

United States of America FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION Southwest Region

1999 Bryan St., Ste. 2150 Dallas, Texas 75201

June 3, 2020

WARNING LETTER

VIA EMAIL TO sc@fussybody.com

Fussy Body c/o Lim Soon Chai

Re: Unsubstantiated Claims for Coronavirus Prevention or Treatment

To Whom It May Concern,

This is to advise you that the staff of the United States Federal Trade Commission, the national consumer protection agency, has reviewed your website at <u>https://fussybody.com/</u> on May 14, 2020. We have determined that you are unlawfully advertising that certain products treat or prevent Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19).

Some examples of Coronavirus treatment or prevention claims on your website include:

- In marketing materials titled "Coconut oil may protect you from COVID-19 coronavirus," you claim:
 - That "monoglycerides are the hyperactive antimicrobials against the lipid-coated coronavirus Dr. Dayrit raved about [SARS]. They should spare no mercy to the also lipid-coated SARS-CoV-2, the coronavirus that causes COVID-19 disease... Since we won't know how much monoglycerides our body can make, what we can do to produce more monoglycerides for combating COVID-19 is to consume as much coconut oil as possible";
 - That "actually there's a 'chemical' way to guarantee your production of monoglycerides for battling against COVID-19. That is, take supplement. You'll find supplement of monolaurin [sic] much easier in the market than other monoglycerides.... Of all monoglycerides, monolaurin is the most potent antimicrobial agent against coronavirus.... It seems like monolaurin supplement is

a good fighter against coronavirus.... If you're solely combating COVID-19, monolaurin supplement should satisfy your need.... If you're not a coconut oil fan, supplementing with monolaurin pellets or capsules [https://amzn.to/2uxya7t] might be your best bet";

- That "monolaurin supplement is not everything. It just doesn't cover as broad a spectrum of viruses, bacteria and other germs as coconut oil does. You'd also need the help of lauric acid, capric acid, caprylic acid, myristic acid, monocaprin, monocaprylin, monomyristin and others (from coconut oil, of course) to ensure you're better covered and protected against COVID-19.... That's why I'm betting on coconut oil to help me fight against the COVID-19 virus and other super germs";
- That "[e]ating coconut oil to boost your immune health [link to <u>https://fussybody.com/eat-coconut-oil-for-health-benefits/</u>, which contains affiliate links to coconut oil products] is definitely one way. And it's the best since every drop of goodness from coconut oil goes right inside your body to help fight coronavirus and keep you safe from COVID-19";
- That an "[o]pen wound is like an open door to COVID-19. So, make sure you check for any open wounds. And apply coconut oil to your skin [link to <u>https://fussybody.com/use-coconut-oil-for-skin-care/</u>, which contains links to pages containing affiliate links to coconut oil products] to strengthen its barrier against any 'unwelcome visitors'. Upon contact and reacting with the friendly germs on skin, coconut oil will break down into free fatty acids (lauric, caprylic, capric etc) and monoglycerides to wipe out common pathogens";
- That "[t]hese are my protective 'gears' against the currently widespread coronavirus. Virgin and RBD coconut oils I've told you early on. You're probably curious about that butter-flavored coconut oil [<u>https://iherb.co/BHwpjMNK</u>], right? . . . I take it every single day. And it adds to my intake of coconut oil for preventing COVID-19";
- That "I'll definitely choose the unrefined virgin coconut oil [link to <u>https://fussybody.com/choose-best-virgin-coconut-oil/</u>, which contains links to pages containing affiliate links to coconut oil products] for fighting COVID-19. Unrefined virgin coconut oil [link to <u>https://fussybody.com/tag/virgin-coconut-oil/</u>, which contains affiliate links to coconut oil products] has always been my favorite powerhouse of antimicrobials when it comes to revving up immunity;
- That "right now what you must do is do whatever it takes to fortify your immune system. Having a strong immunity is the best and most effective way to protect you from COVID-19. And coconut oil can quickly ramp up your immune system"; and

• That "[i[f you only have edible fractionated coconut oil [link to https://fussybody.com/can-you-eat-fractionated-coconut-oil/, which contains affiliate links to coconut oil products] like MCT oil [link to https://fussybody.com/tag/mct-oil/, which contains affiliate links to coconut oil products] or liquid coconut oil [link to https://fussybody.com/tag/liquid-coconutoil/, which contains affiliate links to coconut oil products] with you, they may not perform well in boosting immunity. . . . If you can afford, get yourself a decent quality coconut oil like what I just recommended. Saving your life from COVID-19 is more important than saving money now. You can easily earn back the money once COVID-19 is over."

It is unlawful under the FTC Act, 15 U.S.C. § 41 et seq., to advertise that a product can prevent, treat, or cure human disease unless you possess competent and reliable scientific evidence, including, when appropriate, well-controlled human clinical studies, substantiating that the claims are true at the time they are made. For COVID-19, no such study is currently known to exist for the products identified above. Thus, any Coronavirusrelated prevention or treatment claims regarding such products are not supported by competent and reliable scientific evidence. You must immediately cease making all such claims for products that you advertise and market, sell, or otherwise promote or make available in the United States.

You are also advised to review all other claims for such products and immediately cease making claims that are not supported by competent and reliable scientific evidence.

Within 48 hours, please send a message to James E. Elliott via electronic mail at jelliott@ftc.gov_describing the specific actions you have taken to address the FTC's concerns. If you have any questions regarding compliance with the FTC Act, please contact Zachary A. Keller at zkeller@ftc.gov or at +1-214-979-9382.

Very truly yours,

DAMA BROWN BROWN Date: 2020.06.03 13:31:02

Digitally signed by DAMA -05'00'

Dama J. Brown **Regional Director** Southwest Region