

thefullertoninformer.com

A conspiracy-oriented website that has promoted a variety of debunked and outlandish claims, including that the 9/11 terrorist attacks and the COVID-19 pandemic are “hoaxes.”



Proceed with caution: This website severely violates basic journalistic standards.

Score: 32.5/100

Ownership and Financing

TheFullertonInformer.com is owned by Joe Imbriano, a Californian who refers to himself as “the Fullerton Informer” and is identified as the site administrator in his author biography. Imbriano owns two other websites, 5GDangers.com and WiFiDangers.com, and had 117,000 subscribers on his Fullerton Informer YouTube channel as of July 2020.

In 2016, Imbriano ran unsuccessfully for the Fullerton, California, City Council.

The site does not run advertisements.

Content

Every page on TheFullertonInformer.com includes the following text above the website’s name:
“EVERYTHING YOU HAVE BEEN TOLD IS A LIE AND A FRAUD. JOE IMBRIANO IS THE FULLERTON INFORMER AND BECAUSE YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO KNOW, WE DARE TO PUSH THE ENVELOPE.”

Content on the site generally consists of articles credited to Imbriano or videos of him speaking about various conspiracy theories. The site’s homepage features categories ranging from “5G” and “FORCED VACCINATIONS” to “Pedophile protectors on the Fullerton City Council.”

Other pages on the site summarize conspiracy theories promoted by Imbriano. For example, the page titled “5G Dangers” includes videos of Imbriano speaking about 5G, as well as videos of his public comments to the Fullerton City Council about the supposed dangers of the technology. Titles of other pages include “Apple666,” “Disney666,” and “Vaccines.” (The number 666 is often used to refer to the devil.)

- ✗ Does not repeatedly publish false content (22points)
- ✗ Gathers and presents information responsibly (18)
- ✗ Regularly corrects or clarifies errors (12.5)
- ✓ Handles the difference between news and opinion responsibly (12.5)
- ✗ Avoids deceptive headlines (10)
- ✓ Website discloses ownership and financing (7.5)
- Clearly labels advertising (7.5)
- ✗ Reveals who’s in charge, including any possible conflicts of interest (5)
- ✓ The site provides names of content creators, along with either contact or biographical information (5)

Criteria are listed in order of importance.

[More information.](#)

Credibility

TheFullertonInformer.com has frequently promoted

false claims and unsubstantiated conspiracy theories, including about the COVID-19 pandemic.

For example, in a March 2020 article, headlined “WiFi 6, The 6 GHz Frequency-the war on Iodine and WiGig-The 60 GHz Frequency and the war on Oxygen,” the site claimed, without evidence, that stay-at-home orders issued in response to the pandemic were a cover to test what the site called “electromagnetic weaponry” that will be deployed through 5G networks.

“WHEN THEY GO LIVE WITH 5G AND THESE SYSTEMS IN A FEW YEARS, WHEN THEY ARE ALL UP AND RUNNING SIMULTANEOUSLY, THE RESULTS WILL BE A REPEAT OF 1918 DEATH TOLL OF 100 MILLION PEOPLE WHICH WAS ALSO ELECTROMAGNETICALLY INDUCED,” the article stated. “WHEN THEY PULL THIS OFF, WHEN THEY FLIP THE SWITCH, PEOPLE WILL DROP LIKE FLIES. THEY WILL BLAME A FAKE VIRUS AND THEY WILL FORCE VACCINES AND QUARANTINES, AND BODY BURNINGS ON EVERYONE. WE MUST EXPOSE THESE FACTS THAT THE ELECTROMAGNETIC WEAPONRY BEING DEPLOYED ON US BY US IS GOING TO BE USED AGAINST US.”

There is no evidence that the COVID-19 virus is connected to 5G, according to fact-checking articles published in 2020 by FullFact.org and Reuters. A March 2020 report from the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection, a Germany-based organization that studies the health effects of non-ionizing radiation such as radio waves, found no evidence that 5G exposure posed a risk to human health. There is also no evidence to support Imbriano’s claim that the 1918 flu pandemic was “electromagnetically induced.”

Articles and headlines on the site have repeatedly referred to the COVID-19 virus as a hoax. For example, a February 2020 article written by Imbriano was headlined, “THE CORONAVIRUS HOAX IS A MASSIVE PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE OPERATION TO USHER IN FORCED VACCINATIONS, QUARANTINES, RELOCATIONS, INCARCERATIONS,

TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS, FORCED MEDICAL PROCEDURES, FOOD SHORTAGES, AND AN END TO ALL OF YOUR RIGHTS.”

Similarly, in a July 2020 video, which ran under the headline “BANNED ON YOU TUBE-IT’S AIRBORNE,” he said, “I will tell you that the coronavirus is a cartoon character. It’s not real, folks. It doesn’t exist. It’s not going to infect you.”

In fact, there have been more than 14 million confirmed COVID-19 cases and more than 600,000 deaths worldwide due to COVID-19 as of late July 2020, according to the World Health Organization.

In a June 2020 video posted on the site under the title “BANNED ON YOU TUBE-Universal Masking And The Call To Resist At All Levels,” Imbriano promoted false claims about face masks. After again falsely asserting that the COVID-19 virus “does not exist,” Imbriano stated, “Everything that they’re telling us we need to do to protect ourselves is playing right into their hands for us to kill ourselves. Let’s start with the most basic thing they’re telling us to do: cut off your air supply. I mean, really? Re-inhale your CO2?”

Wearing a face mask will not cut off a person’s air supply or cause an accumulation of carbon dioxide, as illustrated by health care workers who regularly wear face masks for long periods of time without experiencing those effects. According to a May 2020 article from health fact-checking website HealthFeedback.org, even surgical and N95 masks used by health care workers are porous enough to allow gas molecules such as carbon dioxide and oxygen to pass through, while limiting exposure to the respiratory droplets that could spread the COVID-19 virus.

The homepage of TheFullertonInformer.com also provides a printable “mask exemption form” that contains false claims about obtaining exemptions to face mask requirements during the pandemic. The form, which includes the seal of the U.S. Department of Justice, reads: “I am exempt from the Governor’s

regulation Mandating Face Mask usage in Public. Wearing a Face Mask poses a Health Risk to me,” citing the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The DOJ called similar flyers “fraudulent” in a June 2020 press release, saying the department “did not issue and does not endorse them in any way” despite the flyers displaying the department’s seal. It also said the flyers contained inaccurate information. “The ADA does not provide a blanket exemption to people with disabilities from complying with legitimate safety requirements necessary for safe operations,” the Justice Department said.

The website has promoted multiple false health claims unrelated to the COVID-19 pandemic, including the claim that human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) does not cause acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS). A May 2020 article titled “THE AIDS HOAX, THE VIRUS HOAX,” stated, “AIDS researchers claim that HIV plays a role in the development of these illnesses, but in spite of this claim, 20 years of AIDS research has failed to prove causation between HIV infection and any so-called AIDS disease.”

Contrary to the article’s claims, multiple studies dating to the 1980s have demonstrated that HIV infection causes AIDS. According to a page on the website of the U.S. National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), “abundant epidemiologic, virologic and immunologic data support the conclusion that infection with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) is the underlying cause of AIDS.”

TheFullertonInformer.com has also promoted conspiracy theories related to the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. An October 2018 article, credited to the site 911PlanesHoax.com, falsely claimed that hijacked planes did not crash into the World Trade Center towers and were either computer-generated images or holograms. “In all of the footage the alleged planes hitting the twin towers clearly do not look real,” the article stated. “The planes have a computer generated appearance. In every video the planes have a different appearance and color, missing wings, are featureless and blurred.”

Beyond multiple eyewitness accounts and videos that captured the planes hitting the World Trade Center towers, an investigation of the U.S. National Institute of Standards and Technology, published in December 2005, concluded that the impact of hijacked airplanes and subsequent fires caused the collapse of the towers.

The site includes multiple undated pages that promote other outlandish conspiracy theories. For example, a page titled “NASA” claims that the Earth is flat. “The earth is flat and evolution is a lie from the pit of hell,” the article stated. “The moon and the sun are roughly the same size, are at the same distance from and revolve around the earth JUST LIKE THE BIBLE SAYS.”

Besides ignoring centuries of evidence showing that the Earth is spherical and revolves around the Sun, Imbriano was also incorrect in stating that the Moon and the Sun are located “the same distance” from Earth and are “roughly the same size.” The Moon is about 400 times smaller than the Sun and about 400 times closer to Earth.

Because TheFullertonInformer.com has frequently promoted false claims and unsubstantiated conspiracy theories, NewsGuard has determined that the site has repeatedly published false content, fails to gather and present information responsibly, and does not avoid deceptive headlines.

The website does not post a corrections policy and NewsGuard could not find any corrections on the site.

TheFullertonInformer.com does not purport to publish straight news, and content is consistent with its disclosed agenda of purportedly exposing conspiracies. Therefore, NewsGuard has determined that the site does not handle the difference between news and opinion irresponsibly.

Asked about the site’s editorial standards and practices, Imbriano responded to NewsGuard’s initial email in July 2020, stating, “Please provide the full names of your editorial board before I go any further with your organization.” After being provided with information about NewsGuard’s editorial staff and advisory board,

Imbriano did not respond to two additional emails seeking comment on the articles cited above and the site's approach to corrections.

Transparency

Text that appears above the website's name on every page states that "JOE IMBRIANO IS THE FULLERTON INFORMER." NewsGuard has determined this is acceptable disclosure of the site's ownership.

Imbriano's author page identifies him as "site administrator." However, there is no indication who edits the site, and the site does not provide any contact information. Therefore, NewsGuard has determined that the site does not provide information about editorial leaders.

Articles are generally credited to Imbriano, and his author page includes a short biography.

Imbriano did not respond to two emails seeking comment on the site's lack of disclosure regarding editorial leaders.

The site does not run advertising.

History

The earliest stories on TheFullertonInformer.com date to 2013, the same year the site's domain name was registered.

Written by: [John Gregory](#)

Edited by: [Eric Effron](#)

Send feedback to NewsGuard: [Click Here](#)

Sources

Ownership and Financing

<http://www.fppc.ca.gov/enforcement/EnfDivCaseResults/stipulated-agreements/2017-sdo/february-sdo/joe-imbriano-4-fullerton-city-council.html>
<https://votersedge.nbcchicago.com/ca/en/election/2016-11-08/orange-county/city-council-city-of-fullerton/joe-imbriano>
<https://docs.cityoffullerton.com/WebLink/DocView.aspx?dbid=1&id=629341&page=1&cr=1>

<https://web.archive.org/web/20170526011551/http://imbriano4fullerton.com/>

2016 Fullerton election results:

<https://www.ocvote.com/fileadmin/live/gen2016/results.htm>

<https://voiceofoc.org/2016/05/fullerton-council-postpones-decision-on-district-maps/>

<https://voiceofoc.org/2016/03/a-divided-fullerton-council-approves-raises-for-firefighters/>

<https://voiceofoc.org/2017/10/voting-map-reignites-tensions-in-fullerton/>

https://5gdangers.com/?page_id=12

<https://wifidangers.com/>

117,000 YouTube subscribers:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCVt3STOc1XNEWOIWYW0UKaA>

14,500 subscribers on second channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCt0Pqn1ANsHCbUnKU6hpw>

<https://twitter.com/joeimbriano777>

<https://thefullertoninformer.com/nextdoor-feed-on-joe-imbriano-has-declared-candidacy-for-the-39th-congressional-district/>

<https://www.facebook.com/Joe-Imbriano-for-US-House-of-Representatives-CA-39-1845146845736999/>

Content

<https://thefullertoninformer.com/disney/>

<https://thefullertoninformer.com/apple-666/>

<https://thefullertoninformer.com/category/5g/>

<https://thefullertoninformer.com/category/forced-vaccinations/>

<https://thefullertoninformer.com/category/the-flat-earth/>

<https://thefullertoninformer.com/category/pedophile-protectors-on-the-fullerton-city-council/>

Credibility

COVID-19 is a hoax #1:

<https://web.archive.org/web/20200721125121/https://covid19.who.int/>

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-china-health-hongkong/first-hong-kong-policeman-infected-by-virus-concern-of-contagion-amongst-force-idUSKBN20F0DA>

COVID-19 is a hoax #2, cited claims start at 0:58:

<https://archive.vn/H1pUa>

COVID-19 is a hoax #3:

<https://thefullertoninformer.com/corona-virus-hoax-the-tool-for-enslavement-of-humanity-the-war-on-food-travel-and-our-bloodstreams/>

Mask video, cited claims start at 4:00:

<https://web.archive.org/web/20200721184040/https://thefullertoninformer.com/banned-on-you-tube-universal-masking-and-the-call-to-resist-at-all-levels/>
<https://healthfeedback.org/claimreview/wearing-face-masks-does-not-cause-hypercapnia-or-affect-the-immune-system/>

Mask exemption form: <https://archive.vn/zRAPP>
<https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/department-justice-warns-inaccurate-flyers-and-postings-regarding-use-face-masks-and>

EMF weapon and COVID-19: <https://archive.vn/hs01h>
<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/factcheck/2020/04/23/fact-check-5-g-technology-not-linked-coronavirus/3006152001/>

<https://www.reuters.com/article/uk-factcheck-coronavirus-5g/false-claim-5g-networks-are-making-people-sick-not-coronavirus-idUSKBN2133Tl>
<https://fullfact.org/online/wuhan-5g-coronavirus/>
<https://www.icnirp.org/en/applications/5g/index.html>
https://journals.lww.com/health-physics/Abstract/publishahead/Guidelines_for_Limiting_Exposure_to.99797.aspx
<https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2020/mar/12/5g-safe-radiation-watchdog-health>
<https://www.fda.gov/radiation-emitting-products/cell-phones/scientific-evidence-cell-phone-safety>
<https://www.visaliatimesdelta.com/story/news/2020/04/04/fact-check-no-5-g-wireless-towers-arent-dangerous/2941154001/>

AIDS denialism: <https://archive.vn/9RYF6>
<https://aidsinfo.nih.gov/news/528/the-evidence-that-hiv-causes-aids>

<https://web.archive.org/web/20160909092053/https://www.niaid.nih.gov/topics/HIVAIDS/Understanding/howHIVCausesAIDS/Pages/HIVcausesAIDS.aspx>
<https://aidsinfo.nih.gov/news/73/how-hiv-causes-aids>
<https://aidsinfo.nih.gov/news/218/the-relationship-between-the-human-immunodeficiency-virus-and-the-acquired-immunodeficiency-syndrome--part-i>

<https://web.archive.org/web/20160910072907/http://www.niaid.nih.gov/topics/HIVAIDS/Understanding/howHIVCausesAIDS/Pages/relationshipHIVAIDS.aspx>

9/11 story: <https://archive.vn/W62An>

<https://www.nist.gov/el/final-reports-nist-world-trade-center-disaster-investigation>

<https://www.fbi.gov/history/famous-cases/911-investigation>

Alex Jones is Bill Hicks: <https://archive.vn/elxXZ>
<https://www.texasmonthly.com/the-daily-post/the-conspiracy-theory-that-alex-jones-is-actually-legendary-long-dead-texas-comedian-bill-hicks/>

https://news.avclub.com/video-offers-irrefutable-proof-that-bill-hicks-is-ale-1798274348?utm_medium=RSS

https://www.vice.com/en_us/article/d7evqv/digging-deep-into-the-only-conspiracy-alex-jones-doesnt-like

Flat Earth page: <https://archive.vn/sgqRn>

<http://www.bbc.com/earth/story/20160126-how-we-know-earth-is-round>

<https://spaceplace.nasa.gov/review/dr-marc-earth/moon-general.html#:~:text=The%20Moon%20is%20about%200400,we%20call%20a%20solar%20eclipse.>

<https://thefullertoninformer.com/forcedvaccination/>

<https://thefullertoninformer.com/forcedvaccination/>

News/opinion #1: <https://archive.vn/2AA5y>

News/opinion #2: <https://archive.vn/pEnD8>

News/opinion #3: <https://archive.vn/FTppo>

Transparency

<https://thefullertoninformer.com/author/joeimbriano/>
<https://web.archive.org/web/20200716123120/https://thefullertoninformer.com/>

History

<https://domainbigdata.com/thefullertoninformer.com>
Earliest post: <https://thefullertoninformer.com/lausd-going-wireless-to-the-tune-of-500-million-is-fullerton-next/>