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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

- Following the delay of a new nominee for CDC director, the White House leaves current leadership in place with limited authority under federal rules.
- Childhood vaccination rates are declining across several diseases, raising concerns about near- and long-term impacts of vaccine-preventable illness.
- SHEA recommends occupational health vaccination requirements and recommendations, and facilitating access to vaccines.
- While overall COVID-19 activity remains stable, a new variant could drive a surge in summer cases.

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## Detailed Brief

**Following the delay of a new nominee for CDC director, the White House leaves current leadership in place with limited authority under federal rules.**

- After the White House indefinitely [delayed](#) its nomination of a new director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Administration has announced that Jayanta Bhattacharya, MD, PhD—who also serves as director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH)—will continue to oversee the agency.
- Under [federal law](#), an acting official can only serve in place of a Senate-confirmed official for 210 days. As this window expired last week, Bhattacharya is no longer acting director and can only [perform](#) certain delegable duties; other nondelegable duties may only be performed by the Health and Human Services secretary.

**Childhood vaccination rates are declining across several diseases, raising concerns about near- and long-term impacts of vaccine-**

## preventable illness.

- Despite [strong evidence](#) demonstrating the benefits of childhood vaccines, pediatric vaccination rates for several vaccines have been declining, according to the CDC's latest [Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report](#) (MMWR).
- The survey found that vaccine coverage among children born during 2021–2022 has decreased across five vaccines: influenza, hepatitis B, rotavirus, pneumococcal, and *Haemophilus influenzae* type b (Hib).
- Decreases in vaccination rates have contributed to the reemergence of vaccine-preventable illness and complications, including [resurgence in measles](#), high rates of [pediatric flu deaths](#), and recent cases of Hib.
- Additionally, [recent studies](#) have highlighted the critical role vaccines play in preventing serious illness that could contribute to later-life health risks.

## SHEA recommends occupational health vaccination requirements and recommendations, and facilitating access to vaccines.

- The Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America (SHEA) [statement](#) reaffirms that vaccination of healthcare providers is essential to protect healthcare providers and to reduce risks to patients and visitors.
- The statement extended the recommendation to vaccinations for infections such as COVID-19, as evidence suggests increased healthcare personnel vaccination reduces the risk of healthcare-associated transmission.

## While overall COVID-19 activity remains stable, a new variant could drive a surge in summer cases.

- COVID-19 activity is [low](#) and hospitalizations continue to decline, but a new variant could drive an increase in cases.
- [Variant BA.3.2](#), nicknamed "Cicada," is a highly mutated version of the virus that has been reported in 23 countries. Cicada currently makes up a small share of cases in the U.S. but has been identified in at least 25 states and in some countries accounts for up to 30% of cases, raising concerns about a potential summer surge.

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