



United States of America
FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20580

Richard Quaresima
Acting Associate Director
Division of Advertising Practices

May 21, 2020

WARNING LETTER

VIA EMAIL TO *info@wellnesswarrior.club*

Dr. Eric Nepute
Nepute Wellness Center
4225 Bayless Ave.
St. Louis, MO 63123

Re: Unsubstantiated claims for Coronavirus treatment or prevention

Dear Dr. Nepute:

This is to advise you that FTC staff has reviewed your website at the URL <https://www.neputewellnesscenter.com/> in May, 2020. We have also reviewed your social media pages at the URLs <https://www.facebook.com/drericnepute> and <https://www.facebook.com/neputewellness/>, where you advertise products and services including chiropractic care, intravenous vitamin therapy, and Vitamin D supplements. We have determined that you are unlawfully advertising that certain products or services treat or prevent Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19).

Some examples of Coronavirus treatment or prevention claims on your social media pages include the following claims from your March 25, 2020 Facebook Live video, available at the URL <https://www.facebook.com/drericnepute/videos/805791033249488/>:

- 0:32 – “There’s a group of doctors, we’d speak all the time and we do a lot of advanced therapies and advanced treatments that not a lot of other people have access to and most of your regular doctors don’t even know exist. . . . One thing that we had . . . done is, our doctors that were treating patients in China, we had made sure that everyone knew that mega-dose vitamin C was the answer for helping with any viral infections and to improve the immune system. We know that antiviral medications do not work. We know that the standard of care for a virus in the hospital right now is IV fluids and rest. That’s the deal. So here’s the thing. I’m livid. I’m just PO’d big time because I got completely bastardized. We got shut off of social media. We got shut down because we talked about how in China they were using high-dose vitamin C IVs to help people get better with COVID-19. Guess what. Yesterday, guess what

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the headline news was. . . . ‘Hospitals in New York are treating patients that have COVID-19 with high-dose vitamin C.’ Boom! Okay? I’m gonna tell you, there’s a whole lot of other stuff that we’ve been talking about, that we’ve been told was wrong, and just be quiet, just got sit in the corner, you don’t know what you’re talking about. Vitamin C, ladies and gentlemen. Here is your anatomy lesson. Take this to your doctor and shove this information right in their face and demand that you get high-dose vitamin C and vitamin C infusions. Vitamin C increases white blood cell production. That’s your immune system, people. It’s just called common sense, okay?”

- 2:28 – “Guess who’s not sick. My patients. Guess why? Cause they’ve been getting vitamin IVs for months, weeks, or years. Guess what else is not going to happen to them? They’re not going to have other problems. Why? Because they’ve been getting adjusted regularly, because adjustments help improve the nervous system, which helps improve the immune system. Period.”
- 3:40 – “Guess what. Your doctors are idiots. They’re ignorant. What they don’t know is killing you. Wait ‘till I give you guys my report that I’ve done. I’ve got 14 pages on all this COVID-19 stuff. It’s coming out today. . . . You do not need to be sitting at home with your head in the sand right now. You need to be taking your health and your life seriously. Okay? The people who are gonna get sick and die from this are the same people that are gonna get sick and die from a flu because they are immunocompromised, because their body’s sick. Because they either haven’t taken the right action steps to get health or because their doctors have not educated them on that process. Period.”
- 5:45 – “People need to get educated. High-dose vitamin C is what you need to be doing.”
- 7:09 – “Stop living with your head in the sand and start waking up to what’s really happening in the world. Information is being suppressed. You guys better share this because I guarantee you this video is going to get taken off of Facebook. Once again, people, I’m right. I’m right again, like the bazillion things that I’ve said a million times about health. You need to go to the chiropractor to get adjusted. You need to get vitamin C orally and as an injection. You need to be taking Vitamin D right now.”
- 8:40 – “You don’t need to be sitting at home right now scared that you’re going to die from some virus. You know what you need to do? Get yourself adjusted. Get yourself your vitamins. Get you the things you need. People are asking what’s the dose. The dose is the dose that you need based off of your individual needs. How do you determine that? Go see someone who knows what they’re doing. But I’m telling you right now, the average American better be taking 3,000 mgs at least three times a day. . . . You need that high level of protection. That’s why we do vitamin C IVs; it bypasses the GI tract. Goes right into your bloodstream. You have no digestive problems with that. And we can give you up to 60 grams of vitamin C in one of our pushes. That is the key to keeping your immune system charged and boosted. You guys, I get one every week.”

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- 10:06 – “You better be sharing this right now, because I’m telling you this is going to be suppressed. You are not going to hear this on mainstream media. This is a fact. This is physiology 101. You know why the medical world is failing? Because all they do is treat you with drugs. Drugs don’t boost the immune system. Drugs don’t improve physiology. Drugs inhibit physiology. That’s what they do. They don’t improve, they inhibit. It’s just that simple. Get on some vitamin C right now.”
- 14:23 – “This is not difficult. Go get some high-dose vitamin C. Start taking it now. Supercharge your immune system. By the way, this should not be declared a pandemic. The reason why, boy I’m going to get a lot of flack for this, up until two years ago the definition of a pandemic was you had to have a higher mortality rate than the average flu. The average flu in the United States 60,000 people a year. Sorry, between 50,000 and 60,000 people a year. Period. Guess what COVID-19 has done. 500, maybe. Okay? That’s just the deal.”
- 16:00 – “There was a doctor who sent me an article last night that said ‘Fake News: Vitamin C and Lemon Water Doesn’t Help with COVID-19.’ No, it definitely doesn’t treat COVID-19. But it boosts your immune system. It helps your body get healthier so it can fight COVID-19. There’s no drug that fights COVID-19. Your human body fights it, people.”
- 17:12 – “Like they said, vitamin C is being used in all the hospitals in New York. And guess what, that’s going to be utilized in every hospital across the country moving forward now. You want to know why? Because it works. And guess what. We’ve been doing it in our practices for 15 years. And guess what, it works all the time. My people don’t get sick. When they get sick, it’s a little bitty cough and that’s it. That’s what the immune system’s supposed to do. We fight it, we recognize it, we deal with it. That way, whenever it comes back, it’s done.”
- 18:06 – “And heck yeah we’re doing vitamin C IVs in our office. We’re open today doing them. We did them all day yesterday. We’ve done them all week this week. You need to get two huge things. Number 1: you need to get to the chiropractor and get adjusted. Why? Because when you get adjusted, your nervous system works better. Period. And that makes your immune system work better. Guess what. They’re going to tell you that he’s crazy. ‘Oh that crazy chiropractor, he’s at it again.’ Guess what, I’ve been right every time. I’m undefeated, folks. Sorry, but that’s just the truth. So here’s the deal. Go get adjusted. Go get vitamin C infusion today. That’s what you need.”

It is unlawful under the FTC Act, 15 U.S.C. § 41 *et seq.*, to advertise that a product or service 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 and services identified above. Thus, any coronavirus-related prevention claims regarding such services are not supported by

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competent and reliable scientific evidence. You must immediately cease making all such claims.

In addition to the claims identified above, you are also advised to review all other claims for your products and services and immediately cease making claims that are not supported by competent and reliable scientific evidence.

Within 48 hours, please send a message to Richard Cleland via electronic mail at rcleland@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 Richard Cleland at 202-326-3088.

Very truly yours,

Richard Quaresima
Acting Associate Director
Division of Advertising Practices