

June 29, 2016

Subject: A word about the Huffington Post blog

Hi Everyone,

Likely many of you have seen this blog from the Huffington Post, published yesterday, reporting on personal email messages between Barbara Bowman and Alex Malaspina, a leader in Scientific and Regulatory Affairs at Coca Cola. While the article appears to be fairly accurate, it omits an important fact that Alex Malaspina and Barbara Bowman are family friends of many years. It's not unusual for Barbara – or any of us - to correspond with others who have similar interests in our areas of work (nutrition, in this case). It's also not unusual for us to share publicly available information, like announcements from WHO and CDC Vital Signs releases, with these and other individuals.

Nonetheless, for CDC and for Barbara the perception that some readers may take from the article is not ideal. This blog serves as an important reminder of the old adage that if we don't want to see it on the front page of the newspaper then we shouldn't do it (or write it, in this case). That pertains to our work email and our personal email messages. With current technology, we have no control over where our messages end up.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/carey-gillam/beverage-industry-finds-f_b_10715584.html

While regrettable, the article and any negative perception it generates should not take away from the extraordinary work we do every day at CDC and in this center to improve the health and quality of life of so many Americans. I am thankful to all of you and to Barbara for your commitment and dedication.

Thanks,
Ursula

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