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"AMGA Immunizations Brief"—brought to you by the Rise to Immunize® (RIZE) campaign—delivers vaccine news and updates relevant to healthcare leaders. This brief provides concise, actionable information to help you stay informed and guide patient care in an evolving immunization landscape.

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At a Glance

- The CDC has canceled ACIP's October meeting.
- Lawmakers ask top HHS officials for answers on changes to the federal vaccine landscape.
- HHS details expanded vaccine injury reporting and monitoring efforts.
- The U.S. has reported more than 4,200 measles cases this year, flu infections are growing or likely growing in all 50 states, and RSV activity is also increasing as the 2026–2027 respiratory virus season begins.
- New projections show that further declines in childhood vaccination rates could lead to substantial increases in infections, hospitalizations, deaths, and healthcare costs.

Detailed Brief

The CDC has canceled ACIP's October meeting.

- Amid ongoing litigation, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) canceled the Oct. 21-23 meeting of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), marking the third canceled meeting this year.
    - The committee has not met since December 2025.

Lawmakers ask top HHS officials for answers on changes to the federal vaccine landscape.

- In a letter sent on Oct. 5, 17 senators questioned the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr.'s recent overhaul of the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) and urged him to restore the panel's independence and scientific integrity.
    - Questions addressed the changes in criteria and the nomination and review process for new members, the removal of the panel's vice chairs, missing conflict-of-interest

disclosures, and whether staffing cuts could undermine USPSTF's ability to develop evidence-based recommendations.

- Separately, a group of 31 lawmakers sent a letter to CDC Director Erica Schwartz, MD, on Oct. 6, questioning the role that she and CDC scientists played in President Trump's August 2026 executive order on childhood vaccines.
    - The lawmakers asked whether Schwartz or CDC career scientists were consulted on the order, what evidence supports its changes to routine childhood recommendations, and what role the CDC will play in any resulting changes to the childhood immunization schedule; they also asked about the CDC's reporting of Pennsylvania measles deaths and the delayed opening of COVID-19 vaccine orders through the Vaccines for Children program.
- Meanwhile, Schwartz addressed the agency's direction at a *Wall Street Journal* health event on Oct. 7, emphasizing greater transparency, responsiveness to public concerns, and efforts to rebuild trust in federal health guidance.
    - Schwartz defended measles vaccination as safe and effective while also supporting Kennedy's emphasis on listening to parents who have concerns about vaccines. She also described participating in internal policy discussions with other senior health officials before Kennedy made decisions.

HHS details expanded vaccine injury reporting and monitoring efforts.

- On Oct. 8, HHS announced new details of an agency-wide initiative to study and track suspected vaccine injuries, expanding on similar efforts at the National Institutes of Health.
    - The initiative includes several changes to how suspected adverse events are reported and monitored, including proposing reimbursing physicians for time spent reporting suspected vaccine-related adverse events to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS), requiring electronic health records to capture vaccine-related adverse events, and modernizing VAERS to simplify reporting and improve tools for investigating potential safety concerns.
- Importantly, VAERS is designed to identify potential safety signals for further investigation—not to establish whether a vaccine caused a reported health problem. Serious vaccine-related injuries are rare, and extensive evidence continues to support the safety and benefits of routine immunization.

The U.S. has reported more than 4,200 measles cases this year, flu infections are growing or likely growing in all 50 states, and RSV activity is also increasing as the 2026–2027 respiratory virus season begins.

- 4,267 cases of measles have been reported nationally in 2026, including an increase of 482 cases between Sept. 25 and Oct. 9.
    - The CDC has sent states $100 million in funding in recent weeks to strengthen measles vaccination efforts, testing, and disease surveillance.
    - Public health officials emphasize that additional resources are critical to controlling outbreaks and protecting vulnerable populations.
- As of Oct. 9, flu infections are growing or likely growing in all 50 states. Nationally, seasonal influenza (flu) activity is low but increasing.
    - Week 39, which ended Oct. 3, was the final reporting week for the 2025-26 season, and it saw 3,334 flu hospitalizations and 25 flu-associated deaths.
        - The 2026-2027 season officially began Oct. 4.
- COVID-19 infections are growing or likely growing in 12 states, although activity is low and decreasing nationally, with overall acute respiratory illness remaining very low.
- As of Oct. 9, RSV infections are growing or likely growing in 33 states, with national respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) activity low but increasing.

New projections show that further declines in childhood vaccination rates could lead to substantial increases in infections, hospitalizations, deaths, and healthcare costs.

- Emory University researchers have developed an interactive map projecting the health and economic impacts of declining childhood vaccination rates across the U.S., including additional infections, hospitalizations, deaths, and healthcare costs.
    - According to Emory's projections, a 20% decline in vaccination coverage over five years could result in an annual increase of 817,000 chickenpox cases, more than 2,700 pertussis-related hospitalizations, and 158,000 RSV cases.
- The findings underscore the potential health and economic consequences of declining immunization coverage, particularly as childhood vaccination rates continue to fall nationwide.

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