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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

- President Trump has nominated Erica Schwartz to lead CDC following ongoing leadership changes.
- CDC will not publish a report showing COVID-19 vaccination reduced likelihood of hospital visits.
- HHS published an updated ACIP charter, which expanded the committee’s role.
- A federal judge allowed the lawsuit against HHS’ planned restructuring to proceed.
- New research projects high measles costs if vaccination rates continue to decline.

Detailed Brief

President Trump has nominated Erica Schwartz to lead CDC following ongoing leadership changes.

- Last week, President Donald Trump [announced his nomination](#) of longtime federal health official and former Deputy U.S. Surgeon General Erica Schwartz, MD, JD, MPH, to serve as Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).
 - Schwartz is a retired U.S. Public Health Service Rear Admiral who previously served in the Navy and Coast Guard.
 - Her nomination follows a period of leadership changes; after the removal of Director Susan Monarez, PhD, the agency has had several interim arrangements.
- Schwartz must now be confirmed by the Senate, where she is expected to face questions about vaccine policy, agency independence, and how she would navigate disagreements with the Department of Health and Human Services’ (HHS’) leadership over public health decisions.

CDC will not publish a report showing COVID-19 vaccination reduced likelihood of hospital visits.

- A report showing the efficacy of the COVID-19 vaccine that was previously delayed by Jayanta Bhattacharya, MD, PhD, acting head of the CDC, has been [blocked from being published](#) in the agency's flagship scientific journal, *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR)*.
- The report showed that the 2026 formulation reduced the likelihood of severe illness by half and reduced emergency department visits and hospitalizations among healthy adults by about half this past winter.
- Bhattacharya cited concerns about the study's methodology, commonly known as a "test-negative design," which involves comparing the vaccination status of people who tested positive for COVID-19 to the vaccination status of those who tested negative.
 - This method has been widely used by the CDC and other public health researchers to assess vaccine effectiveness—including in at least two recent *MMWR* editions.
- The report had cleared the agency's scientific review process, which includes dozens of scientists.

HHS published an updated ACIP charter, which expanded the committee's role.

- HHS has published an [updated charter](#) for the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), outlining changes that could affect how the committee operates going forward.
- The revised charter makes several key changes to ACIP's scope, structure, and composition including:
 - Expanding ACIP's role beyond making recommendations on controlling vaccine-preventable diseases to an increased focus on examining risks, safety "gaps," and areas of "scientific uncertainty."
 - Directing the committee to revisit existing evidence over time and consider policy related issues.
 - Broadening member qualifications, allowing for a wider range of expertise that extends beyond traditional vaccine science.
 - Expanding the list of external nonvoting liaison representatives to include organizations with leadership who have supported anti-vaccine theories and positions not supported by scientific evidence.
- The charter update comes in the wake of last month's federal court ruling that paused ACIP's membership and recent committee actions. ACIP remains inactive unless and until the legal issues are resolved or a new panel is established.

A federal judge allowed the lawsuit against HHS' planned restructuring to proceed.

- A federal judge denied the Trump Administration's motion to dismiss a lawsuit brought by 19 states and Washington, DC, challenging HHS Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr.'s efforts to restructure HHS, allowing the case to [move forward](#) and leaving a preliminary injunction in place.
- In 2025, HHS [announced plans](#) to cut 10,000 full-time jobs, consolidate the department's 28 divisions into 15, and to establish a new Administration for a Healthy America (AHA).
- Plaintiffs argue the restructuring is unlawful and has undermined the agency's ability to carry out its core functions.

New research projects high measles costs if vaccination rates continue to decline.

- New [research](#) estimates that measles outbreaks cost the U.S. \$244.2 million in 2025, and that costs could rise substantially if measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccination rates continue to decline.
- As of Apr. 17, the U.S. has reported [1,851](#) measles cases in 2026—an increase of 49 new cases in the preceding week.

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