

Facebook CEO Offered Dr. Fauci ‘Very Exciting’ Proposal, Vaccine ‘Resources’

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*Emails show **Mark Zuckerberg** reaching out to the doctor to provide social-media messaging and financial assistance, including ‘authoritative information from reliable sources,’ and the ‘very exciting’ redacted offer.*

Recently published emails revealed that Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg collaborated directly with [Dr. Anthony Fauci](#), offering “resources” for COVID-19 vaccine development and a redacted offer Fauci described as “very exciting.”

The [emails](#), released earlier this week, were obtained through the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) by media organizations.

In one message from February 2020, Zuckerberg wrote to Dr. Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) and then to the top White House COVID-19 adviser, offering help to facilitate development of [coronavirus vaccines](#).

“I was glad to hear your statement that the covid-19 vaccine will be ready for human trials in six weeks. Are there any resources our foundation can help provide to potentially accelerate this or at least make sure it stays on track?” the Facebook CEO asked.

“If we start in April (~6-7 weeks from now) with a phase 1 trial of 45 subjects, it will take another 3-4 months to determine safety and some immunogenicity,” Fauci responded. “We may need help with resources for the phase 2 trial if we do not get our requested budget supplement. If this goes off track, I will contact you. Many thanks for the offer.”

Not the usual catchall b(5) deliberative process here.. but a less common b(4) "trade secrets and commercial or financial information obtained from a person [that is] privileged or confidential" on Zuck's offer to Fauci.

Was this the offer to censor wrongthink??? pic.twitter.com/UyoC1WSES8

— Phil Kerpen (@kerpen) [June 2, 2021](#)

On March 15, Zuckerberg again wrote to Fauci, this time with a proposal to highlight a video with Fauci on Facebook's centralized COVID-19 "hub." He noted another unknown offer as well that federal officials appear to have been even more interested in.

"I wanted to send a note of thanks for your leadership and everything you're doing to make our country's response to this outbreak as effective as possible. I also wanted to share a few ideas of ways we could help you get your message out," Zuckerberg said.

"This isn't public yet, but we're building a Coronavirus Information Hub that we're going to put at the top of Facebook for everyone (200+ million Americans, 2.5 billion people worldwide) with two goals: (1) make sure people can get authoritative information from reliable sources and (2) encourage people to practice social distance and give people ideas for doing this using internet tools," he told Fauci. "As a central part of this hub, I think it would be useful to include a video from you," Zuckerberg added.

"Your idea and proposal sound terrific. I would be happy to do a video for your hub. We need to reach as many people as possible and convince them to take mitigation strategies seriously or things will get much, much worse," Fauci wrote back, despite having [downplayed effectiveness of mitigation methods](#) in other emails.

From: Mark Zuckerberg (b) (6)
Sent: Sunday, March 15, 2020 12:18 PM
To: Fauci, Anthony (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)>
Subject: Thanks and ideas

Tony:

I wanted to send a note of thanks for your leadership and everything you're doing to make our country's response to this outbreak as effective as possible. I also wanted to share a few ideas of ways we could help you get your message out, but I understand you're incredibly busy, so don't feel a need to reply unless these seem interesting.

This isn't public yet, but we're building a Coronavirus Information Hub that we're going to put at the top of Facebook for everyone (200+ million Americans, 2.5 billion people worldwide) with two goals: (1)

NIH-000468

make sure people can get authoritative information from reliable sources and (2) encourage people to practice social distance and give people ideas for doing this using internet tools. This will be live within the next 48 hours.

As a central part of this hub, I think it would be useful to include a video from you because people trust and want to hear from experts rather than just a bunch of agencies and political leaders. This could be done in a number of formats if you're open to it. Probably best would be recording a Q&A where you answer people's top questions, but we'd be open to other formats too.

I'm also doing a series of livestreamed Q&As with health experts to try to use my large following on the platform (100 million followers) to get authoritative information out as well. I'd love to have you do one of these Q&As. This could be the video we put in the Coronavirus Hub or it could be a different thing that we distribute separately, but I think it could be effective as well.

Finally, (b) (4)
[Redacted text]

Again, I know you're incredibly busy, so don't feel the need to respond if this doesn't seem helpful. If it's easy to talk live, give me a call anytime on my mobile phone: (b) (6).

Thanks again for everything you're doing.

Mark

Zuckerberg also made another offer to Fauci, though it remains redacted as a FOIA b(4) exemption, that pertains to "trade secrets" or other confidential "commercial or financial information."

Fauci called it “very exciting.” An NIAID official likewise described the redacted proposal as “an even bigger deal” than the video.

“The sooner we get that offer up the food-chain the better. I gave Bill Hall a heads-up about this opportunity and he is standing by to discuss this with HHS and WH comms, but I didn’t want him to do anything without being aware of the offer,” the official, Courtney Billet, told Fauci.

“Is it OK if I hand this aspect off to Bill to determine who the best point of contact would be so the Administration can take advantage of this offer, soonest?” she asked. Within days of Billet’s email, [reports emerged](#) that Facebook was working with the White House to provide the federal government with location data of social media users.

Facebook admittedly has been in [close communication](#) with the U.S. government throughout the COVID-19 crisis, consulting the Biden White House on alleged coronavirus misinformation, for example.

Besides offering resources for COVID-19 vaccines, Zuckerberg notably [poured around \\$400 million](#) of private money into election processes across the country last year ahead of the 2020 election. Many of the details of the unprecedented funding remain unclear, though [experts](#) who obtained documents from entities sponsored by Zuckerberg have estimated it gave Democrat-leaning counties [massive spending advantages](#) in battleground states.

Wisconsin lawmakers [announced](#) last week that they will be expanding an investigation into Zuckerberg’s funding after revelations that employees of a group backed by the tech founder may have [violated election law](#) and had [access to ballots](#).

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