



September 25, 2026

“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 Senate HELP Committee held a nomination hearing for Dr. Heidi Overton as FDA Commissioner.
- Secretary Kennedy has appointed eight new members to the USPSTF.
- President Trump and Secretary Kennedy continue to promote recent changes to federal vaccine policy.
- COVID-19 vaccines are now available for ordering through the Vaccines for Children program after prolonged delays.
- The U.S. has reported more than 3,500 measles cases this year, COVID-19 activity remains elevated and increasing nationally, and seasonal flu activity remains low.

Detailed Brief

The Senate HELP Committee held a nomination hearing for Dr. Heidi Overton as FDA Commissioner.

- On Sept. 24, the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee held a [nomination hearing](#) for Heidi Overton, MD, as FDA Commissioner.
 - Overton, currently a White House domestic policy advisor, was [nominated](#) in August.

Secretary Kennedy has appointed eight new members to the USPSTF.

- On Sept. 17, Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. [announced](#) the addition of eight new members to the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF), filling vacancies that had left the 16-member panel operating at half-occupancy.
 - Four new members have medical specialty training, and one member has expertise in health finance, marking a shift from the panel's traditional emphasis on primary care

expertise. Historically, specialists generally served as outside consultants rather than task force members.

President Trump and Secretary Kennedy continue to promote recent changes to federal vaccine policy.

- On Sept. 17, HHS Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. highlighted the Trump Administration's vaccine policy actions during the [keynote address](#) at a Children's Health Defense (CHD) conference.
 - Kennedy referenced the Trump Administration's changes to childhood vaccine recommendations and federal vaccine advisory processes and its continued scrutiny of vaccine safety.
- President Trump said on Sept. 18 that his administration will push vaccine manufacturers to [divide certain childhood vaccines](#) into five smaller doses administered at six-month intervals, claiming that the approach would lead to a "massive reduction in autism."
 - Trump did not specify which vaccines would be affected, though this proposal appears to go beyond his August [executive order](#) that called for separating the combined MMR vaccine into individual vaccines once available and, where feasible, administering childhood immunizations at separate medical visits.
- Research has not found a causal link between vaccinations and autism or other chronic conditions, nor evidence that dividing vaccines into smaller doses would reduce autism risk.

COVID-19 vaccines are now available for ordering through the Vaccines for Children program after prolonged delays.

- After a nearly four-week delay, updated COVID-19 vaccines [are now available](#) for ordering through the federal [Vaccines for Children](#) (VFC) program.
 - VFC provides vaccines at no cost to children who are uninsured, underinsured or eligible for Medicaid, as well as to American Indian and Alaska Native children, serving nearly half of U.S. children.
- The delay comes secondary to ongoing legal action regarding the composition of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), which [normally votes](#) on whether newly approved vaccines will be covered through VFC.

The U.S. has reported more than 3,500 measles cases this year, COVID-19 activity remains elevated and increasing nationally, and seasonal flu activity remains low.

- On Sept. 18, [3,568 measles cases](#) had been reported nationally in 2026, including an increase of 341 cases in the two weeks prior.
- As of Sept. 16, [COVID-19 infections](#) were growing or likely growing in 27 states. Overall, national COVID-19 activity is elevated and increasing, although overall acute respiratory illness remains very low.
- Seasonal [flu activity](#) remains low nationally, with little activity expected this early in the respiratory virus season.

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