

Current Health News

May 2025

- **Cutbacks in aid & health funding:** The U.S.'s temporary freeze on foreign aid (Jan–Mar 2025) and proposed NIH budget cuts raised alarms for potential disastrous effects on HIV, TB, maternal/child health, and climate-linked programs
- **Belize measles outbreak:** After decades measles-free, Belize reported **7 confirmed cases** since April 12, with sustained local transmission—underscoring gaps in global immunization.
- **Healthcare data breach drop:** U.S. hospitals reported **60 data breaches** in May—slightly below the average—but 311 incidents since January remain a significant systemic risk

Reference: The HIPAA Journal.

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- **Self-Care Month (June 24–July 24):** In support of WHO's global self-care initiatives, new digital tools and competency guides were released to empower self-care in areas like pregnancy and chronic disease

Reference: World Health Organization.

- **Gen Z mental health engagement:** A UNICEF report shows *1 in 3* Gen Z members are ready to take leadership roles in peer mental health support, despite stigma and awareness gaps

Reference: World Economic Forum.

- **COVID and vaccine updates:** AMA reports confirm that updated COVID-19 vaccines offer **24–29% lower ER/hospital risk**, effective up to 299 days post-vaccination. RSV vaccines and new treatments for gonorrhea are also spotlighted
- **Cardiovascular mortality drop:** In the U.S., age-adjusted heart disease deaths fell by 66% from 1970 to 2022, mainly due to reductions in acute MI and ischemic heart disease

Reference: American Medical Association.

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- **Eco-health crisis warning:** The Lancet One Health Commission emphasizes the profound health threats posed by zoonoses, antimicrobial resistance, climate change, and environmental degradation

Reference: One Health Initiative.

- **Rajasthan TB screening initiative:** India's campaign (June 25–July 21) screened 44% of its vulnerable population; ~230,000 suspected TB cases identified—highlighting community-driven TB control efforts.
- **Diarrhea prevention drive in Uttar Pradesh:** A monsoon health campaign (July 16–31) encouraged ORS, zinc, hygiene, and clean water to curb childhood diarrhea.
- **Dengue control in Ludhiana:** Proactive surveillance and breeding-site elimination have kept dengue cases extremely low—just 8 cases by mid-July vs. 37 last year.

Reference: The Times of India.

- **UK heatwave & water restrictions:** Significant heat-health alerts led to drought declarations and hosepipe bans in England (July 9–15)—underlining climate-health nexus.
- **Dublin beach water contamination:** Heavy summer rains caused no-swim advisories at 10 Dublin beaches due to bacterial pollution—serving as a reminder of climate-driven waterborne risks.
- **COVID summer wave returns:** In California, wastewater surveillance indicates rising COVID-19 cases with variants LP.8.1 and XFG; CDC now categorizes national risk as “medium”

Reference: sfchronicle.com