

Article Link:

<https://www.npr.org/2021/08/21/1030038616/facebooks-most-viewed-article-in-early-2021-raised-doubt-about-covid-vaccine>

Short Response:

Facebook executives decided to withhold one of their top shared posts from the first quarter of 2021, for which they cite a few reasons for doing so. The first ethical problem would be withholding the information from the Facebook community. In order to have trust in a company, I would say you need to be transparent. One reason Facebook withheld this information was because they wanted to study why the post circulated so much and to determine if the post should have been taken down. Though they eventually released the information, I believe they could have written a disclaimer and released the information in the first place. They cited being concerned about their image if they released the information, but I would say this probably hurt them and brought them into a negative spotlight.

The article in question was about a doctor who died after getting the COVID-19 vaccine. Though the article states that the connection between the doctor dying and the vaccine shows no correlation, most members of the anti-vaccination communities on Facebook used the article as proof for their arguments. Facebook did not take the article down because the article did not have incorrect information about the COVID-19 vaccine, and they also want to encourage people to have conversations about the topic using correct information. In this case, the right thing to do may be difficult to determine since the article was factual, even though it was used for the opposite effect.