



**May 15, 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

- FDA Commissioner Makary has resigned, marking the latest in a series of leadership disruptions across HHS agencies.
- A new systematic review found no evidence linking aluminum in vaccines to autism or other chronic health conditions.
- A new research study highlights the promise of an mRNA flu vaccine.
- A systematic review affirms the safety and effectiveness of Tdap vaccination during pregnancy.
- A new study found that HPV vaccination rates vary widely across states, reflecting factors such as healthcare access, public trust, and immunization policy.
- Measles continues to spread across the country; the U.S. will very likely lose its measles elimination status in November.

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## Detailed Brief

### **FDA Commissioner Makary has resigned, marking the latest in a series of leadership disruptions across HHS agencies.**

- Martin Makary, MD, MPH, commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration [resigned](#) on May 12.
- Makary, who was seen as an ally of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr., had served in the role since [March 2025](#). His tenure at the FDA was marked by significant staff turnover, leadership disputes, and conflicting policy decisions.
- According to the president, [Kyle Diamantas](#), the FDA's top food regulator, will serve as the acting commissioner.

### **A new systematic review found no evidence linking aluminum in vaccines to autism or other chronic health conditions.**

- A new [systematic review](#) published in *The BMJ* found no evidence that aluminum-adjuvanted vaccines are associated with autism, asthma, type 1 diabetes, or other serious or long-term health conditions.
- The review adds to a broader evidence base—including a [large Danish study](#) of more than 1.2 million children—that has found [no link](#) between aluminum exposure from childhood vaccination and autism, asthma, autoimmune conditions, or dozens of other chronic health outcomes.

### **A new research study highlights the promise of an mRNA flu vaccine.**

- Results from a Phase 3 [clinical trial](#) published in *The New England Journal of Medicine* showed that Moderna's mRNA-based seasonal influenza (flu) vaccine generated stronger immune responses than a standard-dose flu vaccine in adults age 50 and older, meeting key efficacy and safety endpoints across multiple influenza strains.
- Researchers reported particularly strong protection against influenza A strains, which are typically associated with more severe seasonal outbreaks. Safety findings were consistent with prior mRNA vaccine studies.

### **A systematic review affirms the safety and effectiveness of Tdap vaccination during pregnancy.**

- A [systematic review](#) released by the Vaccine Integrity Project reinforced longstanding evidence that maternal Tetanus-diphtheria-acellular pertussis (Tdap) vaccination helps prevent pertussis infection and serious complications in young infants.
- The review found no credible evidence linking Tdap vaccination during pregnancy to increased risk of adverse maternal or infant outcomes.
- The review also found that Tdap vaccination during pregnancy provides substantial protection for infants. Maternal vaccination was associated with an approximately 70% reduction in pertussis infection and a 65% to 70% reduction in severe disease, including hospitalization.

### **A new study found that HPV vaccination rates vary widely across states, reflecting factors such as healthcare access, public trust, and immunization policy.**

- A new *JAMA Pediatrics* [research letter](#) found substantial variation in human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination rates across states, with adolescents living in states with higher levels of educational attainment, lower uninsured rates, and stronger preventive healthcare access more likely to initiate HPV vaccination.
- Researchers [suggested](#) that examination of regional differences only may miss state-level needs and that a “state-level analysis provides a more precise framework for targeting policy, healthcare delivery, and public health interventions aimed at improving HPV vaccination coverage.”

### **Measles continues to spread across the country; the U.S. will very likely lose its measles elimination status in November.**

- As of May 8, the U.S. has reported [1,967](#) measles cases in 2026—an increase of 44 cases in the last week.
- A new [analysis](#) published in *The Lancet* warned that the U.S. is “highly likely” to lose its measles elimination status upon the Pan American Health Organization's (PAHO) upcoming November 2026 [review](#) if current transmission trends continue.

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