

# Three Minute Read™

## Insights from the Healing American Healthcare Coalition™

Chaos reigns at HHS, CDC, FDA & NIH; Measles outbreak now worst since 1990s

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**From the Editor:** Measles continues to spread as HHS Secretary RFK Jr. focuses on autism and vaccines. Medtronic's working on an integrated continuous glucose monitor and Epic's EHR could be the building block to full interoperability. Click on the headline for the full article; subscribe to **TMR** [here](#).



[US CDC cancels science group workshop on preventing human bird flu infections](#), by Leah

Douglas, Reuters, 4/29/25

**TMR Topline** – The National Academy of Sciences has canceled a June 26-27 workshop on preventing human bird flu infections after being told to stop work on the event by the CDC. The workshop was expected to discuss best practices for the use of personal protective equipment for people at heightened risk of bird flu, like farmworkers and veterinarians. Farmworker advocates have said training and communication about proper PPE use and fit is critical to preventing bird flu infections. Experts, including CDC officials, had [warned](#) that further spread of the virus could allow it to adapt in ways that raise the risk it could more easily infect people. HHS did not respond to a request for comment.



[Weekly measles cases hit new record amid worst outbreak since 1990s](#), by Alexandra Tin, CBS News, 5/2/25

**TMR Topline** – The CDC reported that weekly [measles](#) cases have set a new record topping the peak of an outbreak in 2019 that ranked as the worst since the 1990s. The 111 cases that began the week of 3/30 tops

the 102 cases [reported](#) for the week of 3/23/19 at the peak of the 2019 wave. [Texas](#) and [New Mexico](#) account for at least 750 of the 935 measles cases reported this year. Authorities in Canada [have confirmed](#) more than 1,000 measles cases so far this year, after record outbreaks there.



[RFK Jr. will order placebo testing for new vaccines, alarming health experts](#), by Lauren

Weber, Rachel Roubein, Lena H. Sun and Carolyn Y. Johnson, Washington Post, 4/30/25

**TMR Topline** – HHS Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. intends to shift the way vaccines are tested, a move that medical experts fear could limit access to vaccines and undermine the public's trust in immunization. An HHS spokesperson said, "All new vaccines will undergo safety testing in placebo-controlled trials prior to licensure — a radical departure from past practices." Vaccines for new pathogens are often tested this way, but for well-researched diseases, public health experts say it makes little sense to do so and can be unethical, because the placebo group would not receive a known effective intervention. The article is extensive and well worth a read.



[New research contradicts RFK Jr.'s claim that severe autism cases are rising](#), by Aria Bendix, NBC News, 4/30/25

**TMR Topline** – When HHS Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr.

announced new autism findings earlier this month, he stated that not only was autism becoming more prevalent, he said, but "most cases now are severe. This is an epidemic like nothing we've ever seen before. It dwarfs the Covid epidemic," he [told Fox News](#) this month. "This is disabling children for their entire lives." A [recent report](#) from the CDC found that 1 in 31 children are diagnosed with autism by their 8th birthdays, but it didn't distinguish between cases with mild or severe symptoms. New research at the annual meeting of the International Society for Autism Research suggests that the share of autism cases with moderate or significant symptoms

remained relatively consistent from 2000 to 2016, with only mild cases rising. According to the analysis, 1.2 out of 1,000 children had autism with moderate or significant impairment in 2016, compared with 1.5 out of 1,000 in 2000. Mild cases rose 139% during that period — from 3.1 out of 1,000 to 7.3 out of 1,000. HHS did not respond to a request for comment.



[More than 7 million Americans have Alzheimer's. Research cuts could slow the fight.](#) by Ken Altucker, USA TODAY, 4/29/25

**TMR Topline** – An Alzheimer's Association report suggests up to 7.2 million Americans ages 65 and older are living with Alzheimer's disease, an increase of about [300,000 cases of the mind-robbing disease from a year ago](#). It estimates that the total annual cost of caring for people living with Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia will reach \$384 billion in 2025, which doesn't include the cost of unpaid care from 12 million family members and friends who provide billions of hours of care valued at more than \$400 billion. Cases are up as the Trump administration enacts steep cuts at the NIH. Researchers are [developing blood tests that could lead to earlier diagnosis](#) and give patients access to drugs approved by the FDA. NIH has paused 14 research grants across several universities due to compliance issues such as DEI language or antisemitism issues.



[Trump administration has shut down CDC's infection control committee.](#) by Aria Bendix, NBC News, 5/6/25

**TMR Topline** – The Trump administration has terminated the Healthcare Infection Control Practices Advisory Committee (HICPAC) that has issued guidance about preventing the spread of infections in health care facilities since 2007. According to the letter announcing the termination of the committee, this aligns with [President Donald Trump's executive order](#) calling for a reduction of the federal workforce. The committee was close to finalizing new guidelines for airborne pathogens before the termination. Several of the committee's web pages have been archived, meaning they are still available to view online but are no longer being updated.

**TMR's Take:** "Make America Healthy Again?" It's not likely given the chaos and confusion within HHS. The US already ranks [last](#) among high-income nations on key

health indicators. The actions taken thus far by RFK Jr. are not likely to move the US up in the rankings.



[Diabetes deaths fall to lowest levels in years, in early CDC figures](#), by Alexander Tin, CBS News, 4/30/25

**TMR Topline** – The CDC's National Center for Health Statistics reports that US diabetes deaths have fallen to the lowest level in years. Deaths peaked at 31.1 deaths/100,000 in 2021, but dropped to 26.4 deaths/100,000 in the third quarter of 2024. Despite the increasing prevalence of diabetes, deaths had been falling prepandemic. Nearly 1 in 10 adults had diagnosed diabetes [in 2023](#). Those trends were established before new diabetes treatments like Ozempic and Mounjaro. In a new development, [Medtronic](#) is seeking regulatory clearance for an insulin pump that would be able to integrate with a continuous glucose monitoring sensor on Abbott's platform. If approved, Abbott would supply Medtronic with a continuous glucose monitor that works only with Medtronic's smart dosing devices and software. The monitor would be sold by Medtronic.



[Epic widens EHR market share lead: KLAS](#), by Brock E.W. Turner, Modern Healthcare, 4/30/25

**TMR Topline** – According to market research firm KLAS, Epic grew its electronic health record (EHR) market share to 42% of acute care hospitals and 55% of acute care beds by the end of 2024, up from 39% of acute care hospitals and 52% of beds in 2023. In total, Epic added 29,399 beds in 2024, while every other EHR vendor lost market share in total acute care hospitals. Oracle's market share of acute care beds dropped from 24% to 22%. Meditech's market share dropped from 16% to 14%. Last month, Epic took aim at Oracle by announcing its [plan to create a full enterprise resource planning software program](#) to help health systems manage a variety of functions related to staffing, procurement and accounts payable.

**TMR's Take:** EHRs are the key building blocks to full interoperability, something that the French have had since 1998 and the Germans since 2008. With Epic System's MyChart dominating the market, is it feasible to envision the US finally catching up with its peers? Stay tuned for further developments.