



April 11, 2025

CHAPTER LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATIVE (CLR) Update

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Change in HHS Rulemaking Policy



Key Update:

HHS Secretary Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. rescinds public input policy for proposed regulations.



Background:

“Notice and comment” process mandated by the Administrative Procedure Act of 1946 (APA).

Designed to encourage public and expert input in regulation development.



Rationale:

Secretary Kennedy determined all HHS regulations qualify for the APA’s “good cause” exception.

This exception allows bypassing the standard process when it is deemed:

- Impracticable
- Unnecessary
- Contrary to public interest



Learn More:

Read the [HHS Statement](#).

Read [APIC’s Statement on HHS Policy](#).

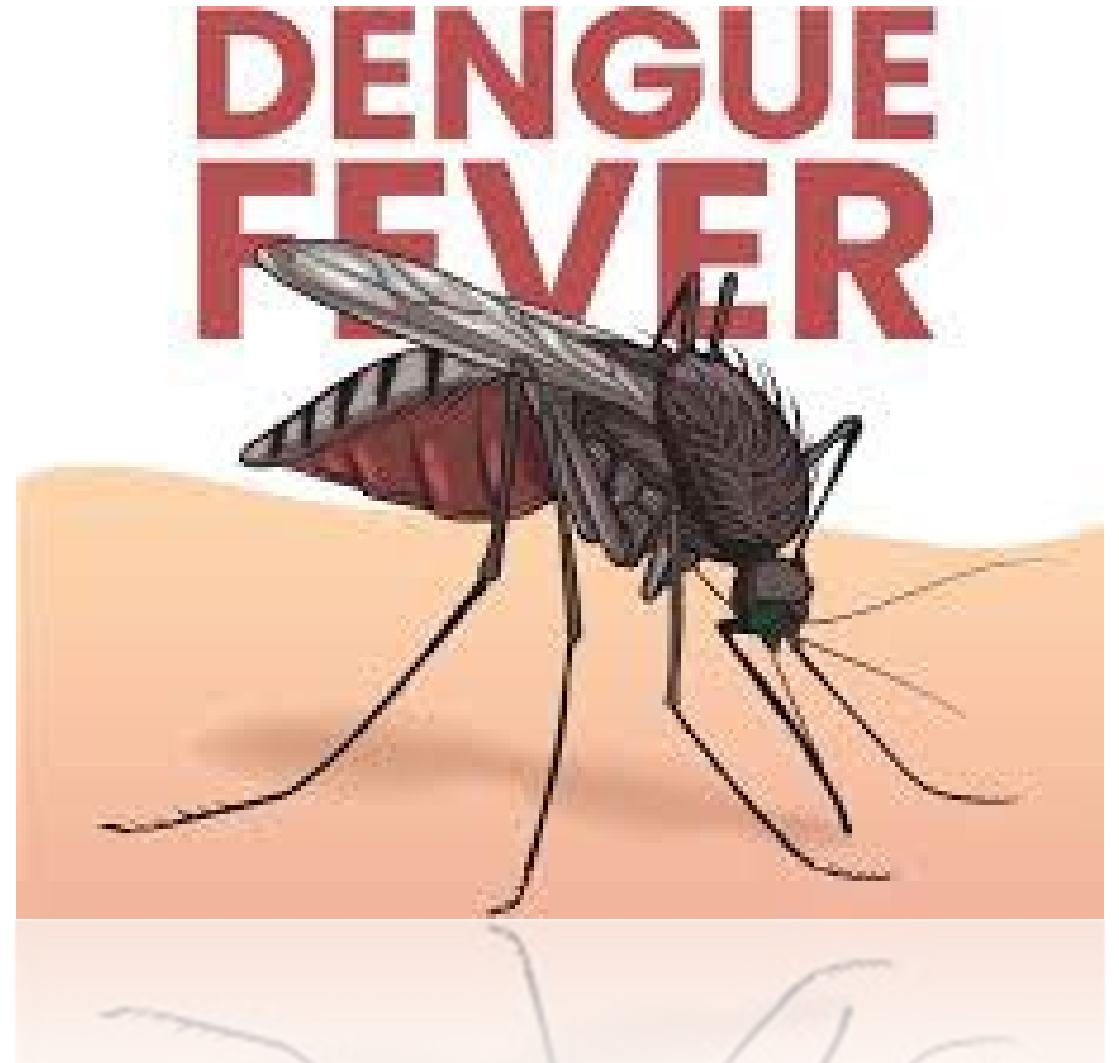
CDC Health Advisory: Measles Outbreak

- **Alert:**
 - CDC Health Alert Network (HAN) issues guidance on measles outbreak in Texas and New Mexico.
- **Outbreak Details:**
 - **Confirmed cases** in Texas and New Mexico: 208.
 - **Reported deaths:** One in each state.
 - Additional cases reported in **10 other jurisdictions** across the U.S.
- **Prevention Recommendation:**
 - CDC advises all U.S. residents to ensure they are **up to date on MMR vaccinations**.
- **Learn More:**
 - Read the [HAN Advisory](#) for detailed guidance.



CDC Health Update: Dengue Risk and Testing

- **Key Information:**
 - CDC Health Alert Network (HAN) provides an update on dengue virus infection risks and testing recommendations.
- **Areas of Concern:**
 - **High transmission zones:**
 - Parts of the U.S.
 - Puerto Rico
 - U.S. Virgin Islands
 - Other regions in the Americas.
- **Seasonal Considerations:**
 - Peak dengue season coincides with **spring and summer travel**.
- **Learn More:**
 - Read the [HAN Health Update](#) for detailed guidance.



Presidential Nomination of Dr. Susan Monarez as CDC Director



Key Announcement:

The President nominated **Susan Monarez, Ph.D.**, as CDC director following the withdrawal of a previous nomination.



Background:

Dr. Monarez previously served as the **deputy director** of the Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-H).

She was the opening speaker at **APIC's 2024 AI Summit**.



Notable Contribution:

Discussed the **impact of information technology** on infection prevention and control (IPC).



Learn More:

Read [APIC's statement](#) on Dr. Monarez's nomination.

HHS Reorganization and Workforce Reduction

- Key Announcement:
 - HHS to restructure in response to the President's workforce reduction order.
 - Effective date: Late May 2025.
 - Workforce reduction: 20,000 full-time employees.
- Impactful Changes:
 - NIOSH: Moved from CDC to the new Administration for a Healthy America.
 - ASPR: Transferred to CDC.
 - AHRQ and ASPE: Combined into a new Office of Strategy.
 - CMS and ACF: Merged into the Administration for Community Living (ACL).
- Employee Cuts:
 - FDA: 3,500
 - CDC: 2,400
 - NIH: 1,200
 - CMS: 300
- Learn More:
 - Read the [HHS notice](#) for detailed information.

Protect HICPAC: Take Action Now

Issue:

- The CDC's Healthcare Infection Control Practices Advisory Committee (**HICPAC**) is under consideration for **elimination**.

Why It Matters:

- HICPAC guidelines are critical for **infection prevention and control (IPC)** in facilities and across states.

Your Voice Counts:

- The more messages Congress and the Administration receive, the more attention the issue will get.

How to Take Action:

- Visit the [APIC Action Center](#).
- Click on "**Prevent Elimination of HICPAC**" to access a pre-written, editable letter.
- Enter your **name and address** to automatically send the letter to:
 - The President
 - Your federal Representatives and Senators



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Prevent Elimination of HICPAC

CDC's Healthcare Infection Control Practices Advisory Committee (HICPAC) is being targeted for elimination. APIC, SHEA, IDSA, and PIDS sent a joint letter to HHS Secretary Kennedy urging support for HICPAC's ongoing efforts to develop and update evidence-based guidelines...

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Federal Legislative Issues – 2025 Draft



Support AHRQ FY26 Funding:

Proposed funding: **\$500 million**.

Coalition letter to Chair and Ranking Members of the House and Senate Appropriations Labor, HHS, Education, and Related Agencies Subcommittees.

Note: Final letter is **in draft form**, available soon.



Increase Wastewater Surveillance Funding:

Proposed increase: **\$20 million** for CDC's National Wastewater Surveillance System.

Coalition letter to Chair and Ranking Members of the House and Senate Appropriations Labor, HHS, Education, and Related Agencies Subcommittees.

Note: Final letter is **in draft form**, available soon.



Oppose Reduction of Public Health Fund:

Prevention and Public Health Fund targeted for reduction or elimination in FY25 Labor-HHS-Education Subcommittee bill.

Coalition letter to House and Senate members.

Note: Final letter is **in draft form**, available soon.

Federal Legislative Issues – 2025 Final

- Support Evidence-Based Vaccine Policies:
 - HHS Secretary urged to uphold the value of vaccines based on evidence-based science.
 - Coalition letter sent to Senate HELP Committee and Senate Finance Committee Chair and Ranking Members with 73 organizations.