

From: Editorial at Kinzen <digest@kinzen.news>

Sent: 03 August 2021 14:54

Subject: Disinformation Digest: Tuesday, August 3



Tuesday, August 3

See below some of the prominent slogans, dog whistles or hashtags used by the **anti-vaccine community** across multiple platforms in recent days:

#Vaxpartheid

#ProtectTheKids

#NoJabNoJob

#PoisonJab

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THE IRISH OUTLOOK

PRIORITY

Conspiracy theorist Dave Cullen, of the Computing Forever social media channels, says that his home has been attacked in response to his outspoken views. Videos describing the alleged vandalism of his home in the west of Ireland have been viewed more than [43,000 times on BitChute](#) and [12,500 times on Odysee](#), both fringe video streaming platforms. Links to Cullen's [fundraising sites](#) are included in the video descriptions. Other fringe figures have also [released videos](#) voicing their support for Cullen.

The video says that shortly after Computing Forever released a video suggesting that COVID-19 was a conspiracy involving the Freemasons, his home and car were daubed with paint. Cullen suggests the culprits were either

Freemasons themselves, or attempting to frame the Freemasons.

Other graffiti on his house and surrounding property accused him of being a “paedo”, and paper stickers were put on his father’s windows saying that COVID is not a hoax.

Cullen says he is trying to identify the culprits.

TRENDS

The video of Eddie Hobbs hosting a roundtable discussion with a number of lockdown and vaccine skeptics, mentioned in last Wednesday’s newsletter, has picked up steam over the weekend and now has more than 100,000 views across different platforms. It has racked up more than [89,000 views on YouTube](#), more than [20,250 views on Bitchute](#), and more than [5,800 views on Odysee](#).

[A video](#) of an Irish publican saying he was doing very well financially due to the pandemic and hoped it continued has been spread on social media. He has since apologised for his remarks which he described as “[inebriated banter](#)”.

Gary Dempsey, who has twice now claimed that he would be off Twitter for the Summer (see newsletters from May 6 and July 27) is [still tweeting](#) misinformation about COVID-19.

The shop Hemp Land in Dublin now has [a poster](#) outside their premises on Abbey Street calling COVID-19 “the Greatest Hoax in History” and saying it is part of a “planned world takeover”. The QR code on the poster appears to no longer be operational.

The shop has long had anti-mask signs outside their doors and, at one stage, had a sound system blaring anti-lockdown rhetoric onto the street (see April 14’s newsletter).

MONITORING

A number of demonstrations are organised for this month, including [a protest on August 7 at the NPHET building on Messian Plaza](#). None of them have significant traction on mainstream social media as of today.

THE GLOBAL OUTLOOK

The controversy around vaccine passes for access to venues and businesses is still one of the biggest stories discussed on social media:

- Anti-vaccine activists reacted to Andrew Cuomo asking private business to require vaccination for admission and called it the “[mark of the beast](#).”
- There [has been a huge interaction](#) with a story about California restaurant owner Tony Roman, who we have mentioned before, as he is banning vaccinated people from his business in Huntington Beach. “Proof of being unvaccinated is required,” a sign says outside Roman’s Basilico’s Pasta e Vino.

Sky News Australia has been suspended from YouTube for a week over COVID misinformation. The media organisation [fired back](#) and said YouTube’s decision was a “disturbing attack on the ability to think freely.”

Fringe groups [have been widely engaging](#) with a [viral tweet](#) suggesting that an AP report about a COVID breakout in Florida was not true. The tweet has been shared thousands of times.

One of the most popular posts on Reddit’s conspiracy forum [was by a user who claimed](#) that they got fired for refusing to take a COVID vaccine. The user suggested using terms like the “Vaxpartheid State” and “Vaccine Discrimination.”

Anti-vaccine activists are using the reports about Lindsey Graham to be [the first](#)

[vaccinated senator to test positive for COVID](#) to spread the [claims](#) that “all vaccinated people are getting” COVID.

American comedian Kathleen Griffin [revealed](#) that she had lung cancer even though she had “never smoked.” Conspiracy theorists on a QAnon messaging board [have been suggesting](#) that Griffin got the cancer because of a COVID vaccine.

American conservative activist Charlie Kirk [urged](#) people not to comply with other lockdowns. He said in a viral video that the lockdowns are one of the “worst decisions ever made in the history” of the US. The video [has been shared](#) by MAGA supporters including Michael Flynn.

The AP [has fact-checked](#) misleading claims on social media suggesting that Surgeon General Vivek Murthy told Americans who are vaccinated for COVID to wear masks at home with their kids.

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From: Editorial at Kinzen <digest@kinzen.news>

Sent: 04 August 2021 14:26

Subject: Disinformation Digest: Wednesday, August 4



Wednesday, August 4

See below some of the prominent slogans, dog whistles or hashtags used by the **anti-vaccine community** across multiple platforms in recent days:

#WeDoNotConsent

#CovidIsOver

#WeWillFightForOurChildren

#CovidLies

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THE IRISH OUTLOOK

PRIORITY

Online conversations have been dominated by [news](#) that a gathering of 50 people at the Merrion Hotel, hosted by Katherine Zappone, included Tánaiste Leo Varadkar as a guest.

While the story partly concerns political appointments, both mainstream and fringe commentators have suggested that the gathering would have been a violation of COVID-19 restrictions against large groups ([1](#), [2](#), [3](#), [4](#), [5](#), [6](#), [7](#)).

While primarily embarrassing to the government, the news also feeds into the long-standing narrative in fringe communities that COVID rules don't apply to those in positions of power. Or even that privileged people don't take precautions because they know something that the general public doesn't.

TRENDS

[A report](#) released by Trinity College, Dublin today has criticised the government's transparency during the pandemic, saying that NPHET had become "a de facto primary decisionmaker", rather than just an advisory body.

The report has been seen as vindication in some fringe circles, including the political party [Aontú](#) and [Ivor Cummins](#), a major spreader of misinformation. One commentator shared a news story on the report, saying: "[For a year I said NPHET were running the country. Here you are.](#)"

Former Irish Olympic boxer Paddy Barnes has said that he has not been vaccinated, thinking they might be harmful. Belfast-based [Barnes wrote on Twitter](#): "I'm not anti vax, I'm just scared of it as I've seen 1st hand the damage it has done to my friend and have looked at stats from the yellow card thing".

The story has been reported in vaccine-skeptical Irish outlets, such as [Gript.ie](#) and [News For All](#), as well as some Northern Irish and sporting outlets, but has not been published in mainstream Irish papers.

MONITORING

Kinzen has noted an increase in fringe commentators using data supplied by hospitals and the HSE to argue that, as some hospitals have spare beds or trolleys, all restrictions should be dropped immediately ([1](#), [2](#), [3](#)).

THE GLOBAL OUTLOOK

The biggest story in the US is the controversy around Barack Obama hosting hundreds of guests for his 60th birthday bash. Following criticism, Obama [canceled the party](#) and “scaled back the event to include only family and close friends”. QAnon and MAGA supporters have been slamming Obama, calling him a “[star-studded superspreader](#)” and accusing him of [defying lockdown measures](#). American conservative activist Charlie Kirk had [urged](#) the CDC to recommend canceling Obama’s birthday.

Some users are promoting an anti-vaccine website called [1000 COVID Stories](#) (see examples [here](#), [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#)). They are encouraging “vaccine-injured people” to share their stories. “We are an independent group of doctors, scientists, statisticians and concerned citizens who seek the truth about COVID”, the [website says](#). All member names are kept anonymous.

On his show, Alex Joes [hosted](#) Rizza Islam. He claimed that COVID vaccines are not working and they are killing people.

A small group of anti-vaccine activists gathered at Radio City in New York to protest against vaccine mandates and passes to venues and businesses. The protest [was streamed live](#) on YouTube and was shared on social media (see [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#)).

Conspiracy theorists on Reddit are spreading the claim that “[vaccine genocide will start soon](#).” They are saying that half the people who got vaccinated will die within a year and that “younger people will get really sick, most women will

become infertile.”

Anti-vaccine activist Joseph Mercola [announced](#) that he was forced to remove his entire content and archive from his website. He adds that he is going to continue publishing articles but they will be only available for 24 hours on his website. QAnon activists [are sharing](#) Mercola’s statement.

There has been [high engagement](#) with a tweet by Robert Malone promoting ivermectin. Malone linked to an article saying that ivermectin could help reduce the length of infection for people with COVID for less than a \$1 a day.

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From: Editorial at Kinzen <digest@kinzen.news>

Sent: 05 August 2021 14:26

Subject: Disinformation Digest: Thursday, August 5



Thursday, August 5

See below some of the prominent slogans, dog whistles or hashtags used by the **anti-vaccine community** across multiple platforms in recent days:

#HaltTheVaccineRollout

#NoVaccinePassports

#MyBodyMyChoice

#NoMoreNonsense

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THE IRISH OUTLOOK

PRIORITY

There was a [very modest](#) turnout for the protest outside the Department of Health yesterday, much to the [chagrin](#) of [those](#) involved. Nonetheless, Yellow Vest Ireland [pledged](#) “we will have more actions” and there is another protest [planned](#) for outside the same venue this Saturday, August 7th, although so far it has gained little traction online. There is also a ‘Freedom Rally’ scheduled for [Galway](#) on Saturday.

Angela Ray, a far-right activist banned multiple times from social media platforms, is back on Twitter and [advocating](#) occupying government buildings.

Video clips of Finance Minister Paschal Donohue being barracked on a street close to the protest location circulated widely across social media ([1](#), [2](#), [3](#), [4](#), [5](#), [6](#)). Some clips of the confrontation were posted on Facebook and Twitter along with various threatening messages including: “[bring it to their doors](#)” and that “[more of this is needed](#)”. Also that protesters should pick out individuals and “[hound them](#)” and get angry “[and give them hell](#).” In one response to video footage, a regular activist posted an image of a length of rope captioned, “[what’s needed](#).” Another [vowed](#) to protest outside the home of Tony Holohan in the event of another lockdown.

TRENDS

The political turmoil sparked by the controversy surrounding former minister Katherine Zappone’s outdoor gathering of 50 guests at the Merrion Hotel has sparked widespread commentary among opponents of COVID restrictions, vaccine certificates and the vaccine rollout with many using the #merriongate hashtag ([1](#), [2](#), [3](#), [4](#), [5](#), [6](#), [7](#)). Some claim the government is “[laughing at](#)” the public. Aontú’s Peadar Tóibín [speculated](#) on Twitter that a COVID outbreak in the Department of Children is a result of the Merrion Hotel event, which was attended by various senior politicians.

Moreover, the refusal of a licence for the Electric Picnic in Stradbally has sparked unfavourable comparisons among [mainstream journalists](#) also, with anti-vaccine activists suggesting that the possibility of the festival going ahead had been a ruse to get [younger people](#) vaccinated

Despite the poor turnout at the protest against vaccinating children, the rollout of the programme for the younger age cohorts continues to be a hot topic ([1](#), [2](#), [3](#)) and the [statement](#) by INTO head John Boyle regarding vaccinating teachers before September is beginning to [attract some](#) attention.

[Reaction continues](#) to the Trinity report (flagged in yesterday's digest) which criticised the lack of clarity surrounding the respective roles of government and NPHEt during the pandemic, with others casting doubts on the accuracy of its modelling forecasts. ([1](#), [2](#), [3](#), [4](#), [5](#), [6](#)).

MONITORING

Anti-vaccine account Health Freedom Ireland [retweeted](#) a video claiming the COVID vaccines are causing new variants - this is a narrative increasingly circulating in the US.

A [video](#) posted by David Thunder in which he makes claims including that both masks and PCR tests are ineffective has garnered 13,500 views so far.

Former actress-turned conspiracy theorist Grace-Anne Kelly was [interviewed](#) by former journalist-turned conspiracy theorist Aisling O'Loughlin for The Irish Inquiry, while O'Loughlin's Irish Inquiry colleague Lindie Naughton tweeted a link to an article [warning](#) pregnant women against getting the COVID vaccine.

THE GLOBAL OUTLOOK

New York City became [the first major US city](#) to require proof of COVID vaccines at restaurants, gyms and other businesses. The story sparked a backlash on social media and fringe groups:

- Dr. Drew [said in a viral tweet](#) that the Black community would be most affected as only 28.4% of the Black community has been vaccinated. He described it as "modern day segregation."
- Boston mayor Kim Janey [compared](#) NYC's vaccine mandate to slavery.
- Rep. Jim Jordan [compared](#) the "vaccine passports" to voter ID.
- Alex Jones attacked New York mayor Bill de Blasio and [called](#) it slavery.

- On Fox News, Sean Hannity [described the vaccine proof](#) as “racist”, as he says 66% of African Americans will be barred from venues.
- QAnon and MAGA activists have invoked racism to oppose the vaccine proof, with some calling it “[white supremacy](#)” (see more examples [here](#) and [here](#)).

Anti-vaccine activists and conspiracy theorists have been engaging with the story of Canadian citizen Patrick King, who claimed winning a court case that proves COVID does not exist. [On the Stew Peters Show](#), he said the court was unable to prove that COVID exists and therefore mask wearing, vaccines and lockdowns are irrelevant. He also said that his 17-year-old son got the vaccine and it “killed him.” His interview was shared widely on social media (see [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#)).

The AP [has fact-checked](#) social media posts misrepresenting Pfizer data on vaccine efficacy.

Conspiracy theorists on fringe groups are still pushing the narrative that COVID cases are high among the vaccinated. In new posts on Reddit’s conspiracy forum, they are sharing screenshots of data from [Iceland](#) and [Gibraltar](#) to suggest that vaccines are not working. PolitiFact [has debunked](#) narratives about vaccine efficacy.

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From: Editorial at Kinzen <digest@kinzen.news>

Sent: 06 August 2021 16:01

Subject: Disinformation Digest: Friday, August 6



Friday, August 6

See below some of the prominent slogans, dog whistles or hashtags used by the **anti-vaccine community** across multiple platforms in recent days:

#TheChoiceShouldBeYours

#SaveTheCarers

#BoycottYelp

#SideEffects

THE IRISH OUTLOOK

PRIORITY

The political furore sparked by Katherine Zappone's gathering in the Merrion Hotel is being seized upon by anti-lockdown activists as evidence that there is one rule for politicians and another for everybody else ([1](#), [2](#), [3](#), [4](#), [5](#), [6](#), [7](#), [8](#), [9](#)). Some commentators suggest that the enforcement of any [rules](#) is now [pointless](#) and should be [ignored](#). Others are using the firestorm to [cast doubt](#) on the need for restrictions, and on the reliability of government agencies regarding the [vaccination](#) programme.

However today the government issued new [directives](#) allowing for live music and 200 attendees at outdoor events.

In a related matter, some activists are [cheering on](#) Kerry TD Danny Healy Rae after he allegedly [broke](#) the hospitality rules in his pub in Kilgarvan.

Meanwhile, an anti-lockdown, anti-vaccine group is running a series of Stories on [Instagram](#) listing cafes, bars and restaurants in Ireland which are allegedly "not discriminating" - ie, not requiring proof of vaccination for indoor dining.

News of a surge in COVID cases in [Israel](#) - the original poster-child for mass inoculation - is being highlighted by Irish anti-vaccine activists as proof that the [shots](#) don't [work](#).

Other [organisations](#) and [individuals](#) are posting about [vaccinated](#) people becoming [infected](#).

TRENDS

Two Dublin protests are still being promoted; [one](#) to take place tomorrow

August 7th and [another](#) on Saturday August 18th, though both have gained only limited traction so far. However it is worth noting that a [Facebook](#) post by Angela Ray highlighting tomorrow's protest against NPHEt is captioned 'Don't bring the children'. As mentioned in yesterday's digest she is [advocating](#) the occupation of government buildings.

Some anti-lockdown groups are promoting this ['festival'](#) on August 14th in County Meath.

The roll-out of the vaccination programme for 12- to 15-year-olds continues to provoke angry responses among anti-vaccine activists ([1](#), [2](#), [3](#), [4](#), [5](#), [6](#))

MONITORING

Yellow Vest Ireland posted a conspiracy theory linking motor accidents to vaccinated people having strokes behind the wheel - this ['vaccidents'](#) narrative is widespread among anti-vaccine groups in the US.

An open letter written by a Wexford-based GP, Dr. William Ralph, to Minister Donnelly, which was published in the [Irish Medical Times](#), in which he alleges a "worrying and sinister attempt to block the use of Ivermectin in the prevention or treatment of SARS-CoV2 infections", is receiving some [attention](#) on Twitter.

High profile anti-vaccine activist Ivor Cummins was [interviewed](#) on Galway Bay FM yesterday; the interview has almost 20,000 views on [YouTube](#) so far.

THE GLOBAL OUTLOOK

Yelp became the target of anti-vaccine activists after it [announced](#) it would give users the ability to filter their search by businesses that have had staff vaccinations. #BoycottYelp was one of the hashtags [used](#).

Marjorie Taylor Greene recently [referred](#) to using her "Second Amendment rights" when door-to-door vaccinators come calling on her. Hints of violence

directed at these workers, who are part of an information campaign, have been documented before.

In the UK, The Daily Expose has been [developing](#) the “No Jab, No Job” story by pushing hashtags like #SaveTheCarers and #CareForCarers. The UK recently introduced mandatory vaccination policies for care home workers.

An article [published](#) by Natural News claims that the unvaccinated are “treated worse than Blacks in the Jim Crow era”. We’ve regularly documented the parallels made to racism in recent weeks regarding the restrictions for unvaccinated people.

Some posts on various platforms [claim](#) there are legitimate comparisons between COVID and diseases such as AIDS, chlamydia and Ebola. This would mean there is no need for lockdowns or restrictions. Reuters [debunked](#) the comparison.

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From: Editorial at Kinzen <digest@kinzen.news>

Sent: 09 August 2021 15:27

Subject: Disinformation Digest: Monday, August 9



Monday, August 9

See below some of the prominent slogans, dog whistles or hashtags used by the **anti-vaccine community** across multiple platforms in recent days:

#ObamaVariant

#NoGreenPass

#ClotShot

#Convid1984

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THE IRISH OUTLOOK

PRIORITY

A [video](#) showing an anti-vaccine activist lie his way into a vaccine centre has been widely viewed and shared on social media. The video, released by the [FreePress.ie](#), shows a man who falsely identifies himself as a member of the Taoiseach's media team who is at Punchestown ahead of a supposed impromptu media appearance by Micheál Martin.

Throughout the video, Mike makes a number of references to far-right and anti-vaccine narratives. At one point he tells a group of people who had received their vaccine that they are unable to ask questions of the Taoiseach about Cervical Check, the Children's Hospital, or elderly people on hospital trolleys. He also refers to the vaccines as "experimental" twice.

The [original video](#) has been viewed more than 28,000 times, though has very little in it that most audiences would find improper (other than the fact that an anti-vaccine activist used deception to film inside a vaccination centre).

However, according to the [writeup](#) on [FreePress.ie](#), it is scandalous that no one calls the activist out for saying that vaccines are experimental, and that the centre is not very busy. The writeup and onscreen text in the video also claim that the activist was unmasked throughout the visit, though there is no evidence for this.

[Clips from the video](#) showing the undercover activist talking to vaccine recipients have been shared without context on social media more than 26,000 times, with captions suggesting that the activist is a real spokesperson telling people not to ask questions.

FreePress.ie has been mentioned a number of times in previous newsletters for spreading misinformation about the vaccine. They also [advocated for a military coup](#).

TRENDS

[Fringe activists](#) are calling on Irish people to burn their vaccine certs, echoing

videos of a protest in Italy.

Mayo News reported that a Councillor “was left in severe pain” due to a vaccine reaction. [Screenshots](#) of the article have been spread online.

Calls for an Irish soldier to resign have been spread in fringe communities after screenshots were spread supposedly showing his Facebook comments advocating that unvaccinated people should be put in a camp ([1](#), [2](#), [3](#), [4](#)) [A petition](#) for his removal has garnered more than 480 signatures.

THE GLOBAL OUTLOOK

There is outrage within the anti-vaccine, anti-mask and COVID denialist communities as footage emerged from Barack Obama’s 60th birthday party event. See leaked video [here](#). The hashtag #ObamaVariant was promoted by these groups, however it has also been used by people defending Obama. On Facebook, a very highly engaged [post](#) from Candace Owens said that the party “is a reminder to us all that they are our rulers and we are their peasants.”

Owens had another highly [viral post](#), which is the most engaged Facebook post in the last 24 hours to mention the word “vaccine”, in which she declared she wasn’t getting vaccinated. She said she was proud to be “standing firm against the bribery, media propaganda, coercion, celebrity-peer pressure campaign, plus censorship... I trust my gut much more than [sic] trust Dr. Fauci.”

Sidney Powell is [promoting](#) a protest on August 11 called Walk Out Wednesday, where people who have “legitimate concerns” about vaccines will walk out of their place of employment if they are being forced to get vaccinated.

A narrative gained traction in recent days that the Pfizer CEO cancelled a trip to Israel because he had not taken the vaccine. Actually, he already had his second vaccine back in March. [Reuters](#) and [AP](#) fact-checked the story, providing more details. Newsmax reporter Emerald Robinson [posted](#) the false

story and got over 12,000 retweets; her [correction](#) only got 500 retweets.

There were big protests in France and Italy over the weekend against vaccine passes. See footage of firefighters leading protests in Marseille [here](#).

Comedian Trevor Moore [died](#) in an accident on Friday. No details have been released about the accident, but on Reddit's conspiracy forum, users [debated](#) the reason for his death. They cited a recent tweet where Moore spoke about how governments orchestrate events to control their populations through fear.

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From: Editorial at Kinzen <digest@kinzen.news>

Sent: 10 August 2021 14:07

Subject: Disinformation Digest: Tuesday, August 10



Tuesday, August 10

See below some of the prominent slogans, dog whistles or hashtags used by the **anti-vaccine community** across multiple platforms in recent days:

#ScaredVaccinated

#PoliceState

#VaccinePassports

#MyBodyMyChoice

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THE IRISH OUTLOOK

PRIORITY

Videos made by regular spreader of COVID-19 misinformation Ben Gilroy suggest that Pfizer bribed the HSE to roll out their vaccine ([1](#), [2](#), [3](#)). The video makes note of a gift of €250,000 to the HSE registered on [TransferOfValue.ie](https://www.transferofvalue.ie). Gilroy says that grants to government bodies are illegal (though in support of this [he cites](#) anti-bribery legislation that require undue influence or favours to be applicable).

Gilroy asks “Could it be a deal to get the vaccine into the children? As a

sweetener?”. He goes on to suggest Pfizer gave the money as an incentive to “get their product into young people’s arms”.

Gilroy asks that people spread his videos (which [fringe commentators](#) have) and that they contact their political representatives about the issue.

Gilroy had previously claimed that COVID cases were inflated, that vaccines had killed large numbers of people, and that public health restrictions were illegal.

TRENDS

Diarmaid Ó Cadhla, who is organising protests against businesses around Cork City that require vaccine certs, is claiming that a healthcare whistleblower contacted him. [Ó Cadhla says](#) he was told that more than 100 people were reporting to Cork University Hospital daily due to adverse vaccine reactions, mostly due to the Johnson & Johnson vaccine.

[TheLiberal.ie](#) has adopted a notably more anti-vaccine stance. Recent articles include [a piece](#) mocking security measures for the Taoiseach during anti-vaccine protests; [a piece](#) saying that the number of vaccinated people contracting COVID is “concerning”; and sympathetic [coverage](#) of activists who followed Paschal Donohoe down a street as they called him a murderer (the incident was mentioned in August 5’s newsletter).

A particularly egregious example is [an article](#) titled: “Covid-19: New study suggests that current coronavirus vaccines might not be effective against the Delta variant, and that both vaccinated and unvaccinated people transmit the virus with equal ease”. The three-sentence article gives no source for this claim, though it says it is backed up by the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (Mainstream news and medical authority reports say that the vaccines are effective against the Delta variant, and preliminary evidence shows that they reduce spread of COVID-19).

The article was shared on [TheLiberal.ie's Facebook page](#).

MONITORING

Irish doctor Vincent Carroll has released [a video](#) saying that Ivermectin is an effective treatment against COVID but has been suppressed. While enthusiastically spread by [fringe figures](#), the video has only garnered about 2,270 views so far.

THE GLOBAL OUTLOOK

The biggest story being discussed on anti-vaccine groups and conspiracy theory forums in the US is a viral video from a Mt. Vernon school board meeting in Indiana. During the meeting, Dr. Dan Stock made a number of baseless claims about vaccines. The viral video has been shared widely on social media and fringe groups (see [here](#), [here](#), [here](#), [here](#), [here](#), [here](#), [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#)). Some medical experts and activists responded to Stock's remarks (see [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#)).

On his influential show, Joe Rogan [said](#) vaccine passports move the US "closer to dictatorship." [A clip from the podcast](#) has been shared and viewed millions of times on social media. [Ted Cruz](#) and [Donald Trump Jr](#) praised Rogan for his comments.

Trump supporters and anti-vaccine activists [rallied against the vaccine mandate](#) at City Hall in New York City. Activists on MAGA messaging boards shared [a clip from the protest](#) which depicts mayor Bill de Blasio holding the decapitated head of Lady Liberty "ISIS-style." Protesters chanted a number of anti-vaccine slogans including "my body, my choice."

In a viral [video](#), Senator Rand Paul called for people to resist COVID guidelines. "It's time for us to resist. They can't arrest all of us," Paul said. His video has been circulated by MAGA and QAnon supporters (see [here](#), [here](#) and

[here](#)). False claims about Paul getting the vaccine emerged after the senator shared his video on social media. [Reuters](#) and the [AP](#) have debunked the false claims.

The AP [reported](#) on how anti-vaccine college students were cheating the system by getting fake vaccine cards.

Anti-vaccine activists [have reacted with anger](#) to a [viral video](#) showing French police patrolling coffee shops to check vaccine passess.

More than 100 anti-vaccine protesters attempted to storm an old BBC studio television center in London. According to [UK media](#), the protests were organised by an anti-vaccine group called Official Voice. Videos and photos of the protests have been shared widely on social media (see [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#)).

QAnon and MAGA supporters have been praising Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis for moving to withhold the salaries of superintendents and school board members who disregard the mask mandates in school districts (see [here](#) and [here](#)).

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From: Editorial at Kinzen <digest@kinzen.news>

Sent: 11 August 2021 14:14

Subject: Disinformation Digest: Wednesday, August 11



Wednesday, August 11

See below some of the prominent slogans, dog whistles or hashtags used by the **anti-vaccine community** across multiple platforms in recent days:

#NoVaccinePassportsAnywhere

#NaturalImmunityExists

#FreeYourFace

#WeWillNeverComply

THE IRISH OUTLOOK

PRIORITY

A new edition of the anti-vaccine conspiracy theorist “truthpaper” The Irish Light has been printed and is being distributed ([1](#), [2](#), [3](#)). Its front page story, by John Waters, reads: “Catholics say NO to killer jab”.

Its page-two story is headlined: “HSE gave ‘Death Row’ sedative to ‘COVID’ patient”. It appears to be written by [Gript.ie author](#) Tom Prendeville.

The freesheet is often distributed at fringe protests, as well as being given out to passersby on some Dublin City streets.

TRENDS

[A new episode](#) of The Healthy Debate focuses on parents’ concerns about “the masking and injecting of their children” and features known anti-mask and anti-vaccine activists as guests. The episode promotes the TeenHeard campaign, which has appeared in previous newsletters (April 7, 9 and 27) for spreading misinformation about masks causing permanent brain damage and arranging letter writing campaigns to schools.

The video has been commented on almost 600 times, with [some](#) alleging that vaccines have killed children in Ireland.

[A news story](#) by RSVP Live entitled: “Dublin woman hesitant to get the Covid-19 vaccine due to fertility concerns but is not an 'anti-vaxxer'”, has been spread by fringe accounts ([1](#), [2](#)).

The story focuses on a woman who says that she has ongoing fertility issues and fears the vaccine would make these worse. The woman is quoted as

saying: “The official statements from the government when the vaccine first came out, there was all these T's and C's and you could read the full spec of it on their website. Basically it said, try not to get pregnant within six months of getting a vaccine [...] and to avoid breastfeeding.”

[A screenshot of the article](#) was liked more than 1,200 times on the anti-vaccine News For All Ireland Instagram page. Many comments under the post are supposedly from young women who say they also are avoiding the vaccine due to fertility concerns.

MONITORING

Anti-lockdown barrister Tracey O'Mahony [says she](#) will release a “template letter [...] that can be sent to GP's and schools in advance of the new school term, it will deal with one parent consent, mature minors and liability.”

[Claims](#) that people who enforce COVID restrictions in schools are “child abusers” have been spread by some Irish fringe personalities. Kinzen is monitoring to see how widespread this accusation becomes.

THE GLOBAL OUTLOOK

As Lithuania [plans to introduce](#) vaccine passes from mid-September, protesters gathered in front of the parliament demanding the government throw away the plans. Videos and photos of the protests [have been widely shared](#) by anti-vaccine groups and activists including the UK far-right activist [Tommy Robinson](#).

On his InfoWars show, Alex Jones spread conspiracy theories and [claimed](#) that he obtained official documents about a CDC plan. He claimed that CDC's plan was to enlist a domestic civilian force to target and lock up healthy people in forced labour camps.

Last week, Kinzen reported on the Canadian citizen Patrick King, who claimed

winning a court case proved COVID was a hoax. Snopes [has fact-checked](#) King's claims.

YouTube suspended Rand Paul for a week over comments he made about COVID guidelines and the effectiveness of mask-wearing. Paul [fired back](#) and described the YouTube ban as “a badge of honor.”

Fringe groups [are sharing](#) a sign put up by a local restaurant in Brooklyn, New York that reads “We do not discriminate against any customer based on sex, gender, race, creed, age, vaccinated or unvaccinated.” Activists are encouraging other restaurants to follow suit.

Anti-vaccine groups on Facebook [are asking](#) people who are refused service based on their personal vaccine status to share their experiences and [file business complaints](#).

There has been a significant engagement with [a video](#) shared by Ron Paul suggesting that COVID cases are increasing for Jewish Israelis, but not for Palestinians although Israelis are “heavily” vaccinated.

Anti-vaccine activists, including [Robert Malone](#), have been sharing [an article claiming](#) that the “Delta variant is far less deadly than previous versions of SARS-CoV-2.”

Social media users have been tricked into believing that a satire website is real. The satire website invites people to report the unvaccinated in return for money (see examples [here](#) and [here](#)). Reuters [has debunked](#) the story.

The viral video we mentioned yesterday from the Mt. Vernon school board meeting is still getting big engagement from anti-vaccine activists.

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From: Editorial at Kinzen <digest@kinzen.news>

Sent: 12 August 2021 14:19

Subject: Disinformation Digest: Thursday, August 12



Thursday, August 12

See below some of the prominent slogans, dog whistles or hashtags used by the **anti-vaccine community** across multiple platforms in recent days:

#DoNotComply

#WeAreMoreThanThe12

#NoVaccinePassports

#SchoolBoardWars

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THE IRISH OUTLOOK

PRIORITY

With the vaccine registration portal now [open](#) for 12 to 15 year olds, anti-vaccine activists are [urging parents](#) not to participate in the rollout, with many focussing on the rare side-effects linked to the various shots ([1](#), [2](#), [3](#), [4](#), [5](#)).

A Facebook [group](#) called Lawyers for Justice Ireland has posted a [downloadable form](#) which parents can use to lodge objections with schools to their child being vaccinated.

One group continues to [promote](#) a protest against vaccinating children outside the Department of Education next Tuesday, August 18th.

Meanwhile, [activists](#) remain on high alert for any sign that vaccines will be made mandatory in schools and colleges, with Professor Tomás Ryan [stirring anger](#) with his call for mandatory vaccinations at third level.

A letter from the HSE confirming that agency staff are required to be vaccinated has sparked widespread hostility ([1](#), [2](#), [3](#), [4](#)) with one [tweet](#) describing it as “blackmail and extortion”.

Reports that [visiting restrictions](#) will remain in place at the Rotunda hospital until vaccination levels rise has also been [met](#) with a [negative reaction](#). A thread by editor of [TheJournal.ie](#) Sinead O'Carroll, who is pregnant, [highlights](#) her experience of inadequacies in the health services' vaccine information campaign for pregnant women.

TRENDS

A [Reuters](#) story that three new side-effects associated with mRNA shots are being investigated is being circulated widely by activists and fringe media ([1](#), [2](#), [3](#), [4](#)).

Also receiving attention is the story in today's [Irish Independent](#) on plans to simultaneously administer a COVID booster [vaccine](#) and the annual [flu](#) shot.

A [retweet](#) from Ivor Cummins of a graph showing trends in North and South Dakota, which he claims proves masks and lockdowns don't work, is gaining traction.

A trio of videos are in circulation. Firstly, one from [conspiracy theorist](#) Dave Cullen, aka Computing Forever, on BitChute refers to the "COVID hoax" and states that "asymptomatic spread is nonsense."

Fringe Irish figure Andy Heasman [interviewed](#) an unnamed woman who claims to be a health worker in the south of Ireland and who alleges she suffered vaccine injury after receiving her first COVID vaccination. Heasman recommends "pine needle tea" and states "100 people a day" are being admitted into hospitals with vaccine injuries. So far, this video has attracted [little](#) attention.

Also, former journalist Aisling O'Loughlin [interviewed](#) Wexford GP Dr. Billy Walsh (he was flagged in the digest on August 6th after he wrote an open letter

to Minister Donnelly alleging the use of Ivermectin was being deliberately blocked). In the 4-minute interview for The Irish Inquiry, which ends suddenly mid-stream, Walsh describes high-profile anti-vaccine activist Dolores Cahill as a “noted scientist”.

“Vaccidents” - a conspiracy linking motor fatalities to vaccine-induced strokes in drivers (which was also discussed in the digest of August 6th) are being [discussed](#) in [several](#) anti-vaccine [groups](#) on Telegram. This narrative is focussing on a fatal crash in Cork, with an unnamed Bus Éireann driver alleging the driver involved in the crash had been unwell after receiving his two COVID shots.

MONITORING

One Cork-based far-right group is [“boycotting”](#) a Wetherspoons restaurant in Cork today in [protest](#) over vaccine certificates, while another anti-lockdown group claim that many hospitality venues have [abandoned](#) requesting vaccine passports from customers.

Conspiracy duo Gemma O’Doherty and John Waters are [unveiling](#) their plan to “free Ireland” tonight via livestream at 8pm.

THE GLOBAL OUTLOOK

The viral video of Dan Stock at the Mt Vernon school board meeting in Indiana continues to be circulated widely within the anti-vaccine community. This morning, a [thread](#) about how YouTube had “censored” the family doctor was trending near the top of Reddit’s conspiracy forum. [Politifact](#) and [Lead Stories](#) have fact-checked parts of his speech.

One of Stock’s claims is that vaccines are to blame for COVID variants. In his latest article, Joseph Mercola [boosts](#) that same narrative and promotes [this](#)

[YouTube video](#) from a user who has regularly spread vaccine misinformation in recent months.

[Candace Owens](#), [Natural News](#), and others have promoted false claims that the CDC suggested setting up “COVID internment camps” for people at high risk. CNN has a fact-check [here](#).

The top engaged Facebook [post](#) for the last 24 hours mentioning COVID and vaccines, according to Crowdtangle, is about the death of a vaccinated woman. Tracy Anderson was 48.

Arnold Schwarzenegger has incurred the wrath of anti-maskers after [saying](#) “Screw your freedom” in an interview. Infowars [said](#) his comments were “authoritarian”.

A new 10-part documentary series will be available online from August 30 called Vaccine Secrets: COVID Crisis. It includes interviews with Judy Mikovits, Christiane Northrup, Andrew Kaufman, Carrie Madej and Sherry Tenpenny. The creator is Jonathan Otto. See the website [here](#).

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From: Editorial at Kinzen <digest@kinzen.news>

Sent: 13 August 2021 15:02

Subject: Disinformation Digest: Friday, August 13



Friday, August 13

See below some of the prominent slogans, dog whistles or hashtags used by the **anti-vaccine community** across multiple platforms in recent days:

#MasksOff

#NewNormal

#NoVaccinePassports

#VaccineSideEffects

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THE IRISH OUTLOOK

PRIORITY

Dr Pierre Kory [appeared on Newstalk](#) this morning to promote the use of ivermectin as a cure for COVID-19. Kory is known for spreading misleading claims about research on ivermectin being suppressed and has appeared in this newsletter before (see June 24).

Kory, who claimed on Newstalk that ivermectin is a near-perfect prophylaxis for COVID-19, recently announced he had contracted COVID (about 12 minutes into [this video](#)).

TRENDS

[Fringe groups are claiming](#) that [Clinical24](#), a medical staffing agency, are employing unvaccinated staff and not enforcing the HSE guidelines. Anti-vaccine healthcare workers were encouraged to contact them to arrange work.

Fringe publications TheLiberal.ie and Gript.ie have both focussed on [news](#) that EU regulators are investigating additional side effects of the mRNA vaccine. While Gript.ie gave a fairly [standard writeup](#) (though included grisly images of one of the possible skin conditions), [TheLiberal.ie](#) described the possible side-effects as “serious” and “severe”. (None of the conditions being investigated — erythema multiforme, glomerulonephritis, and nephrotic syndrome — are life-threatening.)

Other stories from the Liberal.ie in the last day insisted that death reports are of people who “[have died WITH, not of, Covid-19](#)”, and described a COVID outbreak on a cruise ship where the passengers were vaccinated as [shocking](#). ([ABC reported](#) that 27 cases were recorded on the ship that is carrying about 4,400 passengers and crew members. All “had mild or no symptoms”.)

A tweet by Paul Reid about registering children aged 12-15 for vaccinations has had a large number of [negative reactions](#). Two of the most popular were from

[Ivor Cummins](#), who claims that there are risks but no benefit to vaccinating children; and a UK anti-vaccine account (supposedly owned by [a real doctor](#)) asking: "[I'm not sure how you sleep at night?](#)"

A [new video](#) by Gemma O'Doherty and John Waters, previously touted as an unveiling of a plan to free Ireland, largely repeats previous talking points. The "plan", described in patches throughout a long, rambling video, appears to involve distributing leaflets and shopping in Irish-owned businesses. The pair also encourage people to preach their conspiracy theory narratives to people in churches. The pair claim that bishops have been paid off by Bill Gates and that Catholics are forbidden from taking COVID vaccines.

They also claimed that a number of mothers were killed by vaccines in Co Tipperary; that all deaths now are due to vaccines or midazolam overdoses; and that they had nothing to do with a [news story](#) involving fraudulent legal letters being sent to businesses in Waterford (the letter template is still [available to download](#) from O'Doherty's website).

MONITORING

A [new draft letter](#) directed toward schools forbidding children from being vaccinated is being spread in fringe groups. A similar letter by Lawyers for Justice featured in yesterday's newsletter.

THE GLOBAL OUTLOOK

An Australian journalist has been the subject of [trolling](#) by anti-vaccine activists since she [posted](#) online about developing a rare heart inflammation following a Pfizer vaccine. Georgia Clark continued to publicly support vaccines while she was hospitalised, and has now been [discharged](#).

Meanwhile Children's Health Defense is [promoting](#) claims that heart inflammation is more common than the CDC admits.

A focus of the anti-vaccine community this week has been the Mt Vernon school board meeting in Indiana. Yet another video of a school board meeting is also [going viral](#), this time from Nashville. The speaker's name is Matt Walsh. He spoke about the meeting on his popular [YouTube channel](#).

Reuters produced a [fact-check](#) on the Indiana viral video, which featured Dr Dan Stock. See previous newsletters this week for more.

Dr Pierre Kory has regularly claimed that Ivermectin is a prophylaxis for COVID. He recently announced he had contracted COVID (about 12 minutes into [this video](#)).

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From: Editorial at Kinzen <digest@kinzen.news>

Sent: 16 August 2021 14:23

Subject: Disinformation Digest: Monday, August 16



Monday, August 16

See below some of the prominent slogans, dog whistles or hashtags used by the **anti-vaccine community** across multiple platforms in recent days:

#JustSayNo

#NoGreenPass

#UnitedNonCompliance

#MassRecall

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THE IRISH OUTLOOK

PRIORITY

[Interest in ivermectin](#), an unproven treatment that many adherents say makes vaccines redundant, has surged over the weekend. Most of the people promoting the drug directly reference one of its most prominent advocates,

Pierre Kory, appearing on Newstalk, as described in Friday's newsletter (examples: [1](#), [2](#), [3](#), [4](#), [5](#), [6](#), [7](#), [8](#), [9](#), [10](#)).

TRENDS

A new video by Tracey O'Mahony on returning to schools argues against COVID safety restrictions. She says that schools do not have a right to ask if a child has been vaccinated, or to test them for COVID. The video has been viewed more than 11,000 times across various platforms ([1](#), [2](#), [3](#)).

O'Mahony has also released [a folder of template letters](#) for parents objecting to vaccines, testing, taking temperatures, etc.

A rally featuring children chanting about similar topics was held this weekend at Miesian Plaza. [Videos](#) indicate a few dozen protesters attended.

Claims that children cannot get sick from COVID but can suffer vaccine side effects continue to spread in [fringe communities](#). Marcus De Brun [has said](#) that most children in Ireland have already been exposed to SARS-CoV-2, and so are likely to already have a natural immunity.

[A Telegram group](#) for teachers and education workers is rife with unverifiable claims about children becoming sick due to vaccines.

[Similar claims](#) continue to be spread about large numbers of vaccine reaction sufferers being treated by Cork University Hospital (CUH), and that these reports are being covered up and are not being passed on to the government. Reuters has researched this narrative, but have not been able to get a sufficient statement from CUH to write a fact check.

TheLiberal.ie continues to [push stories](#) about possible rare side effects from mRNA vaccines, despite no new information coming to light.

MONITORING

A new Iconoclast round table discussion video is [due to be released](#) tomorrow. The video is likely to spread harmful misinformation and could be spread widely.

Kinzen is monitoring to see if [comparisons](#) between vaccinating children and the use of thalidomide gain traction, as they previously have overseas.

THE GLOBAL OUTLOOK

Over the weekend [a large crowd of protesters filled](#) the Oklahoma Capitol for a rally against mask-mandates and COVID vaccines. Meanwhile, in Los Angeles [an anti-vaccine protest](#) turned violent in front of City Hall. Local reports [said](#) that one man was stabbed and a journalist was attacked.

Thousands of protesters marched through the streets of Montreal against the Quebec government's decision on vaccine passports. In the protest, anti-vaccine and conspiracy theorist Chris Sky said there is "[no political solution](#)", a possible incitement to violence. Videos and photos of the protests have been widely shared by anti-vaccine groups (see [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#)).

QAnon and anti-vaccine groups [are suggesting](#) the need for a COVID Symposium similar to Mike Lindell's Cyber Symposium last week.

A video claiming to show a man having a QR scan code after taking the vaccine has been shared on social media and anti-vaccine groups (see [here](#) and [here](#)).

One of [the most popular posts on Reddit's conspiracy forum](#) discussed reports on the surge in COVID cases in Iceland despite vaccination uptake.

On Bitchute, anti-vaccine influencers Ramola D and Ariyana Love [discussed](#) the claim that vaccines contains "Graphene Oxide", which fringe groups claim is poisonous and integrates with 5G

Anti-vaccine groups [have been circulating](#) an [animated video](#) featuring false claims and conspiracy theories against the vaccines.

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From: Editorial at Kinzen <digest@kinzen.news>

Sent: 17 August 2021 14:20

Subject: Disinformation Digest: Tuesday, August 17



Tuesday, August 17

See below some of the prominent slogans, dog whistles or hashtags used by the **anti-vaccine community** across multiple platforms in recent days:

#IvermectinWorks

#CovidHoax

#CovidVaccineVictims

#VaxxedAndMasked

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THE IRISH OUTLOOK

TRENDS

Dr Marcus De Brun has posted a series of tweets advocating for people not to let themselves or their children be vaccinated. The [most popular recent tweet](#) repeats a now-old narrative that the vaccines against COVID, which use RNA or DNA technology, aren't like other vaccines at all. He also makes [the argument](#) that people cannot provide informed consent to the vaccines, as the people administering them don't know what's in them.

Gript.ie has [taken up the story](#) about pharmaceutical companies paying healthcare workers and organisations in Ireland in 2020. While Gript.ie doesn't make any insinuations that these transfers have affected the vaccine rollout, [its followers have](#).

[A segment](#) on The Pat Kenny Show yesterday gave some balance to their recent, uncritical coverage of ivermectin as a treatment for COVID. Professor Luke O'Neill outlined the scientific consensus on the drug: we don't know if it's

effective; a lot of the trials were bad.

Fringe commentators, prompted by news from Afghanistan, have been recently [using the Taliban](#) as a go-to comparison for NPHET and the government (though, as always, [Nazi references](#) continue to be popular in these groups).

A fringe figure who previously claimed to have sued the HSE over the treatment of her father in a nursing home (see March 24's newsletter), has [put out a call](#) for "those that have been subjected to threat & abuse by the Irish medical system regarding the nature of Death of their loved ones" to contact her.

[A tweet](#) by Paul Reid about hospitalisation rates has attracted sundry criticisms about vaccines and restrictions, often from known fringe characters. A broad theme for many of them is that the figures presented are misleading — either because it confuses people in hospital "from COVID" with people in hospital who coincidentally happen to "have COVID", or because they say COVID is seasonal and the tweet compares current hospitalization rates with those in January.

MONITORING

The new Iconoclast round table discussion video is set to be released tonight. [According to its maker](#), it will feature Dr Gerard Waters, Dr Marcus De Brun, investor Graham Neary, barrister Tracey O'Mahony, and wellness personality Ivor Cummins [discussing](#) "Vaccines, Passports, Nursing Homes, Criminality and Solutions"

[A protest](#) by vaccine skeptics is planned for the Department of Education tomorrow. Interest online has been underwhelming; large crowds are not expected.

[A further demonstration](#) against vaccine passes is planned on MacCurtain Street in Cork City tomorrow.

THE GLOBAL OUTLOOK

America's Frontline Doctors [used](#) the song "We Are The World" to demonstrate against mask-wearing. Participants, including children, took off their masks and burned them in a fire. The video was shared on social media including [Facebook](#) and TikTok.

One of the most engaged posts on Reddit's conspiracy forum today discusses vaccine passports in New York City. A post with more than 1,000 comments [discussed](#) vaccine passes in the city. Another one with hundreds of comments [compared](#) vaccine passports to apartheid.

Fringe groups are [still promoting](#) ivermectin as a cure for COVID and pushing the [theories](#) about it. A QAnon user [claimed](#) that their sister was "dying" and that the hospital refused to give her ivermectin.

PolitiFact [has fact-checked](#) Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis' narrative against mask-wearing in schools.

The Washington Standard [reported](#) that Southwest flight attendant Maurice Reggie Shepperson died of COVID despite being "fully vaccinated."

Last week, Kinzen reported on misleading claims comparing COVID cases between Israelis and Palestinians. Reuters [has fact-checked](#) the claims.

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From: Editorial at Kinzen <digest@kinzen.news>

Sent: 18 August 2021 14:13

Subject: Disinformation Digest: Wednesday, August 18



Wednesday, August 18

See below some of the prominent slogans, dog whistles or hashtags used by the **anti-vaccine community** across multiple platforms in recent days:

#CoercionIsNotConsent

#CovidCoverUp

#StopTheMandates

#CDCisBigPharma

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THE IRISH OUTLOOK

PRIORITY

[A warrant](#) has been issued in the UK for the arrest of major spreader of misinformation Dolores Cahill. The UCD professor is one of the most prominent anti-vaccine campaigners in the world and appears to be the origin of numerous narratives around vaccines being deadly or harmful. The warrant was issued for a “failure to answer bail” after she was charged for giving an anti-vaccine speech at a London rally during COVID restrictions last September.

TRENDS

A new Iconoclast round table discussion video featuring leading spreaders of misinformation was released yesterday. The video includes claims that the government has lied about the number of COVID deaths in Ireland, that lockdowns are more dangerous than the disease, that Ireland is sliding toward totalitarianism, and that the government fatally mismanaged nursing homes near the start of the crisis. It also claims that vaccines don't stop transmission and repeats debunked information on the number of Swedish excess deaths in 2020. Dr Gerard Waters suggests that COVID vaccines cause infertility or cancer. It has been viewed about 15,000 times on [YouTube](#) and [Facebook](#).

The term “ivermectin” was trending on Irish Twitter today, with over 16,500 relevant tweets detected (though many of these are not from Ireland, and many were arguing that there was no proof that ivermectin was an effective treatment). Some of the [Irish tweets](#) about ivermectin were in response to Pierre Kory's endorsement of ivermectin, and Luke O'Neill's subsequent

rebuttal, both aired on Newstalk.

[A headline in The Irish Independent](#) has been spread in fringe communities: “Government to defy WHO advice and begin rollout of booster shots” ([1](#), [2](#), [3](#), [4](#)).

MONITORING

The website of INFOTO, an anti-vaccine group claiming to be made of nurses and healthcare workers, now contains supposed nurse testimonials. These anonymous testimonies claim that vaccines were witnessed without consent, that COVID case numbers were inflated, and that vaccine injuries were covered up.

Complaints that there is no consensus that vaccine boosters will work have been expressed online ([1](#), [2](#), [3](#)).

THE GLOBAL OUTLOOK

Emotions ran high at the San Diego County Board of Supervisors meeting, with Matt Baker from Ocean Beach [decrying](#) masks, vaccines and COVID passes. [A video of Baker’s speech](#) at the meeting is going viral and has been watched over a million times. He accused the board of violating the Nuremberg Code and attacked Anthony Fauci.

Anti-vaccine activists have been recently comparing COVID with fast food and obesity. One activist on Reddit [claimed](#) that fast food kills more people than COVID. Another one suggested the need for “[fat passports](#)” to help fight obesity. Fringe groups have been sharing [a tweet](#) by the musician ZUBY where he spread similar rhetoric.

Vernon Coleman, an anti-vaccine influencer, [praised](#) a caller who lied to BBC researchers and managed to get on the Jeremy Vine Show to spread anti-vaccine narratives. [An audio clip of the exchange](#) has got significant

interaction.

Michael Flynn shared an article from Revolver [claiming](#) that a US officer warned of a full-blown national security threat if the military moves ahead with the vaccination mandate.

Alex Jones is [tirelessly promoting the conspiracy theory](#) that quarantine camps were built to imprison healthy people who refused COVID vaccines.

Anti-vaccine groups have been [criticizing](#) New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern for imposing a nationwide lockdown over one COVID case.

Some activists on Reddit's conspiracy forum [have been promoting](#) the theory that COVID vaccine rollout targets the "first world" in particular as part of a depopulation agenda.

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From: Editorial at Kinzen <digest@kinzen.news>

Sent: 19 August 2021 14:48

Subject: Disinformation Digest: Thursday, August 19



Thursday, August 19

See below some of the prominent slogans, dog whistles or hashtags used by the **anti-vaccine community** across multiple platforms in recent days:

#FreedomFight2021

#TheChoiceShouldBeYours

#ThrowTheTyrantsOut

#UnmaskOurChildren

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THE IRISH OUTLOOK

PRIORITY

The [sudden death](#) of 23-year old Waterford footballer Roy Butler has gone viral ([1](#), [2](#), [3](#), [4](#), [5](#), [6](#), [7](#)) across anti-vaccine communities following posts by two of his relatives, a cousin Vera McDonald and an aunt [Marian Harte](#) who separately alleged he died as a result of receiving the Janssen shot.

Although the original post from Ms McDonald is no longer on Facebook, it is still [circulating](#) on [other](#) social media platforms. [Both women](#) appear to hold anti-vaccine views.

Mr Butler's death is being linked by some to the decision by the HSE to cease purchasing the AstraZeneca and Janssen vaccines ([1](#), [2](#), [3](#), [4](#)), with fringe activist Marcus de Brun hinting the move is a [victory](#) for anti-vaccine medics.

The tragedy has been picked up by high-profile anti-vaccine figure [Eileen Iorio](#) who claims she has been [in contact with](#) Vera McDonald, "who wants this information known."

A call by a [parent's group](#) for children's masks to be made mandatory in classrooms next term has been met with considerable resistance ([1](#), [2](#), [3](#), [4](#)). Confusingly, both camps are using the hashtag #ROAR on Twitter. Some activists are [highlighting](#) that the parents' group is [backed by ISAG](#) with former TD Ruth Coppinger [drawing fire](#) on Facebook for supporting ISAG.

Also, today ISAG has [criticised](#) the proposed measures for primary schools as "inadequate and outdated."

The [pushback](#) against vaccinating children continues. Former mainstream economist Eddie Hobbs conducted a [Twitter poll](#) which unsurprisingly was heavily against it.

TRENDS

The anti-vaccine group INTFO, purporting to be comprised of nurses and

healthcare workers (mentioned in yesterday's digest), has [written a letter](#) to politicians seeking clarification on various issues including the safety of the COVID vaccines for children, and on the "continued denial" of Ivermectin as a treatment. The group now has a spokesperson, Paddy Hennessy, but provides no contact details for him.

There has been a muted reaction so far to the news that a [warrant](#) has been issued in the UK for the arrest of vaccine disinformation super-spreader Dolores Cahill, although some [well-known activists](#) have [signalled](#) their [solidarity](#).

MONITORING

Reports that any further [easing of restrictions](#) is to be postponed has sparked a negative reaction from both [anti-lockdown commentators](#) and also from others, with this [thread](#) from Steve Wall, singer with The Stunning, gaining some traction.

A [news story](#) on next month's Fine Gael 'think-in' is attracting some interest among [anti-lockdown activists](#). Kinzen will monitor coverage for indications the event may become the focus of protests.

THE GLOBAL OUTLOOK

A common theme that emerged in recent days as the Taliban took Kabul has been that COVID is not running rampant there, and so it must be an exaggerated or fake disease. Similar claims are being made about lack of vaccines there. For example, this was the theme of a [leading post](#) on a MAGA forum this morning.

The announcement by US health officials that booster shots are coming soon has been met with derision by some anti-vaccine activists. In an [interview](#) with Fox, Donald Trump called it "a money-making operation for Pfizer". Candace Owens [echoed](#) the point.

In Australia, the New South Wales Customer Service Minister Victor Dominello recently spoke at a press conference but viewers spotted one of his eyes was “droopy”. He later confirmed [on LinkedIn](#) that he had been diagnosed with Bell’s palsy. On Reddit’s conspiracy forum, users [suggested](#) he developed the issue because of a vaccination, and that he was an example of how dangerous vaccines are. The cause for Dominello’s Bell’s palsy hasn’t been made public.

Haaretz [reported](#) that some anti-vaccine activists in Israel are setting up their own “vaccine-free” schools.

The claim that vaccinated people release dangerous spike proteins continues to be upheld by the anti-vaccine movement. For example, Natural News [posted](#) that a massive health care collapse is coming soon as widespread neurological damage will overwhelm hospitals.

Robert F Kennedy Jnr has a new book available to pre-order called The Real Anthony Fauci: Bill Gates, Big Pharma, and the Global War on Democracy and Public Health. He provided an overview of the arguments in the book on his [Children’s Health Defense website](#).

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From: Editorial at Kinzen <digest@kinzen.news>

Sent: 20 August 2021 15:13

Subject: Disinformation Digest: Friday, August 20



Friday, August 20

See below some of the prominent slogans, dog whistles or hashtags used by the **anti-vaccine community** across multiple platforms in recent days:

#Together

#NeverendingPandemic

#NoVaccinePassport

#Covid1984

THE IRISH OUTLOOK

TRANSPLANTS

Outrage has been expressed in fringe groups in reaction to a letter supposedly issued by Beaumont Hospital which says that organ transplants should no longer be carried out for unvaccinated patients. Photos of the letter have [been heavily promoted](#) by [fringe figures](#), particularly by Eddie Hobbs ([1](#), [2](#), [3](#)).

[Other tweets](#) name individual officials in the hospitals that they blame for the decision.

The story was covered in [Broadsheet.ie](#), which has [been noted](#) for increasingly embracing fringe and conspiracy theorist views.

The lack of coverage in larger outlets was seen as suspicious by some [Irish commentators](#), including [Eddie Hobbs](#). Though, as [one doctor argued](#), it is a non-story because “it’s both ethical and standard practice to impose conditions on transplant regarding modifiable risk factors that can effect outcomes” [sic].

One woman [wrote on Instagram](#) that she was told she would not be getting a kidney transplant because she was not vaccinated. “I feel betrayed by those who literally hold my life in their hands”, she said.

[A video](#) by the barrister Tracey O’Mahony in which she describes the letter as proof of “tyranny and medical apartheid” has been viewed more than 37,440 times since being posted on YouTube yesterday. She encourages viewers to write to their political representatives.

WATERFORD DEATH

Rumours about the death of 23-year old Waterford footballer Roy Butler

continue to spread in fringe communities, with commentators [repeating claims](#) that the death prompted the suspension of Janssen and deliveries, or attempting to tie the vaccine to [other](#) youth [deaths](#).

Fringe figures have also pivoted to focus on who is to [blame](#) for [Butler's death](#), suggesting that [the government](#) and [the media](#) have blood on their hands.

The story has been picked up by international [anti-vaccine figures](#).

Journalists covering the case have told Kinzen that no cause of death has been established (which tallies with social media posts from other family members), but that a pathologist has said that a death caused by a vaccine would be easily identified in a post mortem, the results of which are expected today.

THE GLOBAL OUTLOOK

In the US, anti-mask and anti-vaccine activists have targeted school board meetings in recent weeks, giving speeches ripe for sharing on social media. We've already documented some of this in the newsletter, and the trend is continuing. Brittany Mayer has had [millions of views](#) this week for her passionate speech at a recent San Diego County Board of Supervisors meeting. And Dr Sean Brooks in Ohio is being [similarly applauded](#). He claims that people who take COVID vaccines are "going to die in the next six months to three-five years." He bases his claims on Robert Malone.

Australia has become a key focus for anti-vaccine activists in recent days. An unverified [video](#) of a girl and her father is being shared with people saying it shows forced vaccinations on children in the country. Natural News [claimed](#) that Australia is running a "mass child sacrifice Luciferian vaccine ritual".

A TikTok user named Queen City Dom has gone [viral](#) this week for claiming that a COVID vaccine has left her severely injured. She has also posted similar videos to [Instagram](#). On her GoFundMe she has [raised](#) nearly \$20,000. Her

website is [here](#).

Yesterday we noted how Trump referred to booster shots as “a money-making operation for Pfizer”. On a QAnon forum, supporters are [hopeful](#) that Trump will turn more fully anti-vaccine.

Sebastian Gorka recently posted an [Instagram video](#) from a supposed ICU nurse who claimed Ivermectin is a treatment for COVID. Lead Stories [debunked](#) her claims.

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From: Editorial at Kinzen <digest@kinzen.news>

Sent: 23 August 2021 16:02

Subject: Disinformation Digest: Monday, August 23



Monday, August 23

See below some of the prominent slogans, dog whistles or hashtags used by the **anti-vaccine community** across multiple platforms in recent days:

#NoMoreLockdowns

#AustraliaHasFallen

#FreedomRally

#IStandWithTruckies

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THE IRISH OUTLOOK

WATERFORD DEATH

The death of Waterford man Roy Butler continued to dominate anti-vaccine discussions over the weekend ([1](#), [2](#), [3](#), [4](#), [5](#), [6](#), [7](#), [8](#)), as Butler's funeral was held. Influential spreader of COVID and vaccine misinformation Ben Gilroy [live streamed](#) scenes from the funeral. In the video Gilroy suggested that the vaccine had caused Butler's death and directly accused the government of being responsible, saying "Shame on all of you, you have blood on your hands." Gilroy also [tweeted at Paul Reid](#) to say: "Paul you left Roy Butler behind in a graveyard this morning in Waterford."

[Graffiti spotted](#) in Kilkenny City Centre reads “Roy Butler was a 23 year old from Waterford. He died of the vaccine. The media do not report how he died!!! Why not???”

The cause of Butler’s death has not been publicly announced and the rumor that his death was caused by vaccines originated in two named people who have long-expressed conspiracy theorist and anti-vaccine views.

Activists have also [been attempting](#) to [tie](#) Butler’s death to that of Nicole Cahill, a woman from the Enniscorthy area, who [died in March](#) following nearly life-long serious illnesses.

[A GoFundMe page](#) to help with the funeral arrangements for Roy Butler raised over €1,000. [Screenshots](#) supposedly show messages from Butler’s brother who said the family were not aware of the GoFundMe page.

An anti-vaccine demonstration to “Stand up for Roy” is planned for this Saturday at the Waterford Institute of Technology arena ([1](#), [2](#), [3](#)).

INFTO

INFTO, an anti-vaccine group claiming to be made of nurses and healthcare workers, has been gaining traction in fringe communities ([1](#), [2](#), [3](#), [4](#), [5](#), [6](#)) after uploading a “patient testimony” to their [webpage](#). It describes how a 44-year-old woman was hospitalised after receiving the vaccine. The anonymous writer claims she is on “a ward with almost 30 people and it appears half are here after the vaccine several with blood clots, a 16 year old with severe headaches and blacking out who had the first Pfizer a week ago. There are two 19 year old girls who have difficulty breathing and chest pain within days of vaccine.”
[sic]

The group also got a boost after being featured in [The Irish Independent](#), where they claimed they represented “300 nurses and healthcare professionals”. It is

[unclear](#) if it [represents any](#).

INFTO [claimed on Saturday](#) that some of its members met with the rural independents group, along with known spreader of misinformation Anna Kavanagh.

TRANSPLANTS

[News](#) that Beaumont Hospital has decided to withdraw a recommendation to remove unvaccinated patients from transplant lists has been interpreted as a victory by fringe figures ([1](#), [2](#), [3](#), [4](#), [5](#), [6](#)) who had previously expressed outrage over a leaked letter outlining the recommendation (see August 19's newsletter). Fringe publication TheLiberal.ie described the letter as being written by "[wannabe Mengeles](#)".

Conversely, [The Irish Examiner reports](#) that a former head of Ireland's National Transplant Unit, Dr David Hickey, has criticised Beaumont for rejecting the recommendation, saying the correct medical decision would be to suspend organ transplants in unvaccinated people.

THE GLOBAL OUTLOOK

As the FDA aims for full approval of the Pfizer vaccine today, anti-vaccine activists have already changed tactics (see [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#)). The Washington Standard [described](#) the FDA as "murderous." Conspiracy theorist Chris Sky [claimed](#) that this would lead to vaccine mandates.

The FDA [posted a viral tweet](#) advising people not to use ivermectin to treat or prevent COVID in response to reports that people have been trying the drug.

In Australia, anti-lockdown protests turned violent when hundreds of protesters clashed with the police in multiple cities nationwide. Reuters [reported](#) that some of these protests were organized by people in encrypted online chat groups. One of the [viral videos shows](#) a horse-mounted protester encouraging a crowd

in Queensland-New South Wales to defy the lockdown. Videos of the protests have been shared widely by anti-vaccine and far-right activists (see [here](#), [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#)).

Also in Australia, truck drivers said they were planning to shut down the country to remove the government over COVID measures. In a viral video, one protester [told](#) people to stock up on food for a couple of weeks. The video was shared widely in fringe groups (see [here](#) and [here](#)).

As schools and universities are reopening soon, we have seen a surge in anti-mask and anti-vaccine narratives around several countries including the US. Fringe groups [have been pushing the claim](#) that masks cause “significant reduction in early childhood cognitive development.” MAGA supporters [are cheering](#) University of Virginia students who were unenrolled for refusing a mandated injection. An anti-vaccine protest [has been planned](#) on Tuesday against Lambton College in Canada [for requiring proof of vaccination for campus access](#).

Donald Trump [got booed](#) at a rally in Alabama after telling supporters to get vaccinated. MAGA and QAnon activists have cheered the supporters and criticized Trump (see [here](#) and [here](#)).

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From: Editorial at Kinzen <digest@kinzen.news>

Sent: 24 August 2021 13:54

Subject: Disinformation Digest: Tuesday, August 24



Tuesday, August 24

See below some of the prominent slogans, dog whistles or hashtags used by the **anti-vaccine community** across multiple platforms in recent days:

#KillerVaccine

#DoNotComply

#VaccinePassport

#GlobalFreedom

THE IRISH OUTLOOK

PRIORITY

Northern Ireland [outlets reported](#) that Anne McCloskey, a GP who has regularly claimed that vaccines are dangerous, is being investigated by health authorities after making anti-vaccine remarks in a video (since taken down from [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#)). The Irish Inquiry, who hosted the video, said it was removed by Facebook after receiving more than 120,000 views. Data from Crowdtangle, a analytics platform owned by Facebook, says that it was viewed more than 153,700 times.

In the video McCloskey claimed that she was seeing many people coming in with adverse reactions to vaccines and that other medical professionals were insisting the symptoms had no relation to the vaccines and so weren't reporting them. It is unclear what specific claims have prompted the investigation, given McCloskey's history of similar comments.

The video was spread widely by [fringe figures](#) and its removal from platforms was described as "[censorship](#)." The video is still available on [BitChute](#) and on [Twitter](#), on which it has been viewed more than 15,000 times.

[The Irish Mirror is reporting](#) that Gardaí have been warned that far-right groups are planning to target COVID vaccination centres (as well as telephone masts).

TRENDS

A [Sunday Independent article](#) has been shared widely in fringe communities ([1](#), [2](#), [3](#), [4](#), [5](#), [6](#) and many more examples [here](#)). The article was shared by The Independent on social media with the description: "St Vincent's hospital in Dublin is admitting a 'worrying' number of double-vaccinated patients for treatment for Covid-19, emergency department head Professor John Ryan has

said.” This headline was used by fringe figures to indicate that vaccines are not effective, a common [argument](#) in anti-vaccine communities.

Conspiracy theorist commentators [have suggested](#) that the announcement that Ireland will stop deliveries of the AstraZeneca and Janssen vaccines is actually due to safety concerns, rather than an abundance of alternative supplies.

One pharmacy in Malahide, Co Dublin, is [apparently searching](#) for potential recipients before it has to dispose of their remaining Janssen vaccines.

TheJournal.ie provided [a good writeup](#) on the state of current research into ivermectin to treat COVID in response to the Pierre Kory interview on Newstalk (predictably, [not everyone was convinced](#)).

MONITORING

Support for the demonstration for Roy Butler planned for this Saturday in Waterford (see yesterday’s newsletter) appears to be growing in momentum, with [one video](#) urging people to attend accumulating more than 13,500 views.

[A new video](#) by conservative activist Josiah Burke claims “Patients are in grave danger in Mayo University Hospital - where the staff are gagged and family are banned from visiting. Deaths from gross criminal neglect are being recorded as ‘Covid deaths’ and bereaved families are left with no answers as to why their loved ones died.” On Facebook, the video has been viewed more than 14,200 times.

THE GLOBAL OUTLOOK

In a recent series of actions aimed at the media, anti-vaccine protesters [stormed](#) ITV News and Channel 4 headquarters in central London yesterday. Jon Snow, the Channel 4 News presenter, [was harassed](#) on his way to the studio.

The FDA full approval of the Pfizer vaccine has been a big focus of anti-vaccine activists and conspiracy theorists (see [here](#), [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#)). QAnon supporters [promoted](#) the claim that the FDA approval is part of a bigger conspiracy. A highly engaged post on Reddit's conspiracy forum [suggested](#) that the FDA approval would lead to a "flood of additional mandates and passport proposals to follow." On his show, Steve Bannon hosted Naomi Wolf. They [discussed](#) the FDA approval and claimed that vaccine passports would cause the economic collapse of America.

The Daily Expose and the Children's Health Defense posted articles [claiming](#) that an Oxford University study found that fully vaccinated healthcare workers carry 251 times viral load compared to the unvaccinated.

Fringe groups are circulating a post by Dr Vladimir Zelenko, who is a regular promoter of hydroxychloroquine, claiming that COVID vaccines don't work and are unsafe. The post has been shared by far-right activists on Telegram including [Tommy Robinson](#) and [Ghost Ezra](#).

A viral video of Los Angeles fire captain Christian Granucci calling the vaccine mandate rules "tyranny" [has been shared](#) widely by anti-vaccine activists. "When will this tyranny stop?" Granucci says. "I'll tell you when it's going to stop. It's going to stop right here, right now, and I'm putting my administration and my union on blast."

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From: Editorial at Kinzen <digest@kinzen.news>

Sent: 25 August 2021 14:12

Subject: Disinformation Digest: Wednesday, August 25



Wednesday, August 25

See below some of the prominent slogans, dog whistles or hashtags used by the **anti-vaccine community** across multiple platforms in recent days:

#StopTheShot

#InformedConsent

#FreedomNotForce

#RoyButtler

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THE IRISH OUTLOOK

PRIORITY

[Yesterday's opening story](#) on RTE's Liveline featured the sister of Nicole Cahill, who blamed anti-vaccine activists for falsely claiming that Cahill was killed by a vaccine. The original campaign was described in April 13's newsletter, as well as in yesterday's where it was tied to the death of Roy Butler.

The story, which condemned Gemma O'Doherty, John Waters, and Ben Gilroy by name for spreading misinformation, was widely reported in other media outlets, including [TheJournal.ie](#), [The Irish Times](#), [Her.ie](#), and [BreakingNews.ie](#), as well as on [RTÉ's website](#). Most online conversations were highly critical of the anti-vaccine activists.

Predictably, some fringe characters responded poorly to the piece, [accusing](#) RTÉ of [exploiting](#) Cahill's death for their own cause, or using the opportunity to [further suggest](#) the death of Roy Butler was caused by vaccines.

The piece appears to have taken the wind out of the sails of some anti-vaccine activists, with commentators on Telegram (in particular @ireland_onlockdown) saying that they should not use Roy Butler's name at a planned protest on Saturday (see yesterday's digest) unless they have support of the family (which they [do not](#)).

Social media posts promoting a protest that was planned for today at the GPO (which appears to have been referenced in the Liveline piece) have also been [taken down](#). The protest, organised by [conspiracy theorist Dee Wall](#), did not

appear to have a strong following regardless ([1](#), [2](#), [3](#)).

TRENDS

Northern Ireland GP Anne McCloskey was [suspended](#) from [working](#) in the health service after an investigation was launched into anti-vaccine comments she made online (see yesterday's newsletter).

Many of her supporters said that the suspension amounted to censorship ([1](#), [2](#), [3](#), [4](#), [5](#)) or planned campaigns to get her [suspension lifted](#), or to prove her accusations right ([1](#), [2](#), [3](#)). [Aontú confirmed](#) that McCloskey is no longer in the party.

McCloskey also appeared on the Irish Inquiry last night to talk about supposed adverse effects of the vaccine that she had witnessed. The video was viewed more than 19,600 times on [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#).

There has [been predictable backlash](#) to the FDA's approval of the Pfizer vaccine in Irish groups, and [less predictable backlash](#) against fringe outlet Gript.ie for [approving](#) of the FDA's approval.

THE GLOBAL OUTLOOK

Anti-vaccine activists are still discussing FDA full approval of the Pfizer vaccine. They are suggesting that the FDA was paid to approve the vaccine (see [here](#) and [here](#)). Lead Stories has [fact-checked](#) some of the misleading narratives.

Steve Bannon [hosted](#) Robert Malone on the War Room podcast, where they discussed the FDA approval. Malone [claimed](#) that the media lied to people about the FDA approval. [QAnon](#) and [far-right](#) activists have widely shared the interview.

Australia has recently been the focus of anti-vaccine and far-right activists. [A video of an Australian woman](#) speaking against the vaccine mandate in the

country has been shared widely by QAnon activists, including [Michael Flynn](#) and [QAnon John](#).

Fringe groups [are supporting](#) Australian truck drivers for threatening to shut down Australian supply chains over vaccine requirements.

A video of a French woman [claiming](#) to show the date on a COVID poster was January 2020 was shared by conspiracy theorists to suggest that the pandemic was a part of Agenda21. The video was debunked and the French Prime Minister confirmed to the fact-checking website [Libération](#) that it was because of a typing error.

PolitiFact [has debunked](#) an old video being recently shared from an interview with Pfizer CEO and Chairman Albert Bourla saying that he had not yet got the vaccine. The interview is from December, and Bourla has since been vaccinated.

A highly engaged post on Reddit spread [the claim](#) that a CDC study counts people hospitalized within 14 days of receiving the vaccine as "unvaccinated."

FullFact [has debunked](#) misleading narratives about giving COVID vaccines to pregnant women.

Yesterday, we reported on a viral video of Los Angeles fire captain Christian Granucci calling the vaccine mandate rules "tyranny." The video [is still being widely shared](#) on fringe groups and receiving thousands of comments.

Anti-vaccine [activists have been praising](#) Kanye West for not having a vaccine or COVID test requirement for his concert at Chicago's Soldier Field.

The AP [has debunked](#) claims suggesting that COVID vaccines are more deadly than the virus itself.

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From: Editorial at Kinzen <digest@kinzen.news>

Sent: 26 August 2021 14:17

Subject: Disinformation Digest: Thursday, August 26



Thursday, August 26

See below some of the prominent slogans, dog whistles or hashtags used by the **anti-vaccine community** across multiple platforms in recent days:

#LeaveOurKidsAlone

#DoNotComply

#FreedomNotForce

#MedicalTyranny

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THE IRISH OUTLOOK

PRIORITY

[Yellow Vest Ireland](#) groups and far-right figure [Ben Gilroy](#) have called for two protests in Dublin today against “medical apartheid” as French President Emmanuel Macron is in the city on a one-day visit. The first is planned for outside Government Buildings at 2pm, and the second outside the Áras at 7pm while President Higgins hosts a dinner for Mr Macron. By lunchtime today, the proposed demonstrations hadn’t gained much traction online.

As reported in yesterday’s digest, the RTÉ Liveline interview with [Debbie Cahill](#), the sister of Nicole Cahill, in which she condemned the claims by anti-vaccine activists that her sister was killed by a COVID vaccine, appears to have [dampened enthusiasm](#) among the anti-vaccine community for a [protest](#) scheduled to take place in Waterford this weekend. This had been organised following the death of local footballer Roy Butler.

However, posts linking the death of Butler to the vaccine are still circulating ([1](#), [2](#), [3](#)) and conspiracy theorist [Gemma O’Doherty](#) travelled to the country, claiming a “cover-up” of his “murder”.

The Waterford tragedy was also labelled a [vaccine death](#) by a [handful](#) of protesters who held a mini-rally outside the GPO yesterday including far-right figure [Dee Wall](#) who called for the arrest and prosecution of Paul Reid and Dr Tony Holohan.

TRENDS

A video posted on [Instagram](#) by self-described reporter Dara O'Flaherty, who is an [anti-vaccine](#) activist, in which he makes various false claims including that the Johnson & Johnson vaccine "has resulted in the deaths of many, many teenagers" has been viewed over 8,000 times. His allegations have been picked up by anti-vaccine figure [Gary Dempsey](#) and others ([1](#), [2](#), [3](#), [4](#))

Many activists are focussing on reports that the COVID vaccines decrease in effectiveness after six months ([1](#), [2](#), [3](#), [4](#), [5](#)) and that [booster shots](#) may be required.

Meanwhile a pair of [tweets](#) from Marcus de Brun which allege that COVID deaths have doubled this summer and in which he asks if this indicates "a second wave of State Sanctioned Euthanasia" are getting attention, although some replies [refute](#) his interpretation of the data.

De Brun also tweeted that "those responsible" - including Tánaiste Leo Varadkar - for the mRNA vaccine rollout "should be [brought to trial](#)" with one response suggesting "a [public hanging](#)." He also promotes [ivermectin](#) as a safe and efficacious COVID treatment

MONITORING

Anti-vaccine activists have rallied around Northern Ireland GP Dr Ann McCloskey, who was suspended from working in the health service in relation to anti-vaccine comments she made online (as reported in the digest on Tuesday and yesterday). Over 5,500 people have so far signed a petition to have her reinstated ([1](#), [2](#), [3](#), [4](#)) and the story has been [highlighted](#) by leading

anti-vaccine figure Dr Robert Malone

We are monitoring a story in The [Irish Times](#) in which people recount their experiences of catching COVID after vaccination, which may gain traction among anti-vaccine communities.

THE GLOBAL OUTLOOK

Anti-vaccine activists are celebrating French protests against vaccine passes. On Telegram, one conspiracy theorist shared a [video](#), which received over 180,000 views, showing people picnicking outside restaurants in opposition to vaccine passes. The same video was also shared by [Tommy Robinson](#) on Telegram, on a [QAnon forum](#) and elsewhere. Footage from a similar protest against vaccine mandates outside City Hall in Manhattan, NYC, yesterday was also shared and celebrated within [QAnon](#) and [MAGA](#) groups.

An emerging story from Japan this morning is engaging anti-vaccine activists. Authorities there [reported](#) that foreign materials were found in some unused Moderna vaccines, leading them to halt its use. Ron Watkins shared the news [on Telegram](#), and his followers engaged in various conspiracy theorising.

Yet another excerpt from a public meeting in the US is going viral as one angry anti-mask activist [shouted](#), "There's a lot of good guys out there ready to do bad things soon. Watch what's coming". This was from a Board of Commissioners meeting in Ottawa County, Michigan. Reuters has [fact-checked](#) the speech from Sean Brooks which recently went viral and which we have mentioned in previous newsletters.

Over 70 Florida doctors recently [staged](#) a press conference urging people to get vaccinated, as hospitals struggle to cope with surging COVID cases. [AP](#) and [PolitiFact](#) both posted fact-checks, as rumours circulated that the doctors had walked off the job entirely.

Lead Stories [fact-checked](#) a Pulse [column](#) which claimed that COVID wasn't a significant risk to public health and used VAERS data to suggest that vaccines are killing people.

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From: Editorial at Kinzen <digest@kinzen.news>

Sent: 27 August 2021 13:50

Subject: Disinformation Digest: Friday, August 27



Friday, August 27

See below some of the prominent slogans, dog whistles or hashtags used by the **anti-vaccine community** across multiple platforms in recent days:

#NoCovidChecks

#COVID1984

#MedicalTyranny

#NoVaccinePassports

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THE IRISH OUTLOOK

PRIORITY

A new video on the conspiracy theorist channel Computing Forever says that a never-ending series of booster shots for COVID-19 will be made mandatory in order for citizens to participate in society. Similar suspicions about booster shots have been long-popular in fringe communities. The video also compares booster shots to computer updates (echoing [popular debunked theories](#) about vaccines) and says that the only way to stop such a permanent system is to reject vaccines now.

The video has accumulated more than 21,000 views on the fringe platforms [Bitchute](#) and [Gab](#).

TRENDS

A petition to reinstate Anne McCloskey has gathered more than 10,000 signatures and has been featured on a [number](#) of [media outlets](#). The petition suggests that voices are “being silenced” and asks: “Has Freedom of speech been outlawed completely??” [sic]. Links to the petition are popular in Republic of Ireland social media conversations.

Conspiracy theorist and spreader of misinformation Dee Wall [was arrested](#) in the Phoenix Park last night while protesting the visit of the French president, Macron, and COVID restrictions (as mentioned in yesterday’s newsletter). She was apparently detained for [“failure to appear in court”](#). Wall had been feuding with other noted conspiracists in recent months, and her arrest has not prompted a notable outcry.

A popular [tweet](#) by Marcus De Brun reads: “Covid vaccination can kill people. Children are people.” The comment was made along with a link to a [news story](#) about the death of BBC presenter Lisa Shaw, which has been [widely spread](#) in [Ireland](#).

De Brun also [accused](#) Mark Shrimme of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland of slander for saying that De Brun’s license to practise medicine had been revoked. [Shrimme has](#) made his tweets private.

Pickets against businesses in Cork that check vaccine passes are still going strong, with [videos of the protests](#) attracting more than 9,400 views on Facebook yesterday.

MONITORING

An [article in The Irish Times](#) about the testimonials of vaccinated people who got sick with COVID after being vaccinated (mentioned in yesterday’s

newsletter) has been [noted in conspiracist circles](#), but has not made much of an impact.

THE GLOBAL OUTLOOK

The promotion of ivermectin as a treatment for COVID continues to gain significant traction with various groups including anti-vaccine, anti-mask and QAnon. Yesterday, the CDC [warned](#) that it's seeing a worrying and "rapid increase" in people using the drug.

In the UK, a coroner [concluded](#) that the BBC presenter Lisa Shaw died due to COVID vaccine complications. Children's Health Defense [promoted](#) the story to its community and used VAERS to claim blood clotting is a significant issue with COVID vaccines. Australian reporter Denham Hitchcock has been [hospitalised](#) with pericarditis after taking the Pfizer vaccine. This has been shared by various "vaccine injury" groups.

In the US, videos of school board meetings continue to be shared widely by anti-mask and anti-vaccine groups. One of the latest [examples](#) is the Grand Ledge, Michigan School board meeting.

Lead Stories [fact-checked](#) claims published by Children's Health Defense which spread widely in recent days. The claim is that vaccinated people carry a much higher "viral load", posing a threat to the unvaccinated.

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From: Editorial at Kinzen <digest@kinzen.news>

Sent: 30 August 2021 14:48

Subject: Disinformation Digest: Monday, August 30



Monday, August 30

See below some of the prominent slogans, dog whistles or hashtags used by the **anti-vaccine community** across multiple platforms in recent days:

#MyBodyMyChoice

#NoMeansNo

#MedicalFreedom

#InformedConsent

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THE IRISH OUTLOOK

PRIORITY

[Anti-vaccines protests](#) went ahead in Waterford over the weekend. While some groups attempted to rebrand the demonstrations as being a general protest against the “[coverup of big pharma deaths](#)” or, more generically, a “[Rally For Our Youth](#)”, many continued to use the name of [Roy Butler](#) to suggest that vaccines are dangerous. Among this latter group was Gemma O’Doherty, who said that Butler [had been murdered](#).

[Videos](#) from the event appear to show about 130 people attending the protests, which targeted the [vaccination center](#) in Waterford IT arena, as well as [a pharmacy](#) in the town. Protesters were holding signs suggesting that vaccines cause infertility and are dangerous for children.

Anti-vaccine activists have also been scouting for new deaths that they can baselessly claim are caused by vaccines, including [one recent death](#) of a 23-year-old in Enniscorthy, Co Wexford. [The same person](#) who publicised that death has also been posting their method of [actively trawling](#) through death notices to find candidates to create disinformation about. She has also [insisted](#) that the death of Nicole Cahill was caused by vaccines, despite the family’s insistence that it was not and their pleas for activists to stop using her as a prop in their campaign.

TRENDS

Fringe activists, including [former presidential candidate Peter Casey](#), have strongly condemned suggestions that children should wear masks in schools, ([1](#), [2](#), [3](#)), with many focusing their ire on Luke O'Neill for advocating for it ([1](#), [2](#), [3](#), [5](#), [6](#)). Marcus De Brun [theorised](#) that the masks were just a ploy to get younger children vaccinated.

[A poll posted by Niall Boylan](#) found that about 93% of more than 8,600 respondents believed it would be wrong for children between 4-12 to wear masks. A further 2.2% said they didn't know.

[A story in the Clare Echo](#) claiming that a sex offender had been volunteering at a vaccination site has become [popular on Reddit](#). The story has already been picked up by [Extra.ie](#) and is likely to attract more attention in the national press.

Fringe activists have also been sharing [a story](#) that two people in Japan died after receiving contaminated Moderna vaccine jabs ([1](#), [2](#), [3](#), [4](#)). "What safety protocols are in place to ensure 'vaccines' used in Ireland are not contaminated? @TheHPRA?" [One commenter wrote](#). "If you don't look, you won't find." There is no suggestion by official sources that either the vaccine or the contaminants were likely to have caused the deaths.

[News that NPHEt](#) will disband in October has been met with myriad responses by fringe groups. Some have expressed disbelief that the planned dissolution will go ahead ([1](#), [2](#), [3](#)). Others theorised that the announcement was part of a [broader conspiracy](#), or that NPHEt is obsolete because the government has decided lockdowns should [last forever](#). Yellow Vest Ireland groups [celebrated](#) the [announcement](#) as their personal victory. Others simply took the opportunity to [stick the heel](#) in.

MONITORING

[News reports](#) that the Pfizer vaccine has caused a death in New Zealand have [been noted](#) by anti-vaccine activists in Ireland, but have not gained traction yet.

Kinzen is monitoring for reaction to this story today.

THE GLOBAL OUTLOOK

Anti-lockdown and anti-vaccine protests were held in several countries around the world over the weeked, including the US, [Italy](#), [France](#) and [Germany](#). Videos and photos from the protests have been widely shared on fringe groups.

- In a viral video, Jason Lefkowitz [shouted](#) during a protest in Santa Monica that there would be a civil war if a vaccine mandate passed. “Civil war is coming people, get your guns”, he said.
- The protesters [gathered](#) in Santa Monica to push back against proposed vaccine mandates.
- In Las Vegas, anti-vaccine protesters [held](#) anti-mask banners and chanted “USA.”
- In Australia, a COVID testing clinic in Sydney [was badly damaged](#) by fire in a suspected arson attack.
- Truck drivers [blocked](#) a major Gold Coast highway, Queensland, demanding mandatory vaccines for essential workers be scrapped.

Musician Eric Clapton has been celebrated by anti-vaccine activists after [releasing](#) his new single, “This Has Gotta Stop”, in protest against COVID restrictions and lockdowns (see [here](#) and [here](#)). The song has been viewed more than a million times on YouTube.

Anthony Fauci has been the main target of anti-vaccine activists after backing a COVID vaccine mandate for school children (see [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#)).

Twitter has suspended Alex Berenson, a proponent of COVID misinformation, for [repeated violations](#) of its COVID-19 misinformation rules.

Although the FDA has been strongly advising people not to use ivermectin,

fringe groups are still tirelessly promoting it as a cure for COVID (see [here](#) and [here](#)).

Reuters [reported](#) that two people in Japan died after receiving shots from suspended Moderna vaccine following the discovery of contaminants. The report has been widely circulated among anti-vaccine groups.

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From: Editorial at Kinzen <digest@kinzen.news>

Sent: 31 August 2021 13:51

Subject: Disinformation Digest: Tuesday, August 31



Tuesday, August 31

See below some of the prominent slogans, dog whistles or hashtags used by the **anti-vaccine community** across multiple platforms in recent days:

#TruckersStrikeWorldwide

#TruckieSolidarity

#WeWontComply

#NoGreenPass

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THE IRISH OUTLOOK

PRIORITY

The prospect of children wearing masks to school continues to dominate fringe conversations (examples: [1](#), [2](#), [3](#)), with some activists, such as former presidential candidate [Peter Casey](#), suggesting protests, including [walkouts](#) by children and teachers from schools. Supporters argue that masks are [bad for the health](#) of children, often due to CO2 inhalation, and that there is [no evidence](#) that children spread COVID-19.

TRENDS

The practise of scouring death notices so as to baselessly claim vaccines are fatal is gaining support among some fringe figures, with commentators now claiming that anyone who died after a “short illness” was killed by a vaccine

(examples: [1](#), [2](#), [3](#)).

A study indicating that the immunity conferred by catching COVID-19 is stronger than that conferred by vaccines has been discussed by fringe groups ([1](#), [2](#), [3](#)), as well as by [the TD Michael McNamara](#). The same study (which has not yet passed peer review) has been noted in international discussions, often to argue that people who have been previously infected should not need vaccine certs, or even that people should forgo vaccines and get infected with the disease instead. [The article](#) announcing the findings explicitly warns against this, and also describes how people who had been infected with the disease would develop even stronger immunity when given a vaccine.

The @Threadslrish account has made [a Twitter thread](#) about their visit to a vaccination centre as a “fact gathering exercise”. While the account is still explicitly anti-vaccine, the events described may make people more inclined to get the vaccine. He describes an efficient operation, a patient nurse who answers his questions, hygiene procedures, and information on the possible benefits and dangers of vaccines. The account also posted [a thread](#) outlining the information in the leaflets provided. Nevertheless, some fringe accounts had strong negative reactions to the unremarkable story. “What has become of this country?” [one user asked](#) in response. [Another wrote](#): “Vaccinations Sites, Centres, Clinic or whatever are the modern day images of Adolf Hitler infamous historical slaughtered Gas Chambers that murdered and killed millions of Jews.”

MONITORING

Yellow Vest Ireland is planning an anti-COVID restrictions [rally for September 18](#) in Dublin.

THE GLOBAL OUTLOOK

In the US, videos of school board meetings continue to be shared widely by

anti-mask and anti-vaccine groups:

- Former Miss California Carrie Prejean spoke strongly against masking children in a school board meeting in San Diego (see [here](#) and [here](#)). "We're done asking for permission. We are going to be unmasking our children today," she said.
- A viral video [shows](#) a man accusing school board members in Fort Myers of using masks to facilitate sex trafficking.
- Gab CEO Andrew Torba [encouraged](#) anti-mask and anti-vaccine activists to keep the pressure on the school board meetings as it was "working." His post [was shared](#) by MAGA and QAnon activists.

QAnon activists [have been praising](#) school bus drivers in Chicago for quitting after refusing to get COVID vaccines.

US truck drivers are following Australian drivers and calling for a nationwide protest against mandatory vaccines on August 31. Anti-vaccine activists have been encouraging the drivers to shut the country down (see [here](#) and [here](#)). A video circulating on social media [shows](#) a truck driver shutting down his vehicle.

Conspiracy theorist Kate Shemirani [led a protest](#) outside a new COVID vaccine centre in Brighton, England. The protesters tried to stop the public receiving their vaccines.

Trump supporters [have been backing](#) Rand Paul for accusing scientists of hating Trump and refusing to study ivermectin as a cure for COVID. Paul [has also posted](#) a viral tweet citing [an article](#) that claimed natural immunity offered exponentially more protection than COVID vaccines.

One of the popular posts on Reddit's conspiracy forum this morning [discussed](#) a report about Maisy Evans, a 17-year-old student [who was hospitalised](#) with a COVID-related blood clot in her lung after receiving her first shot of the

vaccine.

The Daily Expose is [still pushing](#) the false narrative about Graphene Oxide.

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