

# plandemicmovie.com

The website for an upcoming documentary called “Plandemic,” which promotes false and unsubstantiated claims about the COVID-19 pandemic.



Proceed with caution: This website severely violates basic standards of credibility and transparency.

Score: 35/100

## Ownership and Financing

PlandemicMovie.com does not disclose its ownership. The documentary that the website is promoting, “Plandemic,” was produced by a man named Mikki Willis, according to his Facebook page. Willis’ LinkedIn profile states that he is the owner and founder of Elevate Foundation, a non-profit production company registered in Ojai, California. In a May 2020 article, fact-checking organization PolitiFact named Elevate as the producer of the documentary.

The foundation’s U.S. Internal Revenue Service records indicate that its tax-exempt status was revoked in 2017, after the foundation failed to file required forms with the IRS for three consecutive years.

No advertising appears on the site.

✗ 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)

## Content

The site is devoted to promoting the “Plandemic” documentary. The “About the Film” section states, “Plandemic will expose the scientific and political elite who run the scam that is our global health system, while laying out a new plan; a plan that allows all of humanity to reconnect with healing forces of nature.”

The site states that the documentary will be released in “a series of vignettes” prior to the completion of the full-length film. As of May 2020, only the first 25-minute segment was available on the site.

Along with an embedded video, the site offers a link to download the first part of the documentary, stating, “In an effort to bypass the gatekeepers of free speech, we invite you to download this interview by simply clicking the button below, then uploading directly to all of your favorite platforms.”

Criteria are listed in order of importance.

[More information.](#)

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## Credibility

The first part of “Plandemic,” released on the site in May 2020, consists largely of an interview between Willis, the filmmaker, and Judy Mikovits, a molecular biologist and anti-vaccine activist. Mikovits was co-author on an October 2009 study, published in the journal *Science*, that claimed that a virus found in mice was linked to chronic fatigue syndrome. Subsequent studies could not replicate her findings, and the original study was retracted in December 2011, with the retraction notice stating, “*Science* has lost confidence in the Report and the validity of its conclusions.”

According to a 2011 article in *Science* magazine, Mikovits was fired from her job as director of research at the Whittmore Peterson Institute for Neuro-Immune Disease in Reno, Nevada. The *Chicago Tribune* reported in November 2011 that Mikovits was subsequently arrested on charges alleging that she stole lab notebooks and a computer from the institute after being fired. The charges were later dropped, according to a 2012 article in *Science* magazine.

At the beginning of the interview posted on the site, Mikovits claimed that these charges were part of a government setup. “I was held in jail with no charges,” she said. “I was called a fugitive from justice. No warrant, literally dragged me out of the house.” She also claimed that the notebooks that she was alleged to have stolen were “planted in my house” and she accused investigators in the case of being “paid off” at the direction of Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the U.S. National Institutes of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAD). She offered no evidence to support these claims.

A NIAD spokesperson, asked to comment on Mikovits’ claims by fact-checking organization PolitiFact in May 2020, said, “The National Institutes of Health and National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases are focused on critical research aimed at ending the COVID-19 pandemic and preventing further deaths. We are not engaging in tactics by some seeking to derail our efforts.”

In the segment, Mikovits makes numerous false and unsubstantiated claims about the COVID-19 virus. For example, she said, "It's very clear, this virus was manipulated, this family of viruses was manipulated and studied in a laboratory where the animals were taken into the laboratory. And this is what was released, whether deliberate or not, that cannot be naturally occurring."

There is no evidence to support the claim that the virus was manipulated. A March 2020 study published in the journal *Nature Medicine* concluded that the virus "is not a laboratory construct or a purposefully manipulated virus." An earlier study, published in February 2020 in the journal *Nature*, found that the COVID-19 virus is "96% percent identical at the whole-genome level to a bat coronavirus."

In an April 2020 statement, the U.S. intelligence community said that it "concur[s] with the wide scientific consensus that the COVID-19 virus was not manmade or genetically modified." It later said that the intelligence community "will continue to rigorously examine emerging information and intelligence to determine whether the outbreak began through contact with infected animals or if it was the result of an accident at a laboratory in Wuhan."

Mikovits also falsely claimed that "flu vaccines increase the odds by 36 percent of getting COVID-19." She said her source for this claim was a January 2020 study, published in the journal *Vaccine*, that studied rates of respiratory illness among U.S. military personnel, comparing their illnesses to whether they received a flu vaccine during the 2017-18 flu season.

While the cited study did report higher rates of coronavirus infection among individuals who received the flu vaccine, it was referring to coronaviruses known to infect humans at the time the study was conducted, such as those that cause the common cold. The COVID-19 virus did not emerge in China until late 2019.

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, existing scientific evidence suggests “that influenza vaccination does not, in fact, make people more susceptible to other respiratory infections.”

Mikovits also claimed in the segment that, “If you’ve ever had a flu vaccine, you were injected with coronaviruses.” In fact, there are no coronaviruses in a flu shot. According to the CDC, flu vaccines contain either an inactivated or partial influenza virus, which is in a separate family of viruses from coronaviruses.

Because the documentary segment posted on the site contains false and unsubstantiated claims, NewsGuard has determined the site has repeatedly published false content and that it fails to gather and present information responsibly.

Because no headlines appear on the site, only a single video, NewsGuard has determined the criterion for avoiding deceptive headlines does not apply.

None of those false claims on the site have been corrected. Therefore, NewsGuard has determined that the site does not meet NewsGuard’s standard for having effective corrections practices.

The “About the Film” section on PlandemicMovie.com describes the documentary’s perspective, saying the film “will expose the scientific and political elite who run the scam that is our global health system, while laying out a new plan; a plan that allows all of humanity to reconnect with healing forces of nature.”

Because of this disclosure, NewsGuard has determined the site does not handle the difference between news and opinion irresponsibly.

NewsGuard did not receive a response to a phone call to the Elevate Foundation’s California office, as well as a message sent through the website’s contact form, seeking comment on the false and unsubstantiated claims in “Plandemic.”

about its ownership or financing of either the website or the film. No credits are included in the film itself.

Mikki Willis is identified as “Father / Filmmaker” in the documentary. Since the clip on the site identifies Willis as the filmmaker, NewsGuard has determined the site meets the standard for revealing who is in charge of the content. The site provides a general contact form.

The site does not run advertisements.

NewsGuard did not receive a response to a phone call to the Elevate Foundation’s California office, as well as a message sent through the site’s contact form, seeking comment on the lack of information about its ownership and the content creators involved in creating the documentary.

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History                    The site’s domain name was registered in May 2020.

**Written by:** [John Gregory](#)

**Edited by:** [Eric Effron](#)

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

## Sources

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Ownership and  
Financing

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Content

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Credibility

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Transparency

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History

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