

Three Minute Read™

Insights from the Healing American Healthcare Coalition™

With science sidelined, chaos and confusion reign at HHS

July 2025-1



From the Editor: RFK Jr.'s "Make America Healthy Again" goal falters as the chaos at HHS continues unabated. Click the headline for the full article; subscribe to TMR for \$25/year [here](#).



[Haiti Reels as Trump Severs a Lifeline](#), by Frances Robles, New York Times, 7/7/25

TMR Topline – When

President Trump issued an order banning people from a dozen countries, including Haiti, who don't already have valid travel visas, from entering the US, over 300 Haitians, mostly children, are on waiting lists for surgery and now cannot get treatment since they are barred from traveling to the US. Zanmi Lasante, an organization allied with Partners in Health, which runs medical facilities in Haiti, said at least 40 of its Haitian staff will be unable to attend training in the United States. *"We feel like we are on our own,"* said Dr. Wesler Lambert, Zanmi Lasante's executive director. He said he would welcome senior members of the Trump administration to visit Haiti and *"meet the inspiring people they are excluding and witness the lifesaving work they are jeopardizing."*



[U.S. Measles Cases Hit Highest Level Since Disease Was Eliminated in 2000](#), by HealthDay, US News & World Report, 7/8/25

TMR Topline – With 1,270 confirmed cases this year, measles cases have reached the highest level in 25 years with at least 27 outbreaks in 38 states according to new [data](#) from Johns Hopkins University. Measles was declared eliminated in the US in 2000, due to widespread use of the measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine. Ex-

perts worry the US may lose its measles-elimination status if cases linked to the Texas outbreak continue into 2026. According to the CDC, about 1 in 8 people with measles have been hospitalized. Most were not vaccinated. The US goal of having 95% of kindergartners to get two MMR doses has been missed four years in a row.



[RFK Jr. promoted company with ultraprocessed meals](#), by Amanda Seitz and Jonel Aleccia, Associated Press, 7/9/25

TMR Topline – After touring Mom's

Meals Oklahoma plant, HHS Secretary RFK Jr. praised its \$7-a-pop meals that are delivered to the homes of Medicaid and Medicare enrollees, stating *"This is really one of the solutions for making our country healthy again."* But an Associated Press review of Mom's Meals menu, including the ingredients and nutrition labels, shows that the company's offerings are the type of heat-and-eat, ultraprocessed foods that Kennedy routinely criticizes for making people sick. New York University nutritionist and food policy expert Marion Nestle noted that many menu items are high in sodium, and some are high in sugar or saturated fats. Mom's Meals is one of several companies across the U.S. that deliver *"medically tailored"* at-home meals. A STAT news investigation last year found that some states were spending millions of dollars to provide medically tailored meals to Medicaid enrollees that were marketed as healthy and *"dietitian approved."* But many companies served up meals loaded with salt, fat or sugar — all staples of an unhealthy American's diet, the report concluded.



[Medical Societies Sue Kennedy and H.H.S. Over Vaccine Advice](#), by Apoorva Mandavilli, New York Times, 7/8/25

TMR Topline – Six leading medical organizations recently filed a lawsuit against Robert F. Kennedy Jr. and HHS, charging recent decisions limiting access to vaccines were unscientific and harmful to the public. In May, Mr. Kennedy announced on X that the CDC would [stop recommending Covid vaccines](#) for healthy children and

pregnant women. The suit seeks to restore Covid vaccines to the list of recommended immunizations for them. The plaintiffs include the American Public Health Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Infectious Diseases Society of America, the American College of Physicians, the Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine and the Massachusetts Public Health Alliance.



[How medical groups may preserve vaccine access — and bypass RFK Jr.](#), by Lena H. Sun and Rachel Roubein Washington Post, 6/25/25

TMR Topline – While doctors, public health officials and vaccine manufacturers mobilize to preserve vaccine access that is in jeopardy under Health Secretary Kennedy, there is no guarantee that insurance companies and health plans will cover all vaccine shots without guidance from the CDC. RFK Jr. fired members of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) while adding 8 new members, several of whom are vaccine critics. The groups are discussing asking insurance companies to give greater weight to recommendations from medical societies instead of the CDC. The ACIP decides all vaccine recommendations that will be covered by insurance and health plans. If the ACIP and medical societies make competing recommendations, that could cause confusion and concern among doctors, their patients and parents. ACIP's impact is wide-ranging as its decisions affect the ability of pharmacists to administer vaccines.



[Kennedy's Vaccine Advisers Sow Doubts as Scientists Protest US Pivot on Shots](#), by Arthur Allen and Sam

Whitehead, KFF Health News, 6/27/25

TMR Topline – RFK Jr.'s hand-picked new members of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) met for the first time as fired and retired scientists rallied outside the CDC's Atlanta headquarters and began by shifting the posture of the 60-year-old panel from support for vaccine advancement to doubt about the safety and efficacy of well-established and widely administered inoculations. The panel also urged doctors to stop administering influenza vaccine that contains a mercury-based preservative called thimerosal, and that newborn Americans get a newly licensed shot to protect them against a respiratory virus. Only about 4% of flu

vaccines currently contain the preservative. ACIP's new chair, Martin Kuldorf, is a Covid-19 contrarian and biostatistician who was fired by Harvard. The American Academy of Pediatrics declined to send official liaisons to the meeting, blasting Kennedy's panel. The HHS secretary announced the abandonment of Gavi, an international group that estimates its vaccine programs [have saved 18 million lives](#), mostly in the world's poorest countries, contending that Gavi had not done enough to promote vaccine safety. Former CDC official Deblina Datta said that children "*will miss lifesaving vaccines*" against diseases causing pneumonia, diarrhea, measles, polio, and other diseases. "*There will be deaths.*"

TMR's Take: "Make America Healthy Again?" TMR's skeptical. Depriving Haitians from accessing American healthcare and millions of children in the world's poorest countries of vaccines is cruel beyond belief.



[What the Supreme Court Obamacare decision means for RFK Jr.](#), by Adrianna Rodriguez, USA TODAY, 6/27/25

TMR Topline – [The US Supreme Court](#) has preserved a key element of the [Affordable Care Act](#) that helps guarantee that health insurers cover preventive care at no cost to patients. The Court reversed a lower court's ruling that the US Preventive Services Task Force is composed of members who were not validly appointed because they were not appointed by the president and confirmed by the Senate. The Task Force has a major role in choosing what preventive services will be covered. The ruling clarified that the HHS secretary can appoint or remove members and block recommendations. However, even if the secretary vetoes a new recommendation or revokes an existing one, insurance companies can still decide to cover the preventive service.



[UnitedHealth Group names Patrick Conway CEO of Optum Health](#), by John Tozzi, Bloomberg, 6/26/25

TMR Topline – The fallout from the Change Healthcare cyberattack continues to haunt the nation's largest health insurer. Stephen Hemsley, UnitedHealth's new CEO, continues to make management changes. Optum Health, which includes clinics and surgery centers, brought in about \$105 billion in revenue in 2024.