Chairman Johnson Releases Internal FDA Memo on COVID-19 Vaccine Deaths and Seeks More HHS Records in Letter to Secretary Kennedy

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WASHINGTON, D.C. — On Friday, November 20, U.S. Sen. Ron Johnson (R-Wis.), chairman of the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, sent a letter to Department of Health and Human Services ("HHS") Secretary Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. enclosing nearly 100 pages of HHS records, including an internal Food and Drug Administration ("FDA") memo dated February 10, 2026 on deaths following COVID-19 vaccination in individuals aged 18-24 years.

The memo, which is one of five enclosures in the chairman's letter, examined 88 death reports of individuals between the ages of 18-24 years and identified three cases characterized as "possibly" related to the mRNA COVID-19 vaccines. The three cases involved women ages 19, 20, and 21 who all received their second COVID-19 injection, developed myocarditis, and died.

Other HHS documents that the chairman is releasing show that in March 2026, when an FDA official realized that the memo did not include 24-year-olds, other FDA officials refused to reassign one of the original authors of the memo to work on a revised version.

Additionally, the records indicate that as early as December 2025, FDA officials discussed plans to create six documents regarding deaths following COVID-19 vaccination, but based on documents received to date, the status of many of those records remains unclear.

The chairman's letter also highlights a recent article raising concerns about senior FDA official Dr. David Kaslow, who reportedly leaked sensitive FDA information to outside entities and may have helped stall the internal reviews the chairman has been investigating.

"The allegations contained in this report are damning and, if true, demand accountability," **wrote Chairman Johnson.**

The chairman called on HHS to provide all outstanding records relating to FDA's internal review of COVID-19 vaccine-related deaths, Dr. Kaslow's communications about the review process, and Dr. Kaslow's emails and text messages between him and the press.

The chairman's investigation of FDA's internal review of deaths following COVID-19 vaccination stemmed from the public release of a November 28, 2025 FDA memo written by Dr. Vinay Prasad, the then-Chief Medical and Scientific Officer and Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research Director at FDA, reporting "that [Office of Biostatistics and Pharmacovigilance ("OBPV")] career staff have found that at least 10 children have died after and because of receiving COVID-19 vaccination."

In May and June 2026, the chairman previously released HHS records tied to FDA's internal review, including a December 5, 2025 FDA memo about 96 pediatric deaths following COVID-19 vaccination, some of which were labeled as "possibly" or "probably" related to the vaccine.

Read more about the chairman's letter in *The Disinformation Chronicle*.

Read the full text of Chairman Johnson's November 20, 2026 letter to HHS here.

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