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SELECT SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE CORONAVIRUS CRISIS

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

Phone (202) 225-4400  
<https://coronavirus.house.gov>

April 6, 2022

The Honorable Vice Admiral Vivek Murthy, MD, MPH  
United States Surgeon General  
Department of Health and Human Services  
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Dr. Murthy:

Enclosed are post-hearing questions that have been directed to you and submitted to the official record for the Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis hearing on “Moving Beyond the Coronavirus Crisis: The Biden Administration’s Progress in Combating the Pandemic and Plan for the Next Phase,” held on Wednesday, March 30, 2022.

In order to ensure a complete hearing record, please return your written responses to the Select Subcommittee by April 20, 2022. Please respond to each question in full and include the name of the Member. Your response should be addressed to the Select Subcommittee office at 2157 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515. Please also send an electronic version of your response by email to Yusra Abdelmeguid at [Yusra.Abdelmeguid2@mail.house.gov](mailto:Yusra.Abdelmeguid2@mail.house.gov).

Thank you for your prompt attention to this request. If you need additional information or have any questions, please contact Select Subcommittee staff at (202) 225-4400.

Sincerely,



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James E. Clyburn  
Chairman

Enclosure

cc: The Honorable Steve Scalise, Ranking Member

## **Questions for Surgeon General Vivek Murthy**

March 30, 2022 Hearing: “Moving Beyond the Coronavirus Crisis: The Biden Administration’s Progress in Combating the Pandemic and Plan for the Next Phase”

### **Question from Rep. Jamie Raskin (MD-08)**

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1. In your opening statement, you said that the “extensive and dangerous spread of health misinformation” is one of the “biggest ongoing threats to our public health.” Your written remarks further called on technology companies to “take responsibility for the unprecedented volume of misinformation on their sites” because “it’s poisoning our information environment, and it’s causing needless harm.”
  - a. Why is misinformation such a serious threat to public health, and how is it contributing to vaccine hesitancy and impairing the response to the coronavirus pandemic?
  - b. What can be done to stop the proliferation of misinformation online?
2. According to a recent analysis from the Pew Research Center, in the fall of 2021, the counties that supported then-President Trump by the highest margins in the last presidential election had death rates four times higher than the counties that supported President Biden. The analysis attributed these deaths to the disparate vaccination rates between these counties.
  - a. What can we do to close the partisan divide on vaccinations?
  - b. What role does misinformation play in contributing to this divide?