



SCOTT JENSEN: QUACK AND COVID CONSPIRACY THEORIST

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Scott Jensen Spread Misinformation About the COVID-19 Pandemic

PolitiFact's 2020 Lie of the Year was COVID downplay and denial, and they named Jensen a key source of that.

"Nearly two weeks and more than 10,000 deaths later, Fox News featured a guest who opened a new misinformation assault on hospitals.

Dr. Scott Jensen, a Minnesota physician and Republican state senator, told Ingraham that, because hospitals were receiving more money for COVID-19 patients on Medicare — a result of a coronavirus stimulus bill — they were overcounting COVID-19 cases. He had no proof of fraud, but the cynical story took off.

Trump used the false report on the campaign trail to continue to minimize the death toll." [PolitiFact, [12/16/20](#)]

False Fact-Check: Jensen said COVID-19 deaths were being inflated, while experts said the opposite was likely.

"On April 8, Dr. Scott Jensen, a Republican state senator and Minnesota family physician, said on Fox News' "The Ingraham Angle" that the method of gathering statistics could be "misleading."

"The idea that we're going to allow people to massage and sort of game the numbers is a real issue because we're going to undermine the (public) trust," he said.

Experts say that COVID-19 deaths are likely not being overinflated. That list includes Dr. Anthony Fauci, who is leading the U.S. response to the coronavirus.

Instead, many experts say the nation is likely amid an undercount of the death toll due to the disease due to factors like false negatives on tests, a lack of testing and people who have died in their homes without receiving a positive test." [USA Today, [4/17/20](#)]

False Fact-Check: Jensen video "makes misleading claims about COVID case counts."

"A video circulating on Facebook makes misleading claims about a recent World Health Organization notice regarding COVID-19 testing. The video, created by former Minnesota state senator Dr. Scott Jensen, also falsely suggests an effort is underway to change the way COVID-19 cases are tallied so it will appear cases are falling under President Joe Biden. Jensen, a family physician, told The Associated Press his video repeated key points he had read in a Feb. 6 commentary piece that appeared on the website of the Independent Institute, a libertarian and conservative-leaning think tank." [AP, [2/23/21](#)]

Jensen forgot the source of a false claim he made in a viral video.

"CLAIM: In some studies, possibly 85% of PCR tests for COVID-19 were false positives.

THE FACTS: In a conversation with AP, Jensen clarified the studies he was referencing had found a high proportion of people with positive PCR tests no longer had evidence of active COVID-19 infections. Jensen could not recall the source, but in August, The New York Times reported that a review of testing data from Massachusetts, New York and Nevada indicated that up to 90 percent of people who tested positive for COVID-19 "carried barely any virus." Jensen's video suggested such cases were "false positives." Dr. Dean Winslow, a professor at Stanford University School of Medicine, says this is wrong. "It doesn't mean they never had infection, it just means they are probably not very contagious right now," he said." [AP, [2/23/21](#)]

Scott Jensen Fueled COVID Conspiracy Theories

Headline: As Minnesota senator cast doubt on COVID-19 death tolls, conspiracy theorists pounced online

"Jensen, sometimes mentioned as a possible 2022 gubernatorial candidate, voiced fears that doctors could start over-diagnosing the virus and inflating its death toll in a series of interviews with television personalities from North Dakota to Fox News in New York.

His words quickly went viral around the globe and found new life fueling conspiracy theories and disinformation about the coronavirus across fringe, far-right websites..." [Star Tribune, [4/20/20](#)]

Headline: Fight Over Virus's Death Toll Opens Grim New Front in Election Battle

"The claim was tailor-made for President Trump's most steadfast backers: Federal guidelines are coaching doctors to mark Covid-19 as the cause of death even when it is not, inflating the pandemic's death toll.

That the claim came from a doctor, Scott Jensen, who also happens to be a Republican state senator in Minnesota, made it all the more alluring to the president's allies. Never mind the experts who said that, if anything, the death toll was being vastly undercounted." [The New York Times, [5/9/20](#)]

InfoWars and QAnon seized on Jensen's false claims to spread COVID conspiracy theories.

"Jensen subsequently appeared on FOX News to criticize the CDC guidelines, claiming this was happening because "fear is a great way to control people" and also suggested doctors were doing this to get greater reimbursements from the government for COVID-19 cases. His views have also appeared on the notorious conspiracy website Infowars and have been shared online by followers of the conspiracy cult known as QAnon." [Bring Me The News, [7/6/20](#)]

Jensen's false claims were featured in the disinformation propaganda film 'Plandemic'.

"Finally, a number of individuals described as doctors in the video are seen questioning the guidelines put out by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on social distancing and other preventative measures, or suggesting the same profit motive for COVID-19 diagnoses that Mikovits promotes.

Although none are identified by name, one appears on a television chyron to be Minnesota state Sen. Scott Jensen, a family physician from Chaska." [NPR, [5/8/20](#)]

Jensen Is a Vaccine Skeptic and Legitimizes Anti-Vaccine Conspiracy Theorists

Jensen has made numerous appearances on anti-vaccine "celebrity" Del Bigtree's show.

"For instance, on April 24, [Jensen] appeared on a Facebook Live program called The Highwire with Del Bigtree." [Minnesota Reformer, [4/30/2020](#)]

"[Bigtree] has put together an hour-long presentation – still available on Facebook and YouTube – that argues that COVID-19 is a set-up by the pharmaceutical industry to enrich itself." [The Guardian, [4/21/2020](#)]

Bigtree produced the pseudoscientific film Vaxxed, which repeats the discredited claim that vaccines lead to autism. [Stat News, [4/1/16](#)]

In January of 2019, State Senator Jensen posted an anti-vaccination video to his official Facebook page.

"Among other notable examples is state Sen. Scott Jenson, a Chaska Republican and physician, who said on Facebook that vaccines could have adverse side effects, though he did not specify what types. "Results are not guaranteed and research based predictions often fall short," he said. "In America, parents have always been decision makers for their children. I hope that doesn't change." [Minnesota Reformer, [2/9/2020](#)]

Jensen said that since some RNA virus vaccines have "terribly mediocre results," we were "far more realistically leaning into herd immunity" to control COVID-19.

"Ingraham and Jensen then talked about National Institute of Health Director Dr. Anthony Fauci's comments in which he said the country can control COVID-19, but keeping it under control without a vaccine will be the problem, noting COVID-19 is 'spectacularly efficient.' Jensen said Fauci is 'fear mongering' with his use of 'spectacularly,' adding that since some RNA virus vaccines, like influenza vaccines, often have 'terribly mediocre results.' Because of this, Jensen says he thinks herd immunity will be needed to control the virus. 'If a vaccine comes along to help us, that's great, but we're far more realistically leaning into herd immunity,' Jensen said." [Bring Me The News, [7/10/20](#)]