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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

- AMGA and other leading medical, health, and patient advocacy groups oppose CDC's website update indicating a link between vaccines and autism cannot be ruled out.
- New flu strain spreading in Canada, Japan, and the UK indicates severe flu season.
- December ACIP meeting agenda includes hepatitis B vaccine.
- December ACIP agenda also includes a session on “adjuvants and contaminants.”
- CDC connects measles outbreaks across states for first time as cases continue to climb.
- Some CDC disease surveillance sites updated following the end of government shutdown.
- First human case of H5N5 avian flu detected.

Detailed Brief

AMGA and other leading medical, health, and patient advocacy groups oppose CDC's website update indicating a link between vaccines and autism cannot be ruled out.

- [American Academy of Pediatrics](#) (AAP), [American Medical Association](#) (AMA), and [Infectious Diseases Society of America](#) (IDSA) have released statements opposing the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC's) actions.
- Many reference decades of evidence from [scientific studies](#) that shows vaccines are not linked to autism.
- CDC's website changes are a [reversal](#) from their longstanding stance that there is no link.

New flu strain spreading in Canada, Japan, and the UK indicates severe flu season.

- Officials are [warning](#) that a new flu strain (a version of H3N2) causing an early wave of severe outbreaks in Canada, Japan, and the UK is likely to hit the United States next.
- Current cases in the UK are triple what they were in November of last year, while cases in Japan are six times higher.
- Preliminary findings from the UK suggest that this year's vaccine is still up to [40% effective](#) in preventing adult hospitalization due to flu infection.

December ACIP meeting [agenda](#) includes hepatitis B vaccine.

- In September, Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) members [considered changing](#) the recommendation that all infants receive the hepatitis B recommendation within 24 hours of birth. However, ACIP tabled the vote regarding pushing the first dose to later in life.
- When the hepatitis B vaccine is given within 24 hours of birth, it is up to [90% effective](#) at preventing perinatal infection. Since the universal birth dose recommendation was adopted in 1991, infections in children and teens have [decreased by 99%](#).

December ACIP [agenda](#) also includes a session on “adjuvants and contaminants.”

- A Health and Human Services (HHS) spokesperson [confirmed](#) the committee is reviewing the evidence on “all adjuvants and contaminants”—including their role in vaccine effectiveness and “possible harm.” They added that the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) is also reviewing the timing of the vaccines and “providing vaccines individually.”
- An ACIP working group is now studying removing compounds that [include aluminum used to increase vaccine effectiveness](#).
- The committee is also exploring [separating a single shot](#) now given to protect against measles, mumps, and rubella into individual shots.

CDC connects measles outbreaks across states for first time as cases continue to climb.

- Health officials [confirmed](#) that Texas' measles outbreak—which took place from January to August and infected [762](#) people—is connected to the ongoing outbreak along the Utah-Arizona border, which began in August.
- As of Nov. 13, the U.S. had reached [1,723](#) total measles cases this year.

Some CDC disease surveillance sites updated following the end of government shutdown.

- The [CDC's Respiratory Virus tracking](#) updates have resumed after the [government shutdown](#) ended on Wednesday, Nov. 12.
- [Other resources](#) have yet to be updated, including the *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* (last published Oct. 2), COVID-19 vaccine coverage estimates (last updated in May), and pertussis (whooping cough) outbreak data (last updated in June).

First human case of H5N5 avian flu detected.

- Washington state reported the [first human case](#) of avian flu in the U.S. since February, which is also the first reported human case of the H5N5 strain.

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