



Written by [C. Mitchell Shaw](#) on August 20, 2021

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Correction, Please!

Liberal Media “Corrects” Truthful COVID Coverage at Urging of White House



Papers, please: Concerns about unvaccinated individuals spreading the new COVID Delta variant have led some places, such as New York City, to mandate COVID vaccines to enter public venues. (*Photo credit: AP Images*)

Item: In an e-mail newsletter transcript dated July 30, carrying the headline “White House blasts Covid coverage,” CNN’s Oliver Darcy reported that the White House “is frustrated with what it views as alarmist, and in some instances flat-out misleading, news coverage about the Delta variant.” Citing two anonymous “senior Biden administration officials,” Darcy said, “In some instances, poorly framed headlines and cable news chyrons wrongly suggested that vaccinated Americans are just as likely to spread the disease as unvaccinated Americans.” He said he was told by one Biden official that the “media’s coverage” is “hyperbolic and frankly irresponsible in a way that hardens vaccine hesitancy” and that “the biggest problem we have is unvaccinated people getting and spreading the virus.”

Following are examples of that coverage as amended to satisfy the White House:

Item: The New York Times published an online article on July 30 under the headline “C.D.C. Internal Report Calls Delta Variant as Contagious as Chickenpox,” and tweeted that article saying, “Breaking News: The Delta variant is as contagious as chickenpox and may be spread by vaccinated people as easily as the unvaccinated, an internal C.D.C. report said.”

After the White House informed the Times that they were “doing it wrong” by reporting it that way, the Times changed the tweet to read, “Delta variant infections in vaccinated people are rare, compared with those who are unvaccinated, the internal CDC report said. But vaccinated people with a breakthrough infection may spread the virus just as easily.”

Item: Also, on July 30, the Washington Post ran an online article under the headline “CDC study shows three-fourths of people infected in Massachusetts coronavirus outbreak were vaccinated.” Again, the White House took umbrage and — though the headline accurately reflected the CDC study — the Post amended the headline to end in the clause, “but few required hospitalization.”



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Item: *Another headline from July 30 drew the ire of the White House. This one, from NBC News, read, “Breakthrough Covid cases: At least 125,000 fully vaccinated Americans have tested positive.” After being set straight about the headline, NBC changed it to read, “Breakthrough Covid cases: Data shows how many vaccinated Americans have tested positive.”*

Apparently, it is permissible to report on “how many vaccinated Americans have tested positive” as long as the headline does not actually list that number.

Correction: Since no one can accuse CNN of having a conservative editorial slant — the network has been so liberal for so long that it is commonly referred to by many conservatives as the Clinton News Network or the Communist News Network — it is noteworthy that CNN reported on the Biden administration’s reaction to COVID coverage by liberal news outlets. Furthermore, even while reporting on this, CNN both buried the lead in its reporting and promised to try to do a better job of acting as a propaganda tool of the Biden administration. The network also took steps to make sure other news networks toe the line set by the White House.

That line was made clear by the “two senior Biden administration officials” that spoke to Darcy: “The biggest problem we have is unvaccinated people getting and spreading the virus.” The message is clear: Stop focusing on the reality that vaccinated people can contract and spread the virus and start focusing on the specter of unvaccinated people making vaccinated people sick. From CNN’s report:

“The media’s coverage doesn’t match the moment,” one of the Biden officials told me. “It has been hyperbolic and frankly irresponsible in a way that hardens vaccine hesitancy. The biggest problem we have is unvaccinated people getting and spreading the virus.”

As the Biden officials explained to me, the administration is worried that the media’s focus on these instances of breakthrough infections might lead to people being more hesitant to get a vaccine. Think about it: If you’re a young person, and already believe you will be OK if you do get infected, why would you now get a vaccine, given that coverage suggests you can still just as easily become infected and spread the virus after receiving a shot?

The worry about this line of messaging from major media sources worried officials so much, I’m told, that they reached out to several major news organizations with the aim of getting them to dial back the coverage.

Let that sink in: Someone in the Biden administration is telling the media what to report and how to report it. And while this writer is not above making that assertion, in this instance, it is CNN that makes that assertion — backed up by “two senior Biden administration officials.” Granted, that someone is not likely Biden himself — that would require him to string words together into coherent sentences. But whoever it is, that person has “reached out to several major news organizations with the aim of getting them to dial back the coverage” that the White House doesn’t like.

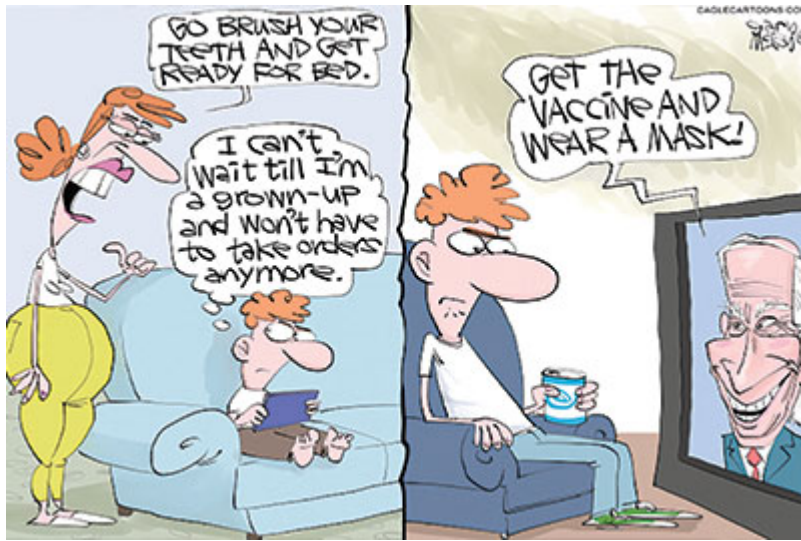
That CNN was acting as the lead in the White House’s play to get the media in line with the direction to focus on “the unvaccinated” is clear. Darcy stated that occasionally “poorly framed headlines and cable news chyrons wrongly suggested that vaccinated Americans are just as likely to spread the disease as unvaccinated Americans.” Darcy also claims “that isn’t quite the case” since “vaccinated Americans still have a far lower chance of becoming infected with the coronavirus and, thus, they are responsible for



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far less spread of the disease.”



But the *Post* headline Darcy cited for this stated, “CDC study shows three-fourths of people infected in Massachusetts coronavirus outbreak were vaccinated.” This headline, though — far from being “poorly framed” — was an accurate summation of the CDC’s report on the outbreak in Massachusetts.

The CDC report states that there were “469 COVID-19 cases” in this outbreak and that “346 (74%) occurred in fully vaccinated persons.” The headline says that the CDC study shows that three-fourths of the infected people were vaccinated. The only issue here is that the White House doesn’t like what the CDC report states and doesn’t like that the *Post* reported on it.

Likewise, the *New York Times* headline and tweet also accurately portrayed what the CDC said. But that is not what matters to the masters of media at the White House. Because, in this instance, the *Times* was corrected publicly. Ben Wakana, a member of the White House’s rapid response team, replied to the tweet, saying, “VACCINATED PEOPLE DO NOT TRANSMIT THE VIRUS AT THE SAME RATE AS UNVACCINATED PEOPLE AND IF YOU FAIL TO INCLUDE THAT CONTEXT YOU’RE DOING IT WRONG.”

So, the *Post* amended its headline to add “but few required hospitalization.” The *Times* rewrote its tweet to say, “Delta variant infections in vaccinated people are rare, compared with those who are unvaccinated, the internal CDC report said. But vaccinated people with a breakthrough infection may spread the virus just as easily.” And NBC updated its headline to read, “Breakthrough Covid cases: Data shows how many vaccinated Americans have tested positive.” In short, they all caved to pressure from the White House about what to report on COVID and how to report it. That is a great working definition of propaganda.

The White House has not yet confirmed whether those news organs are now “doing it right,” but this writer is sure of two things: First, truth and journalism are dying as a result of COVID, but it is not the virus that is killing them; someone at the White House is. Secondly, if President Trump had dared to actually pressure the media about what to report and how to report it, there would have been congressional hearings about it. Heck, he was accused of “silencing” and “attempting to control” the media just for criticizing their demonstrable lies.

This column usually cites mainstream news articles and corrects their deliberate errors. This time is a little different, because they got it right the first time, then “corrected” themselves to line up with the



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approved narrative coming from the White House. So this time, The New American corrects their corrections.



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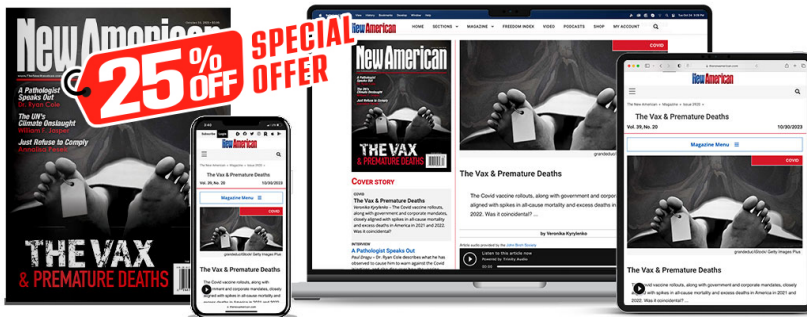
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