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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

- Vinay Prasad, MD, MPH, the FDA's top vaccine regulator, will leave the agency in April.
- New studies highlight ongoing risks from COVID-19 and RSV.
- Mumps activity is increasing in several states as MMR vaccination rates decline.
- The CDC issues a travel advisory for more than 30 countries for polio.

Detailed Brief

Vinay Prasad, MD, MPH, the FDA's top vaccine regulator, will leave the agency in April.

- On Friday, Mar. 6, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) [announced](#) its top vaccine regulator, Vinay Prasad, MD, MPH, will be leaving the agency at the end of April.
- Under Prasad's leadership, the FDA [changed the product label](#) for updated COVID-19 vaccines, narrowing its label indication to adults 65 and older and people at higher risk of severe illness.
- This marks the second time Prasad has departed the role in less than a year. He first [exited](#) in July 2025 before returning weeks later.
- The agency will name a successor before Prasad's departure next month.

New studies highlight ongoing risks from COVID-19 and RSV.

- Recent [CDC data](#) show that respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) was associated with 10,000–23,000 deaths and 190,000–350,000 hospitalizations in the U.S. from July 2024 through June 2025. During the same period, COVID-19 was associated with 34,000–53,000 deaths and 290,000–450,000 hospitalizations.
- A [new study](#) of more than 939,000 patients with COVID-19 found infection was associated with increased risk of several severe kidney conditions, including kidney failure, acute kidney injury,

chronic kidney disease, and end-stage renal disease. The study found no similar association with influenza infection.

- Another [study](#) found that children under two years of age hospitalized for COVID-19 are more likely to die or become seriously ill than babies with RSV.
 - Among infants admitted to an intensive care unit, 39% of those with COVID-19 required mechanical ventilation compared with 16% of those with RSV, and mortality was 2.9% for those with COVID-19 vs. 0.4% for those with RSV.

Mumps activity is increasing in several states as MMR vaccination rates decline.

- In addition to measles, mumps activity is increasing in states across the country. CDC data show that as of Feb. 27, [34 cases](#) have been documented across 11 states.
- Mumps is largely [preventable](#) with the Measles, Mumps, and Rubella (MMR) vaccine, but officials [warn](#) that declining MMR vaccination rates, which have contributed to recent measles outbreaks, also make mumps outbreaks more likely.

The CDC issues a travel advisory for more than 30 countries for polio.

- On March 3, the CDC issued a [Level 2 travel advisory](#) for more than 30 countries where poliovirus has been detected in the past 13 months.
- The CDC recommends that children and adults be up to date on their routine polio vaccines before any international travel. Adults who previously completed the full vaccine series may also receive a single lifetime booster dose if they are traveling to a destination where poliovirus is circulating.

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