

Medical misinformation policy

Note: YouTube reviews all its Community Guidelines as a normal course of business. In our [2023 blog post](#) we announced ending several of our COVID-19 policies and we have now retired the remaining standalone COVID-19 policies given the reduced burden of disease. Our broader Medical Misinformation framework continues to apply to content related to infectious diseases including influenza and measles.

YouTube doesn't allow content that poses a serious risk of egregious harm by spreading medical misinformation that contradicts local health authority (LHA) guidance about specific health conditions and substances. This policy includes the following categories:

- Prevention misinformation
- Treatment misinformation

Note: YouTube's medical misinformation policies are subject to change in response to changes to guidance from health authorities. There may be a delay between new guidance and policy updates, and our policies may not cover all LHA guidance related to specific health conditions and substances.

What this policy means for you

Don't post content on YouTube if it includes any of the following:

Prevention misinformation: We do not allow content that promotes information that contradicts health authority guidance on the prevention or transmission of specific health conditions, or on the safety, efficacy or ingredients of currently approved and administered vaccines.

Treatment misinformation: We do not allow content that promotes information that contradicts health authority guidance on treatments for specific health conditions, including promotion of specific harmful substances or practices that have not been approved by local health authorities as safe or effective, or that have been confirmed to cause severe harm.

These policies apply to videos, video descriptions, comments, live streams, and any other YouTube product or feature. Keep in mind that this isn't a complete list. Please note these policies also apply to [external links](#) in your content. This can include clickable URLs, verbally directing users to other sites in video, as well as other forms.

Examples

Here are some examples of content that's not allowed on YouTube. This isn't a complete list.

Prevention misinformation

Harmful substances & practices as prevention methods

- Promotion of the following substances and treatments that present an inherent risk of severe bodily harm or death:
 - Miracle Mineral Solution (MMS)
 - Black Salve
 - Turpentine
 - B17/amygdalin/peach or apricot seeds
 - High-grade hydrogen peroxide
 - Chelation therapy to treat autism
 - Gasoline, diesel, and kerosene
- Content that denies the addictive or harmful properties of nicotine and tobacco. Examples:
 - Content that claims tobacco does not cause cancer.
 - Content that claims nicotine is not addictive.

Vaccine misinformation

- Claims that contradict health authority guidance on **safety, efficacy, and ingredients of currently administered and approved vaccines**.
 - **Vaccine safety:** Content alleging that vaccines cause chronic side effects, such as cancer or paralysis, outside of rare side effects that are recognized by health authorities.
 - Examples:
 - Claims that the MMR vaccine causes autism.
 - Claims that vaccines are part of a depopulation agenda.
 - Claims that the HPV vaccine causes chronic side effects such as paralysis.
 - Claims that an approved vaccine will cause death, infertility, miscarriage, autism, or contraction of other infectious diseases.
 - Claims that achieving herd immunity through natural infection is safer than vaccinating the population.
 - **Vaccine efficacy:** Content claiming that vaccines have no impact on the prevention of disease.

- Example:
 - Claims that vaccines do not reduce the severity of illness, including hospitalization or death.
- **Ingredients in vaccines:** Content misrepresenting the ingredients contained in vaccines.
 - Examples:
 - Claims that vaccines contain substances that are not on the vaccine ingredient list, such as biological matter from fetuses (e.g. fetal tissue, fetal cell lines) or animal byproducts.
 - Claims that vaccines contain substances or devices meant to track or identify those who've received them.
 - Claims that vaccines alter a person's genetic makeup.
 - Claims that vaccines will make people who receive them magnetic.

Additional resources

More information on vaccines, including their safety and efficacy, can be found below.

Health authority vaccine information:

- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#) (US)
- [European Vaccination Information Portal](#) (EU)
- [National Health Service](#) (UK)
- [Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency](#) (Korea)
- [National Health Mission](#) (India)
- [MHLW Immunization Information](#) (Japan)
- [National Vaccination Calendar](#) (Brazil)
- [Universal Vaccination Program](#) (Mexico)

Additional vaccine information:

- [American Academy of Pediatrics](#) (US)
- [GAVI, the Vaccine Alliance](#) (Global)
- [UNICEF](#) (Global)

Transmission information

- Content that promotes transmission information that contradicts local health authorities.

Treatment misinformation

Harmful substances & practices as treatment methods

- Promotion of the following substances and treatments that present an inherent risk of severe bodily harm or death.
 - Miracle Mineral Solution (MMS)
 - Black salve
 - Turpentine
 - B17/amygdalin/peach or apricot seeds
 - High-grade hydrogen peroxide
 - Chelation therapy to treat autism
 - Gasoline, diesel and kerosene
- Content that recommends the use of specific methods for the treatment of cancer when those have not been approved by local health authorities as safe or effective or have been confirmed to be harmful or ineffective for cancer treatment.
 - Examples:
 - Content that promotes the use of the following methods for the treatment of cancer, outside of clinical trials:
 - Caesium chloride (cesium salts)
 - Hoxsey therapy
 - Coffee enema
 - Gerson therapy
 - Content that claims that the following methods are safe or effective for the treatment of cancer, outside of clinical trials:
 - Antineoplaston therapy
 - Quercetin (intravenous injection)
 - Methadone
 - Over-the-counter chelation therapy

Guaranteed treatment misinformation

- Content that claims that there is a guaranteed cure for cancer outside of approved treatment.

Harmful alternative methods & discouragement of professional treatment

- Content that claims that approved treatments for cancer are never effective.
 - Examples:

- Content that claims that approved treatments for cancer, such as chemotherapy or radiation, are never effective.
- Content that discourages people from seeking approved treatments for cancer.
- Claims that alternative treatments are safer or more effective than approved treatments for cancer.
 - Content that claims that juicing has better results than chemotherapy in treating cancer.
- Content that recommends alternative treatments in place of approved treatments for cancer.
 - Content that promotes diet and exercise instead of seeking approved treatment for cancer.
- Content that contradicts local health authorities' guidance on the safety of chemical and surgical abortion.
- Promotion of alternative abortion methods in place of chemical or surgical methods deemed safe by health authorities.
- Promotion of alternative formulas for infants in place of breast milk or commercial formula.

Educational, documentary, scientific or artistic content

We may allow content that violates the misinformation policies noted on this page if that content includes additional context in the video, audio, title, or description. This is not a pass to promote misinformation. Additional context may include countervailing views from local health authorities or medical experts. We may also make exceptions if the purpose of the content is to condemn, dispute, or satirize misinformation that violates our policies. We may also make exceptions for content discussing the results of a specific medical study, or showing an open public forum, like a protest or public hearing, provided the content does not aim to promote misinformation that violates our policies.

YouTube also believes people should be able to share their own experiences, including personal experiences with vaccinations, for example. This means we may make exceptions for content in which creators describe firsthand experiences from themselves or their family. At the same time, we recognize there is a difference between sharing personal experiences and promoting misinformation. To address this balance, we will still remove content or channels if they include other policy violations or demonstrate a pattern of promoting medical misinformation.

What happens if content violates this policy

If your content violates this policy, we'll remove the content and send you an email to let you know. If we can't verify that a link you post is safe, we may remove the link.

If this is your first time violating our Community Guidelines, you'll likely get a warning with no penalty to your channel. You will have the option to take a policy training to allow the warning to expire after 90 days. The 90 day period starts from when the training is completed, not when the warning is issued. However, if the same policy is violated within that 90 day window, the warning will not expire and your channel will be given a strike. If you violate a different policy after completing the training, you will get another warning. You can learn more about [our strikes system here](#).

We may terminate your channel or account for repeated violations of the Community Guidelines or Terms of Service. We may also terminate your channel or account after a single case of severe abuse, or when the channel is dedicated to a policy violation. You can learn more about [channel or account terminations here](#).

Need more help?

Try these next steps:



Post to the help community

Get answers from community members