

# Censorship of Covid “Misinformation”: DHHS Sued After Ignoring Freedom of Information Request Over Censorship Demands

Surgeon General had called for censorship of Covid misinformation in a 2021 report titled “Confronting Health Misinformation,”

By [Dan Frieth](#)

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[Reclaim the Net](#)

Region: [USA](#)

Theme: [Law and Justice](#), [Media Disinformation](#)

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*Activist group Judicial Watch filed a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) lawsuit against the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) for all records and communications between the Surgeon General’s office and social media companies about COVID-19 vaccines.*

Judicial Watch filed the lawsuit after the HHS refused to adequately respond to a FOIA request filed in March 2022.

We obtained a copy of the complaint for you [here](#).

The request was for: “All records, including, but not limited to, electronic mail, texts, memoranda, and handwritten notes, of, regarding, referring, or relating to any efforts of Alexandria Phillips, Communications Director, Office of the Surgeon General, to contact any employee of [Facebook](#), Twitter, TikTok, [Instagram](#), Snapchat, Reddit, [YouTube](#), LinkedIn, Tumblr, and Pinterest concerning COVID-19 vaccines.”

Surgeon General Vivek Murthy has previously [called for censorship of Covid misinformation](#). In 2021, he published a report titled “[Confronting Health Misinformation](#),” which aimed to “slow the spread of health misinformation during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond.”

The report encouraged platforms to censor vaccine misinformation and other misinformation related to the pandemic.

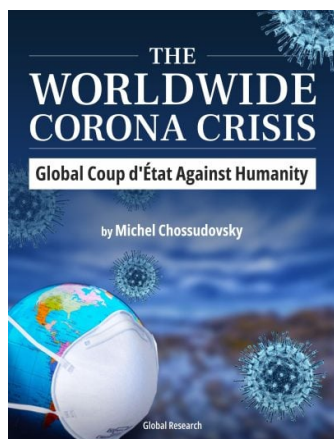
In March 2022, Murthy ordered social media platforms to hand over information about accounts spreading Covid misinformation.

Judicial Watch president Tom Fitton said, “Biden’s Surgeon General is abusing his office to pressure Big Tech companies to censor Americans. This lawsuit aims to uncover the details of this government attack on the First Amendment.”

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