
13 considering a possible process on your end, but we  
14 wanted to start here just as an interim first step.  
15 Are there direct POCs on your end I should include  
16 on the invite? I'm happy to chat if better, thanks.

17 Q. All right. Now, so this is the first BOLO  
18 meeting. Does that comport with your recollection?

19 A. This is a note that I'm about to send an  
20 appointment for the first BOLO meeting and asking  
21 them who to include.

22 Q. All right. And we've already said POCs --

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. -- are the point of contacts; right?

25 A. Mm-hmm (affirmative).

1           **Q. And you said: "I know you are considering**  
2 **possible process on your end."**

3           **What did you mean by that?**

4           A. As I mentioned, that I was engaging with  
5 the platform saying what format would be best for us  
6 to talk about this. And I think there were  
7 references in the exhibit a couple of times where  
8 they said they were thinking internally about what  
9 would be best. So I think I was just referencing  
10 that I knew that they were considering it as well.

11           **Q. Do you know what the topics -- did you**  
12 **know what the topics for the BOLO were when you sent**  
13 **this out?**

14           A. I don't know if I did or not.

15           **Q. All right. Let's go to the next page back**  
16 **where we have -- I believe this is from Jan**  
17 **Antonaros to you, but he includes your email to him;**  
18 **right?**

19           A. This -- the bottom part --

20           **Q. Mm-hmm (affirmative).**

21           A. -- is where I sent a similar note to  
22 Google, which is Jan.

23           **Q. Okay.**

24           A. And I was telling her that we would like  
25 to invite the digital platforms to attend the BOLO.

1 I think it was me sending the appointment or a  
2 heads-up that it was coming. I can't -- it looks  
3 like maybe I -- this is an actual appointment.

4 **Q. Okay.**

5 A. But I tried to send each of them a  
6 personal note that we were doing it.

7 **Q. And in this one you actually spelled out**  
8 **be on the lookout; right?**

9 A. I did.

10 **Q. And was that because you hadn't discussed**  
11 **it with them before, or did you have some concern**  
12 **they wouldn't know what it was?**

13 A. I don't know why I didn't do it that time.

14 **Q. All right. And there is Kevin Kane here**  
15 **with the email address [REDACTED]@Google.com. Who is**  
16 **that?**

17 A. I don't remember Kevin, but this indicates  
18 that he was from YouTube.

19 **Q. Okay. And do you recall having**  
20 **discussions with YouTube?**

21 A. YouTube would occasionally -- people from  
22 YouTube would occasionally be on our regular  
23 meetings, depending on what we talked about. And  
24 because YouTube has the most content, like, hosting,  
25 they -- they were at the -- they were a part of the

1 BOLO meetings, I believe, that Kevin attended  
2 probably, or someone from YouTube did.

3 **Q. And you responded: "Great. I was going**  
4 **to ask about Kevin."**

5 A. Yeah. Maybe I remembered who Kevin was at  
6 the time.

7 **Q. Okay. And then finally the front page.**

8 A. That's a repeat of -- oh, no, that's not.  
9 I apologize. I'm looking at the wrong one.

10 **Q. And here you're sending this to the Google**  
11 **folks?**

12 A. Yes.

13 **Q. Why don't you read it for the record?**

14 A. "We would like to establish COVID BOLO  
15 meetings on misinformation and invite all platforms  
16 to join the meetings. We were aiming for the first  
17 one on Friday at noon. We heard through the  
18 grapevine that Kevin Cain at YouTube would want to  
19 join. Are there other POCs on your end I should  
20 include on the invite?"

21 **Q. All right. You said YouTube. Who's**  
22 **YouTube related to, is it Google or Facebook?**

23 A. YouTube is a Google property.

24 **Q. Okay.**

25 A. Or platform.

1           **Q. And is it your recollection that you did**  
2 **have a meeting on Friday?**

3           A. I think we did, but I don't have the exact  
4 date. But I believe we had -- that's when we had  
5 the first BOLO meeting.

6           **Q. All right. And do you have any list of**  
7 **who actually showed up and was an attendee?**

8           A. No.

9           **Q. All right. And, once again, it would be**  
10 **on your calendar as far as if it happened?**

11          A. Now, to clarify I don't remember keeping a  
12 list of who attended. Maybe Census might have  
13 because this is something they were arranging. But  
14 I don't recall it being sent to me. It could have  
15 been, but I don't believe so.

16          **Q. So they were helping you arrange this**  
17 **because they'd done it before, this particular**  
18 **meeting?**

19          A. Yes. I mean, I mentioned that they  
20 drafted the slides.

21          **Q. Right.**

22          A. And, you know, Chris participated in the  
23 meeting.

24          **Q. Okay. Chris. Remind me his last name?**

25          A. Lewinsky, Lewitzke.

1           Q. Lewitzke. I'm glad he's not here because  
2 we've done terrible things to his name, and I  
3 apologize for that. My name is Vecchione. I have  
4 no excuses for this.

5           All right. I think you can put that  
6 aside.

7           (Plaintiffs' Exhibit 41 marked.)

8 BY MR. VECCHIONE:

9           Q. Let's go to Exhibit 41. And once again  
10 please tell me the headline, subject line, and the  
11 date, and then read it to yourself.

12           A. Subject, CDC COVID-19 BOLO meeting.  
13 6/10/2021.

14           Q. Okay. So let's go back -- well, the first  
15 item on here, it says "On Wednesday June 9, 2021 at  
16 4:23 PM Crawford, Carol wrote."

17           Can you read that to -- into the record?

18           A. Yes.

19           "We would like to invite digital platforms  
20 to attend our third short 'Be On The Lookout'  
21 meeting on COVID. Let us know if you have questions  
22 and feel free to forward this message to anyone in  
23 your organization that should attend."

24           Q. And did you send these out separately to  
25 all the -- withdrawn.

1                   **You sent this particular one to Todd**  
2                   **O'Boyle at Twitter; right?**

3                   A. The formatting of the email is odd. But I  
4                   don't believe I did that. I believe I had one  
5                   appointment and I blind copied everyone, so the  
6                   emails -- I think that's just because he replied, it  
7                   looks like it's just him.

8                   **Q. Okay. But you think when you sent these**  
9                   **out you sent them out to all the social media places**  
10                   **at once?**

11                   A. I do. And I think when we were looking at  
12                   the other exhibit I wondered the same thing, but I  
13                   think that was the situation.

14                   **Q. All right. That explains it for me.**

15                   **And did you -- do you know if this meeting**  
16                   **in June, I think it would be, ever took place?**

17                   A. I don't believe it did. And this is a  
18                   morning question. I'm starting to think maybe  
19                   Juneteenth was a new holiday we weren't expecting  
20                   that conflicted with the third BOLO meeting and  
21                   maybe that is why we didn't end up having it and we  
22                   sent the materials out via email.

23                   **Q. All right. And who tasked you with**  
24                   **sending out the BOLO messages? Why were you doing**  
25                   **it?**



1           A. Because I was the main person that was the  
2 CDC point of contact to talk to Facebook, Twitter  
3 and the platforms since our job was to lead digital  
4 media.

5           MR. VECCHIONE: Okay. You can put that  
6 aside.

7           (Plaintiffs' Exhibit 42 marked.)

8 BY MR. VECCHIONE:

9           **Q. Exhibit 42.**

10           MR. VECCHIONE: And I feel that someone  
11 has added 43 in here, so I do apologize. That's a  
12 late addition.

13           MR. GILLIGAN: I thought it was Carnac  
14 time.

15           MR. VECCHIONE: No.

16 BY MR. VECCHIONE:

17           **Q. So, once again, please just name the date**  
18 **and the subject matter, and then take a look at it.**

19           A. Yeah. Subject: Booster shots, regarding  
20 booster shots. It was sent on 10/28/2021.

21           Okay.

22           **Q. All right. Do you recognize this**  
23 **document?**

24           A. Not specifically.

25           **Q. Can you describe what it is?**

1           A. It's a conversation about some booster  
2 guidance updates that are occurring and some  
3 requests from Google to review some of the changes  
4 that they were considering on the search result  
5 pages.

6           **Q. All right. And the date is -- I think it**  
7 **starts, if you look at the last page, on**  
8 **September 30th, 2021.**

9           A. Yes.

10          **Q. And that's from Stanley Onyimba to Fred**  
11 **Smith.**

12                   **Who is Fred Smith? He's new.**

13          A. He's a direct -- he reports to me. He was  
14 the technical person I mentioned who usually  
15 attended the Google meetings with me. I was out of  
16 town this date, so I wasn't on the email.

17          **Q. All right. And he -- well, I think he**  
18 **sends you the email?**

19          A. Yeah.

20          **Q. Just you're cc'd?**

21          A. Maybe. I don't believe I was in town,  
22 though --

23          **Q. Okay.**

24          A. -- when this was occurring. I don't see  
25 myself cc'd on Stanley's email to Fred.

1           **Q. All right. Why is -- do you have any**  
2 **knowledge why is Stanley Onyimba sending this to**  
3 **Fred? What is the purpose of this?**

4           MS. SNOW: Objection. Calls for  
5 speculation.

6           A. Are you going to re-ask the question?

7 BY MR. VECCHIONE:

8           **Q. No.**

9           A. I mean --

10          **Q. What's your understanding of why he's**  
11 **sending this --**

12          A. Yes.

13          **Q. -- to CDC?**

14          A. Well, I don't -- because the screenshots  
15 are not available that are attached or put in here,  
16 I can't directly explain this, but sometimes on  
17 those Google panels that I mentioned they would  
18 highlight specific things like, they would -- they  
19 would, you know, before the search results came up,  
20 they would highlight a link. And I think that they  
21 were considering -- considering taking some words  
22 that they saw on vaccines.gov and add it to that  
23 panel, and they wanted to be sure it was right and  
24 they were asking us.

25          **Q. All right. And then Fred responds that it**

1 looks okay to him, but he's not the -- he's not an  
2 expert on this?

3 A. Correct.

4 Q. All right. And so -- and then Mr. Smith  
5 writes -- now, after that -- after that, you know, I  
6 don't know, I'm going to go check with some people,  
7 Mr. Smith writes back: "Hi, Stanley, I heard back  
8 from some folks. No heartburn over the messages  
9 proposed. Cheers, Fred."

10 Do you see that?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Did I read that correctly?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Do you know who "some folks" are? Who did  
15 he check with?

16 A. I don't know who he checked with.

17 Q. Okay. And then the next -- I'm having a  
18 hard time -- I can read the message. Do you know  
19 when that was sent, the next message up?

20 A. The one from Jan and Megan?

21 Q. Yeah.

22 A. It looks like October 28, 2021.

23 Q. So you go all the way up to the next -- on  
24 page 1, and then you read down?

25 A. That's what it appears, mm-hmm.

1           Q. All right. Why don't you take -- so can  
2 you -- you came back, apparently, and emailed  
3 Antonio [sic] -- Jan and Stanley and the folks at  
4 Google on October 28th at 5:11; right?

5           A. Yes.

6           Q. Okay. And you said: "This looks good,  
7 thanks for checking," in the middle there?

8           A. Mm-hmm (affirmative).

9           Q. The next part?

10          A. (As read) Yes. We can discuss the  
11 pediatric vaccines early next week but let me give  
12 you some general info: ACIP is likely to vote on  
13 this on November 2nd. CDC is likely to start  
14 posting final information on November 3rd...if that  
15 helps to know. There will be many updates so the  
16 changes might span over a few days. We are also  
17 looking ahead and misinformation and hope to have a  
18 BOLO type meeting later that week with the platforms  
19 that are interested.

20          Q. And who's ACIP?

21          A. The Advisory Council for Immunization  
22 Practices, I believe, I think that's right.

23          Q. And do you know whether you had a BOLO  
24 meeting for this?

25          A. I don't -- I don't believe that we ever

1 had one.

2 Q. So the email states that --

3 You can put that aside.

4 (Plaintiffs' Exhibit 43 marked.)

5 BY MR. VECCHIONE:

6 Q. Let's go to -- yeah, let's go to the last,  
7 43.

8 Once again for Exhibit 43 please state the  
9 subject matter line, and then the -- and who it --  
10 what the date of it is?

11 A. Subject: Claims review. 6/29/2022.

12 I have read it.

13 Q. Okay. So can you read the -- well, who is  
14 Rachel Gruner?

15 A. She is my new point of contact at Google.  
16 She replaced Jan Antonaros.

17 Q. And who's Lindsay Steele?

18 A. Lindsay Steele replaced Stanley.

19 Q. Onyimba?

20 A. "O".

21 Q. Okay. And they're both -- their emails  
22 are here in the to line; right?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. All right. And if you could read the  
25 after Hi, Carol, Hi, Fred from Rachel, what does she

1 **say here?**

2 A. "The YouTube policy team is requesting  
3 evidence-based input on the claims below. In the  
4 past, the CDC has reviewed COVID information claims  
5 and commented true or false plus any additional  
6 context needed."

7 **Q. And then what are the claims?**

8 A. (As read) Claim: High dosage of  
9 progesterone is a safe method of reversing chemical  
10 abortion, in parentheses, mifepristone and  
11 misoprostol.

12 Sorry.

13 (As read) Claim: High doses of  
14 progesterone is an effective method of reversing  
15 chemical abortion, in parentheses, mifepristone and  
16 misoprostol.

17 **Q. All right.**

18 A. "Please let me know if you have questions  
19 or concerns."

20 **Q. And then what -- how do you respond?**

21 A. "I'll check on this, but I think I'll  
22 probably end up needing to refer you to another  
23 agency. I'll get back to you."

24 **Q. So this -- this -- is it your**  
25 **understanding this didn't have anything to do with**

1     **COVID-19 or vaccines?**

2             A. It definitely didn't have anything to do  
3 with COVID-19 or vaccines.

4             **Q. Do you know why it was sent to you?**

5             A. Well, as COVID's -- our focus is not  
6 solely on COVID. We're focusing on other topics. I  
7 think Rachel thought that we might be able to help  
8 with this topic as well.

9             **Q. Okay. Do you know who you sent it, what**  
10 **agency you sent it to, if any?**

11            A. I -- I didn't know. I called one of our  
12 centers and asked if this was something that CDC  
13 dealt with. I didn't think that we did, and they  
14 confirmed that we do not. And I don't think they  
15 had a suggestion on where to refer this to, but I  
16 can't recall for sure.

17            MR. VECCHIONE: All right. I would like  
18 to take a brief break and have the court reporter  
19 put my last exhibit together and give you copies  
20 and then --

21            MR. GILLIGAN: There is a 44, too?

22            MR. VECCHIONE: -- confer, confer with  
23 counsel, and I think we'll be finishing up.

24            (Comments off the record.)

25            THE VIDEOGRAPHER: Off the record at 5:07.



1 (Recess 5:07 p.m. - 5:19 p.m.)

2 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: Back on the record at  
3 5:19.

4 (Plaintiffs' Exhibit 44 marked.)

5 BY MR. VECCHIONE:

6 Q. All right. Ms. Crawford, this is going to  
7 be Exhibit 44. And it will have -- once again, read  
8 the subject line and then tell me what the date was.

9 A. Subject: "Themes that have been removed  
10 from misinform." I am sure that was typo.  
11 3/10/2021.

12 Okay.

13 Q. All right. Let's go to the back end of  
14 the exhibit. And the first email chain is from  
15 March 10th, 2021 from you to Payton Itheme; is that  
16 correct?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. And it says: "Themes that have been  
19 removed for misinfo." And I think we've established  
20 that's misinformation; correct?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. And you say to her: "We mentioned this on  
23 a call last week and you said you'd be sending  
24 something as other had asked -- is that available  
25 yet by chance?"

1                   **What were you telling her? What did you**  
2 **mean?**

3                   A. This is what I was referencing on a  
4 previous exhibit that one of our teams that was  
5 doing those vaccine confidence reports and those  
6 research reports, they were wondering if we -- if  
7 they had info on the -- on the types of posts that  
8 were removed and the themes because they were  
9 worried that we could only see the live posts and so  
10 we wouldn't know if there was also confusion about  
11 other areas that had been removed.

12                  **Q. And she --**

13                  A. I feel pretty confident that that is what  
14 this is about.

15                  **Q. And she responds to you. "Are you looking**  
16 **for types of COVID-19 misinfo we remove"; right?**

17                  A. Yes.

18                  **Q. "I think it may be worth a separate**  
19 **meeting to have some of our leads discuss the**  
20 **approach/what they are seeing and doing. Would that**  
21 **work?" That's what you said?**

22                  A. Yes.

23                  **Q. And what are her leads; what was your**  
24 **understanding?**

25                  A. Just like I would bring people that were

1 in charge of different areas, sometimes she would  
2 bring people that had more expertise. Payton and I  
3 did not know everything in our respective  
4 organizations, so I assume it was a lead for  
5 something, someone in this area.

6 Q. All right. And then you respond to her on  
7 March 10th at 9:24; correct?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. "Yes." And you say "you mentioned  
10 that" -- is that White House?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. "And HHS"?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. "Had asked so you'd get it to us"; right?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. "I think it is wanted as part of  
17 analysis -- so are you thinking there is no  
18 report/file to send?"

19 Is that your question to her?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. All right. And what you say there is when  
22 White House and HHS ask Facebook for this  
23 information, they assumed that Facebook would  
24 provide it to them; correct?

25 MS. SNOW: Objection. Calls for

1 speculation.

2 BY MR. VECCHIONE:

3 **Q. You can answer.**

4 A. Well, I think it was poorly worded by  
5 myself and kind of typo maybe. But what this was  
6 was I recall we asked on the meeting if they had  
7 this data, like, because we wanted it. And I think  
8 she said, Oh, we did something like this for the  
9 White House or HHS.

10 This is my memory of it.

11 **Q. Okay. This is one of your weekly**  
12 **meetings, or a BOLO?**

13 A. I think it was at a weekly meeting.

14 **Q. All right. And then the next thing she**  
15 **says back to you is: (As read) It wasn't a report,**  
16 **but rather a discussion. We were setting up a**  
17 **meeting with White House and HHS to discuss more**  
18 **likely later this week or early next week. Perhaps**  
19 **the CDC rep could participate or HHS share out?**

20 **Is that what she says?**

21 A. Yes.

22 **Q. What does HHS share out mean? That they'd**  
23 **give it to you?**

24 A. Yes. Oh.

25 MS. SNOW: You're good. You're good.

1 BY MR. VECCHIONE:

2 Q. So let's clean up the record a little.  
3 What is an HHS share out? Does that mean they give  
4 you whatever they are provided?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. All right. So it was your understanding  
7 that Facebook was having the same kind of meetings  
8 you were having with them with White House and HHS?

9 A. I don't know that in relation to this  
10 email. I was assuming that. But I do think that  
11 they did have meetings with the agencies.

12 Q. And could you read what you respond to her  
13 on May 10th at 9:30 a.m.?

14 A. "Oh, I assumed it was a report. Who at  
15 HHS is in the meeting?"

16 Q. And what did she respond to you at 9:32?

17 A. (As read) Josh Peck would be the HHS rep  
18 once a meeting is confirmed based on that I see him  
19 at a previous discussions or meetings with the White  
20 House.

21 Q. Do you know who he is?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Who is he?

24 A. I don't know his specific title, but he, I  
25 believe, during this time was running the HHS COVID

1 communication marketing campaign.

2 **Q. All right. And did you interface with him**  
3 **in any of your work?**

4 A. Yes.

5 **Q. Would he be at these, any of your weekly**  
6 **meetings?**

7 A. No.

8 **Q. All right. Would he be at your BOLO**  
9 **meeting?**

10 A. No.

11 **Q. All right. Next at 9:36 she adds**  
12 **something. What does she say?**

13 A. (As read) And of course we are using  
14 CrowdTangle as well to visualize the current trends  
15 as well. Lauren has been working on that and can  
16 give a refresher if needed. I know she has been  
17 sending reports as well.

18 **Q. And who's Lauren?**

19 A. Lauren is the one who's been -- sent those  
20 biweekly CrowdTangle reports during this time frame.

21 **Q. Okay. And then you respond to her at**  
22 **9:43:56 seconds. What do you say?**

23 A. (As read) They want to see what you guys  
24 proactively have removed that might not be in those  
25 reports. My guess is a short meeting with Lis

1 Wilhelm on the vaccine confidence team is what is  
2 needed if Facebook is willing to do it. Doesn't  
3 seem to me like that would be -- like it should be  
4 part of the White House HHS meeting.

5 **Q. Who's Lis Wilhelm?**

6 A. She is the group that was creating those  
7 vaccine confidence reports that was wondering if  
8 they had all the data reflected in them, and what  
9 the people were worried about, or confused about.  
10 And she was thinking that if the data -- if we knew  
11 the kinds of things that were removed, it might give  
12 a fuller picture for those reports.

13 **Q. Okay. And then you discuss a time for**  
14 **another meeting, and I think it ends at -- this**  
15 **chain ends at 3:10, 9:54 a.m.: Let's plan on next**  
16 **Thursday then.**

17 **Do you know whether you ever had that**  
18 **meeting?**

19 A. I think we did.

20 **Q. And do you know what was discussed there?**

21 A. I think that the vaccine confidence team  
22 came, and I don't -- and we discussed what they  
23 might have that would give them that fuller picture.

24 **Q. You can put that aside. I have got a few**  
25 **followup questions.**

1 A. Okay.

2 Q. At any of your -- in flagging any material  
3 for any of the social media issues, themes, facts,  
4 whatever you flag, can you say whether or not you  
5 flagged any information from the Great Barrington  
6 Declaration?

7 A. I don't know what that is.

8 Q. Okay. How about Jay Bhattacharya?  
9 Anything from him?

10 A. I don't know who that is.

11 Q. Marty Kuldorff. Anything from him?

12 A. I don't know who that is.

13 Q. Aaron Kheriaty. Anything from him?

14 A. I don't know who that is.

15 Q. Jim Hoft, or Gateway Pundit?

16 A. I don't know who that is.

17 Q. All right. And Jill Hines?

18 A. I don't know who she is.

19 Q. All right. And I think I have asked you  
20 before, but bear with me. Have you flagged anything  
21 from Governor Michael Parson?

22 A. I -- well, I may or may not have known the  
23 name of the governor. But I don't recall any  
24 specific who posted anything we flagged. That might  
25 be a better way to answer these questions.



1 Q. Okay. And that's --

2 A. I don't remember anybody associated with  
3 the example posts that we sent.

4 Q. Okay. And that would include -- I'm doing  
5 this for the record, you understand. I understand  
6 your answer.

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. That would include Eric Schmitt, Jeff  
9 Landry and John Bel Edwards?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Thank you. And now, finally, on the BOLO  
12 meetings, who ran the BOLO meetings?

13 A. I ran the BOLO meetings.

14 Q. In what manner? How did you do it?

15 A. I opened up the meeting, introduced  
16 myself, gave context for why we were doing the BOLO  
17 meeting in brief. And then I believe that  
18 Christopher went through the slide decks, and I  
19 occasionally piped in on them.

20 Q. Lewitzke?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. And so he -- these slide decks, would they  
23 be like the table you showed me or that we looked at  
24 with examples of the shedding and the microchips in  
25 the bloodstream?

1           A. They were similar to the table, but they  
2 were more like this is a theme, and then there'd be  
3 maybe a little info about what the theme was and  
4 then maybe a couple of example posts. And then  
5 there would be a slide maybe with CDC links or  
6 information related to that theme.

7           **Q. All right.**

8           A. So it was more than just a table. It had  
9 more context to it.

10          **Q. How long did the meetings go?**

11          A. They were short. I mean, maybe they were  
12 20 minutes.

13          **Q. And what did you and Mr. -- well, first,  
14 what did you hope to accomplish by those meetings?**

15          A. The same thing that I've been referencing.  
16 I mean, our goal is to be sure that credible  
17 information about COVID was out there. A lot of  
18 people seek information on platforms. We thought  
19 that by giving the platform scientific information  
20 it might help in our goals to being sure that  
21 credible information could be found.

22          **Q. And uncredible information would not be  
23 found; correct?**

24               MS. SNOW: Objection, mischaracterizes  
25 testimony.

1 BY MR. VECCHIONE:

2 Q. You can answer.

3 A. I did want the credible information to be  
4 found in advance of the uncredible information.

5 Q. You at least wanted upgraded over --

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. -- uncredible information?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Do you recall anything anyone at any of  
10 the social media platforms asked at any of these  
11 BOLO meetings?

12 A. They weren't able to ask questions during  
13 the BOLO meetings.

14 Q. Why was that? Tell me how it ran.

15 A. I think we talked about that this morning.  
16 They are muted because the thought was they're  
17 competitors, and they could ask questions  
18 individually later.

19 Q. Got it. One second.

20 (Mr. Vecchione conferring with Mr. Sauer.)

21 BY MR. VECCHIONE:

22 Q. Did they ask any questions individually  
23 later that you recall?

24 A. No, I don't think that they did.

25 MR. VECCHIONE: All right. I have no

1 further questions at this time.

2 MS. SNOW: Okay. Nothing further. No  
3 questions for defense.

4 MR. VECCHIONE: And you already said  
5 you'll read, right, at the beginning?

6 MS. SNOW: I said that at the beginning,  
7 so I didn't want to forget at the end.

8 MR. VECCHIONE: All right.

9 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: Okay. I've got to ask  
10 on the record, what about video copies for  
11 everybody? Anybody?

12 MR. SAUER: We want video as soon as it's  
13 available.

14 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: So you want synced,  
15 non-synced?

16 MR. SAUER: I think synced syncs the video  
17 to the transcript?

18 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: Yes, I believe so.

19 MR. VECCHIONE: And we -- I think what  
20 we've been doing, we're going to do is give the  
21 originals to her to put the record together, the  
22 transcript together, the original exhibits.

23 MR. GILLIGAN: The original exhibits, yes.

24 MR. SAUER: So there should be -- that  
25 stack of exhibits should go to the court reporter in

1 front of the witness.

2 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: Do you want a copy also  
3 for your group?

4 MR. SAUER: No, just one. We're both  
5 plaintiffs.

6 MR. VECCHIONE: And there is no Exhibit.  
7 25 that's the one we skipped. So don't be thinking  
8 it's lost.

9 MS. SNOW: But, yeah, we would like a copy  
10 of the video as well.

11 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: Okay. A synced copy?

12 MS. SNOW: Yes.

13 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: So how about you, sir?

14 MR. GILLIGAN: She's with us.

15 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: So just one for each.

16 MS. SNOW: Yeah.

17 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: Got you. Thank you.

18 And we are off the record at 5:33.

19 (Concluded at 5:33 p.m.)

20 (Signature reserved.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

STATE OF GEORGIA:

DEKALB COUNTY:

I, Maureen S. Kreimer, a Certified Court Reporter for the State of Georgia, before whom the foregoing deposition was taken, do hereby certify:

That CAROL CRAWFORD, the witness whose deposition is hereinbefore set forth in pages 1 to 269, was duly sworn by me and that such deposition is a true record of the testimony given by the witness.

I further certify that I am not related to any of the parties to this action by blood or marriage, and that I am in no way interested in the outcome of this matter.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 18th day of November, 2022.



---

MAUREEN S. KREIMER, CCR-B-1379  
Notary Public in and for the  
State of Georgia. My Commission  
Expires August 14, 2024.

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LEXITAS LEGAL

November 17, 2022

KYLA SNOW, ESQ.  
U.S. Department of Justice  
1100 L Street N.W.  
Washington, DC 29530

IN RE: STATE OF MISSOURI ex rel. ERIC S. SCHMITT,  
Attorney General, et al. v. JOSEPH R.  
BIDEN, JR., in his official capacity as  
President of the United States, et al.

Dear Ms. Snow:

Please find enclosed your copies of the deposition of  
CAROL CRAWFORD taken on November 15, 2022 in the  
above-referenced case. Also enclosed is the original  
signature page and errata sheets.

Please have the witness read your copy of the  
transcript, indicate any changes and/or corrections  
desired on the errata sheets, and sign the signature  
page before a notary public.

Please return the errata sheets and notarized  
signature page within 30 days to our office at 711 N  
11th Street, St. Louis, MO 63101 for filing.

Sincerely,

Lexitas Legal

Enclosures

1 ERRATA SHEET  
 2 Witness Name: CAROL CRAWFORD  
 3 Case Name: STATE OF MISSOURI ex rel. ERIC S. SCHMITT,  
 4 Attorney General, et al. v. JOSEPH R.  
 5 BIDEN, JR., in his official capacity as  
 6 President of the United States, et al.  
 7 Date Taken: NOVEMBER 15, 2022

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 9 Page # \_\_\_\_\_ Line # \_\_\_\_\_  
 10 Should read: \_\_\_\_\_  
 11 Reason for change: \_\_\_\_\_  
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13 Page # \_\_\_\_\_ Line # \_\_\_\_\_  
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 22 Should read: \_\_\_\_\_  
 23 Reason for change: \_\_\_\_\_  
 24

25 Witness Signature: \_\_\_\_\_



1 STATE OF \_\_\_\_\_ )

2

3 COUNTY OF \_\_\_\_\_ )

4

5 I, CAROL CRAWFORD, do hereby certify:

6 That I have read the foregoing deposition;

7 That I have made such changes in form

8 and/or substance to the within deposition as might

9 be necessary to render the same true and correct;

10 That having made such changes thereon, I

11 hereby subscribe my name to the deposition.

12 I declare under penalty of perjury that the

13 foregoing is true and correct.

14 Executed this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_,

15 20\_\_\_\_, at \_\_\_\_\_.

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CAROL CRAWFORD

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NOTARY PUBLIC

24 My Commission Expires:

25

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