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**Fact-Check Sample 1**

An image shared on Facebook claims to depict police officers arresting iconic Sesame Street character Big Bird for assaulting Green Bay Packers Quarterback Aaron Rogers over coronavirus vaccinations and treatment options.

Verdict: False

There is no actual proof of evidence whatsoever that Big Bird assaulted Green Bay Packers Quarterback Aaron Rogers in November 2021. The popular six-year-old bird, along with Rosita, Elmo, and other Sesame Street characters, appeared in a special television program with CNN on November 2, 2021, called "The ABCs of COVID Vaccines: A CNN/Sesame Street Townhall for Families". The townhall special in partnership with CNN and Sesame Workshop, was designed to answer young children and their parents' questions about the coronavirus vaccine, and address any concerns or hesitations about the matter. Before the program's air date, U.S. health regulators approved the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine for kids ages 5 to 11 years old under emergency use authorization. Studies showed that the vaccine offered over 90 percent protection for that age group and had effective benefits similar to people ages 16 to 25.

The program discussed fears that kids might have about getting vaccinated, especially a common concern that most kids have about needles and feeling physical pain. CNN's reporter Erica Hill, medical expert Dr. Sanjay Gupta, and other experts positively addressed those concerns with some suggestions to encourage younger children to get vaccinated and not be afraid of the vaccine itself. Big Bird and other Sesame Street characters felt better about the Coronavirus vaccine and vaccines in general. Days after the program aired, Big Bird announced on Twitter that he received his COVID vaccine despite that his body felt sore, but acknowledges that the vaccine offers him protection from the virus. Also, Big Bird was vaccinated against measles during a 1972 episode of Sesame Street. That episode during the show's third season encourages the younger viewers to get the measles vaccine to promote a child vaccination campaign. There is nothing on Big Bird's official Twitter page, the CNN's town hall meeting, or Big Bird's vaccination history to suggest that he assaulted Aaron Rogers over the COVID vaccine or unproven drugs. Rogers recently came under fire this month after he contracted the virus, but told reporters when asked about his vaccination status, he said he was "immunized." Rogers later revealed on Pat McAfee's show that he was not vaccinated because he had concerns about COVID vaccines currently authorized in the U.S. He also spoke with talk show host Joe Rogan about alternative treatment and that he was taking Ivermectin. Ivermectin is a drug to treat parasites in horses and other livestock. The drug is not proven to treat anyone with COVID or used as a preventive measure.

So, about that Facebook image, where did it come from? An image reverse search of the photograph was simply altered from an image that circulated during the first 2012 U.S. Presidential Debate between former President Barack Obama and then-President candidate and former Massachusetts governor Mitt Romney. In October 2012, Romney told presidential debate

moderator and former news anchor of the PBS NewsHour, Jim Lehrer, that he would cancel federal funding to the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) because he said he did not want to continue borrowing from China. Romney said, "I'm going to stop the subsidy to PBS. […] I like PBS. I love Big Bird. I like you [Jim Lehrer] too. But I'm not going to […] keep on spending money on things, to borrow money from China to pay for it." The image has also been used on other political matters to criticize Republicans on similar matters.

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**Fact-Check Sample 2**

A post shared on Facebook claims that Pfizer's coronavirus vaccine for adults is not officially approved under its new name as "Comirnaty" and that isn't administered to eligible recipients.

Verdict: False.

The FDA officially approved Pfizer's COVID vaccine for individuals ages 16 and older in August 2021 after additional data and testing found the vaccine to still be effective. The vaccine underwent a rigorous process for analysis from experts when Pfizer sought to have a full biological license application of its shot and requested an expedited review. All of this came after several months of vaccine development, testing, and review from a panel of experts. U.S. health officials first approved Pfizer's coronavirus vaccine for adults 16 and older in December 2020 under emergency use authorization. Later, in spring 2021, Pfizer conducted studies of its vaccine in adolescents ages 12 to 15 which were found to be favorably effective for that age group. This later led to the drugmaker asking the FDA to update its emergency use authorization to include teenagers, and in this past summer for some immunocompromised individuals to receive a third dose of its COVID vaccine.

When the FDA fully approved Pfizer's vaccine, the agency made it clear that the vaccine will still be under emergency use authorizations for certain groups of people: adolescents ages 12 to 15 and those with weakened immunized systems, such as recipients with an organ transplant or people who have a similar level of immunocompromise. It also includes kids under 5 and up. Pfizer launched a vaccine website for Comirnaty with additional information about its COVID-19 vaccine, its eligibility and authorization use.

Some outlets say Comirnaty is not available in the U.S., but there is no official documentation from Pfizer or the FDA to verify it. Cormirnaty and Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine are used interchangeably, and most adults are getting the same vaccine dosing level. The only difference is for kids ages 5 to 11 who are getting a lower dose.