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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

- A coalition of 17 states has renewed its legal challenge to federal vaccine policy changes.
- HHS Secretary Kennedy announced a new NIH initiative focused on researching and treating vaccine injuries.
- New York has declared a statewide emergency amid rising measles cases.
- The federal Vaccines.gov locator remains nonfunctional as fall vaccination efforts ramp up and flu cases rise.

Detailed Brief

A coalition of 17 states has renewed its legal challenge to federal vaccine policy changes.

- A coalition of 17 states has [amended its lawsuit](#) challenging changes to the federal childhood immunization schedule and Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr.'s overhaul of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) following the [dismissal](#) of states' claims related to ACIP.
 - In September 2026, U.S. District Judge Vince Chhabria found that the states had not adequately shown that the committee's reconstitution caused them direct harm. However, he allowed the states to amend their complaint.
- The [amended complaint](#), filed Oct. 2, seeks to address those concerns by detailing how the federal changes have forced states to revise laws, insurance rules, Medicaid policies, and immunization guidance, or risk disruptions to vaccine access and public health programs.
 - The states are asking the court to invalidate the revised childhood schedule, Kennedy's ACIP appointments, and the committee's decision to end the universal hepatitis B birth dose recommendation.
- Separately, the Trump Administration's appeal of the preliminary injunction in the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) lawsuit is also moving forward. The U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit [heard oral arguments](#) on Oct. 6 on the ruling that blocked the revised childhood

immunization schedule, Kennedy's ACIP appointments, and votes taken by the reconstituted committee.

- An [injunction](#) in this lawsuit has reverted federal guidelines from the proposed schedule, which [removed](#) six vaccines from universal recommendations for children, to the [July 2025 schedule](#) while litigation proceeds.

HHS Secretary Kennedy announced a new NIH initiative focused on researching and treating vaccine injuries.

- On Oct. 5, HHS Secretary Kennedy [announced](#) a new National Institutes of Health (NIH) initiative focused on researching and treating people who report vaccine-related injuries.
 - Kennedy—along with NIH Director Jay Bhattacharya, MD, PhD; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Director Erica Schwartz, MD; and Acting Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Commissioner Kyle Diamantas—attended a ribbon-cutting for a new NIH clinic dedicated to patients with suspected vaccine injuries.
 - The broader effort also includes plans to modernize vaccine safety monitoring and a proposal to reimburse healthcare providers for time spent evaluating and reporting suspected adverse events.
- Additional details, including the NIH initiative's research priorities, funding, study design, and how suspected injuries will be evaluated, have not yet been publicly released.

New York has declared a statewide emergency amid rising measles cases.

- New York [declared](#) a statewide disaster emergency on Oct. 5 over the ongoing measles outbreak, which has reached 108 cases as of Oct. 3.
 - The declaration gives health officials broader authority to respond to the outbreak, including expanding which healthcare providers can administer vaccines.
- [4,020 cases](#) have been reported nationally in 2026, including an increase of 464 cases over the past two weeks.

The federal Vaccines.gov locator remains nonfunctional as fall vaccination efforts ramp up and flu cases rise.

- The federal Vaccines.gov search tool remains [nonfunctional](#) as flu, COVID-19, and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) vaccination efforts ramp up for the fall respiratory virus season.
- The CDC-run website is intended to help people locate pharmacies and other providers offering vaccines. A notice on the site says its functionality "may be impacted while it is being updated," but HHS has not provided a timeline for when the search tool will be restored.
- The outage creates an additional access barrier at a time when people are being encouraged to seek seasonal vaccines.
- Flu infections are growing or likely growing in [48 states](#). Nationally, seasonal flu activity is [low but increasing](#) headed into respiratory virus season.
 - The 2026-2027 flu season started [unusually early](#), particularly in the Western U.S.; California has recorded [34 flu-associated deaths](#) since July 2026.

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