

WisDems: ICYMI - Johnson pushes Ivermectin and vaccine conspiracies despite federal warning

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As the Delta variant drives COVID hospitalizations and deaths, including in children, Ron Johnson continues to push dangerous and life-threatening claims that are prolonging the pandemic. See more below:

[WI Examiner](#): Johnson pushes Ivermectin and vaccine conspiracies despite federal warning

Sen. Ron Johnson has made multiple podcast and radio appearances this week in which he pushes Ivermectin as a treatment for COVID-19 while fear mongering about vaccinations. And he's continued to do so, even after clear warnings that his message is dangerous.

Johnson, who has regularly argued for the use of unproven drugs such as Hydroxychloroquine and Ivermectin as treatments for COVID-19, appeared on the shows of Wisconsin right wing radio host Vicki McKenna and Washington Times opinion editor Cheryl Chumley to criticize the Food and Drug Administration (FDA)'s decision to fully authorize Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine and advocate for people to take Ivermectin to treat the disease.

Ivermectin is commonly used to deworm livestock, and although it is approved for use in humans to treat parasitic infection, has not been shown to be effective at preventing COVID-19 infection or treating patients with the disease.

This week, following a prominent push by figures such as Johnson on right wing media outlets such as Fox News, the FDA was forced to put out a warning against

the use of Ivermectin.

“You are not a horse. You are not a cow,” the agency responsible for approving the use of drugs in the country wrote on Twitter after people were hospitalized for taking the drug.

Johnson, rather than taking the FDA’s warning as a sign that experts don’t believe Ivermectin is an effective treatment for COVID, told Chumley he was being persecuted by the FDA.

“They’re doing far more than dismissing me, they’re attacking me,” he said on her podcast, Bold and Blunt. “I don’t care what drug will work. Try a bunch of them.”

Johnson falsely told McKenna that COVID-19 vaccines are far more dangerous than Ivermectin, citing data from the FDA’s vaccine adverse event reporting system (VAERS). The data in the VAERS system includes a disclaimer that not all reported events have been vetted and aren’t necessarily caused by a vaccine. Additionally, VAERS reports can be made by anyone, not just medical professionals.

[...]

“There’s really no reason to fully approve this, emergency use authorization, anybody that wants to get a vaccine, 12 or over, can get one,” he continued.

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