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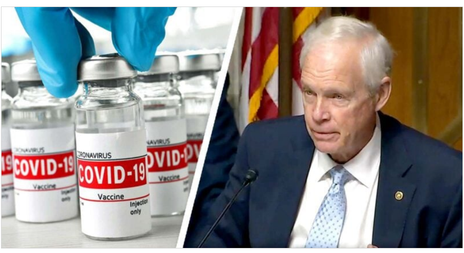
Johnson Releases FDA Memo Flagging 3 Deaths as Possibly Linked to mRNA COVID Shots

Sen. Ron Johnson today released nearly 100 pages of internal HHS documents, including an FDA memo that identified three women, ages 19 to 21, who developed myocarditis and died after receiving a second dose of an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine. The authors of the FDA memo classified the deaths as "possibly" caused by the COVID-19 vaccine.

by **Suzanne Burdick, Ph.D.**

NOVEMBER 23, 2026



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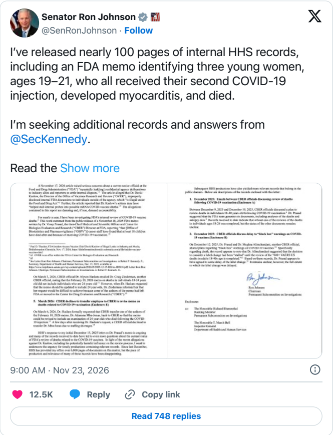
Sen. Ron Johnson (R-Wis.) today released nearly 100 pages of internal government documents, including a U.S. Food and Drug Administration **(FDA) memo** that identified three women, ages 19 to 21, who developed myocarditis and died after receiving a second dose of an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine.

According to the documents, the FDA classified the deaths as only "possibly" caused by COVID-19 vaccination.

Johnson attached the trove of documents, obtained through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), to a Nov. 20 **letter** he sent to U.S. Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. Johnson asked Kennedy to promptly release all HHS records relating to the FDA's internal review of **COVID-19** vaccine-related deaths.



Senator Ron Johnson
@SenRonJohnson · Follow

I've released nearly 100 pages of internal HHS records, including an FDA memo identifying three young women, ages 19–21, who all received their second COVID-19 injection, developed myocarditis, and died.

I'm seeking additional records and answers from @SecKennedy.

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9:00 AM · Nov 23, 2026

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Johnson told **The Defender** that the **FDA** has been "covering up the devastating harms caused by the COVID injections since the first few months of their use, when adverse event reports deluged VAERS."

Although there have been **39,299 deaths** reported to VAERS associated with the COVID injections, the FDA has only investigated 600 of the reported deaths, Johnson said. "That is a scandal in itself."

Johnson added:

> "The fact that the agency has been hiding and minimizing the findings of its investigations is something for which we are only now obtaining evidence. We need all the documents that continue to be withheld and the ability to interview everyone involved in the cover-up."

Johnson letter could trigger criminal investigation of David Kaslow

Johnson's letter is the latest step in the **senator's ongoing investigation** of how Biden-era health officials monitored COVID-19 vaccine safety.

Citing a Nov. 17 report by journalist **Paul D. Thacker**, Johnson specifically asked HHS to release communications from **Dr. David Kaslow**, a top FDA official and former Merck vaccine executive, related to the FDA's review of deaths linked to the COVID-19 vaccine.

According to Thacker, FDA insiders allege that **Kaslow illegally leaked information** from confidential internal discussions at the FDA to the press and **Big Pharma** allies.

Kaslow's leaks "helped stall internal probes into possible mRNA COVID-vaccine deaths."

Johnson told Kennedy that the allegations in Thacker's report against Kaslow were "damning and, if true, demand accountability."

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As The Defender reported, **FDA insiders** told Thacker that Kaslow has restricted access to safety information, reassigned investigators and obstructed investigations — including the investigation into the deaths of **at least 10 children** that FDA safety officers classified as either probably or possibly related to the COVID-19 vaccine.

Two officers involved in that investigation were **reassigned** from the **Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research**, which oversees vaccines. The officers — Drs. **Craig Zinderman** and **Adamma Mba-Jonas** — are now at the **Center for Drug Evaluation and Research**, which oversees prescription and over-the-counter drugs.

Kaslow's alleged leaks also affected agency deliberations earlier this year over whether to approve **Moderna's mRNA flu vaccine**.

Johnson told Kennedy that the recent allegations against Kaslow "underscore the urgency" of having HHS release all related records.

Johnson copied his letter to the HHS inspector general, which could trigger a criminal investigation into Kaslow's leaks, **Thacker wrote today on Substack**.

Johnson also asked HHS to release records relating to the **FDA's December 2025 plans** to create documents based on its analyses of deaths possibly linked to the COVID-19 **vaccines**.

'The FDA's process is set up to not find COVID vaccine deaths'

The documents released by Johnson appear to reveal problems in the FDA's safety review process for evaluating deaths possibly caused by COVID-19 vaccines.

The **Feb. 10 FDA memo** detailed the results of the agency's review of 88 deaths of young adults ages 18 to 24 that were reported to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) following vaccination with Pfizer or Moderna's mRNA COVID-19 vaccine, from the vaccine rollout through Aug. 14, 2025.

The goal of the review was to determine whether, for each death report in VAERS, the COVID-19 vaccine caused the death.

The authors of the memo concluded that in none of the 88 deaths was COVID-19 vaccination the "certain" or "probable" cause of death.

The authors classified the deaths of the three young women who developed myocarditis roughly two weeks after receiving their second dose as "possibly" related to the vaccine. The memo did not state the length of time between vaccination and the women's deaths.

The authors downplayed the possibility that the COVID-19 vaccine could have caused the young women's deaths. "It is important to note that possible cases could also be explained by alternative etiology," they wrote.

Thacker, who **analyzed the FDA memo today** in a Substack post, told The Defender that the FDA's process for reviewing VAERS reports appears biased against finding that the vaccine caused deaths.

"It seems obvious now that the FDA's process is set up to not find COVID vaccine deaths," Thacker said.

A 2023 investigation by **The BMJ** concluded that VAERS — which is co-run by the FDA and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) — is "broken."

The CDC also dismissed the possibility that deaths reported in VAERS following COVID-19 vaccination could be caused by the shots, The BMJ reported.

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According to The BMJ:

> "While other countries have acknowledged deaths that were 'likely' or 'probably' related to mRNA vaccination, the CDC — which says that it has reviewed nearly 20 000 preliminary reports of death using VAERS (far more than other countries)— has not acknowledged a single death linked to mRNA vaccines."

Thacker told The Defender, "The CDC's function has been knocking down evidence of COVID vaccine harms."

He asked:

> "What was the point of VAERS if it never found clear evidence of a COVID vaccine death, at the same time that Korean researchers published **evidence of deaths** in their country? Are we to conclude that Koreans are at greater risk of COVID vaccine death?
>
> "Or is it just obvious that the **FDA doesn't want to find clear evidence** of vaccine harms and constantly bites back evidence to conclude the death was 'possibly' caused by the vaccine?"

Johnson's newly released documents "add further detail to ongoing questions about how the FDA has evaluated and communicated COVID vaccine safety signals to the public and will likely spur further investigations," Thacker wrote on Substack.

Related articles in The Defender

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- **Breaking: FDA Knew of Better Method to Detect Sudden Deaths After COVID Vaccines — But Refused to Use it.**
- **Leaked Memo: FDA Confirms 'At Least' 10 Child Deaths From COVID Vaccine, Promises Sweeping Reforms**
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Suzanne Burdick, Ph.D.

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Kim from Brooklyn
2 days ago
Who is counting the UNBORN that died during pregnancy or birth? Don't they count???
3 0 Reply

AMV
2 days ago
When a bioweapon is forced on innocent people to depopulate with mass propaganda, lies and deceptions, millions will be injured and/or die. They will never admit they are accomplishing their plan while we suffer. CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY require prosecutions. I hear silence. Wake up people, look around you. Mass injury and death is everywhere. If you've been lucky so far, it's not over! More to come!!!! 🤥🤯
2 0 Reply

Beatrice → AMV
2 days ago
Imagine being one of the residents in Iowa that is going to be saturated in a plume of lead azide this week for Thanksgiving and yet the Army, who forced covid vaccines, claims to have the population's safety as a number one priority. Do they really believe that anyone would believe them?
1 0 Reply

AMV → Beatrice
2 days ago
It's discussing, inhumane and one big lie. Lead poisoning will occur and innocent people will suffer!
2 0 Reply

Beatrice → AMV
2 days ago
All the children and wildlife will suffer horribly. I am so angry and fed up with this immoral country.
1 0 Reply

Mayfield
2 days ago edited
There's four in my small circle of friends and family - one fatal stroke, two died of cancer, and one from heart attack. All appeared healthy before the covid shot.
That's about a 2-4 % death rate.
2 0 Reply

Andrew Berghoff
2 days ago
Wake up! it's time to get up!
2 0 Reply

Trump Fan
2 days ago
Three? i call BS!
2 0 Reply

Vincent Duepaul
2 days ago
We know thousands died from the mRNA
2 1 Reply

BarbaraCharis → Vincent Duepaul
2 days ago
Not thousands...Millions in the USA and Multi-millions in other countries. 75 years ago, people knew that injecting arsenic into the bloodstream could kill...and it was considered murder. Today, these insane medical doctors are injecting these mRNA CV-vaccines directly into the bloodstream with graphene hydroxide, polysorbate80, nanoparticles, etc. These are extremely toxic...and don't belong in the human body. I call it murder what they are doing to humanity. The bloodstream was designed to carry nutrients from natural food to NOURISH the cells, glands and organs...creating good health. What do you think poisonous matter will do? Ignorance is not bliss. Are these medical doctors ignorant about how the human body functions...or are they into the Depopulation Agenda of those who run the world?
1 0 Reply

Mick from Hooe
2 days ago
"Three Deaths from the mRNA Death Shot? Are you kidding?

mRNA jabs cause Autism and many other debilitating health problems. But still they continue to market the mRNA Death Shot! If you think you got away with no permanent vax damage, think again - **You've now got a shortened Life Expectancy!**

Pfizer requested 75 Years to release their safety/deadly data regarding deadly injections, which they call 'vaccines'. Did you wonder why?

We used only to have to worry about evil corrupt Big Pharma, but when the release the next (Scamdemic???) we'll have to deal with them along with AI!

Be very careful who your friends are. Insane Gates is corrupt to the hilt!

Unjabbed Mick (UK Patriot - but **not prepared to fight for our corrupt UK Government!**)
0 0 Reply

r2bzjudge
2 days ago
"The authors of the FDA memo classified the deaths as "possibly" caused by the COVID-19 vaccine."

More than possibly. Myocarditis is a side effect of the Covid shot. There is no other reason for them to have had myocarditis, other than the Covid shot. FDA's Peter Marks said that myocarditis was nothing more than a "twinge of pain," for which one went to the hospital and got anti-inflammatory drugs, took it easy for a few months, then went on with your life. That was not the case for these three women, as well as others who were seriously injured or killed by myocarditis, as a result of a Covid shot. One of the 10 children Dr. Prasad noted as likely dying of a Covid shot, died of myocarditis. No doubt he did, 5 days after the shot.
0 0 Reply

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