

Webisode 57DHXXi September 15 2025 Infectious Disease Weather Report and Vaccine Updates

In Webisode 57DHXXi 1 Wisconsin 2 New York City 3 Infectious Disease Weather Report two key developments in the vaccine policy space this week 3A The HELP committee hearing Former CDC director Susan Monarez removed by HHS Secretary RFK Junior will testify about political interference in vaccine policy She is expected to describe the pressure she faced to rubber stamp recommendations not grounded in science This could prompt pushback from senators including Bill Cassidy Republican of Louisiana a physician who cast the deciding vote for the RFK Junior confirmation 3B The September Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices ACIP meeting This committee already has a record of disregarding scientific evidence 4 Headlines Main Content

Headlines Other Media September 15 2025 1 Wisconsin Madison A single word to sum up the Cap Times Idea Fest 2025 Timely **Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501C3 nonprofit organization** The Capital Times September 15 2025 cap times dot com The finale of Cap Times Idea Fest Saturday night provided a crescendo a sellout crowd thundering its affection for JB Pritzker The previous day media reports credited the Democratic governor of Illinois with forcing Trump to back down from his threat to send the National Guard to Chicago under the same bogus anticrime pretense that Trump cited in deploying troops to Washington DC and Los Angeles It was one example of why if this 2025 festival were to be reduced to a one word descriptor that word would be timely Pritzker along with fellow Democratic Governor Tim Walz of Minnesota who spoke Friday night has been among the most aggressive and courageous critics so far in the Trump second term Minnesota Governor Tim Walz told Cap Times Idea Fest attendees Friday that We have got a White House that sees every single interaction as a zero sum somebody has to win and somebody has to lose It is just not like that in life After the Trump victory in November Pritzker famously said that if Trump wants to come for his people meaning the people of Illinois Trump will have to come through him Pritzker told the Idea Fest audience that he learned everything he needed to know about Trump during his first term by the way the president politicized the COVID pandemic I was not going to pretend that there was anything that you could really get done with this man Pritzker said He has a singular mind It is all about him It is all a corrupt endeavor that Trump is in and he cares not a whit about the people of this country Pritzker said a fellow governor advised him to tone it down Pritzker said he answered You may not have democracy at the end of this Standing up and fighting is the only thing that is going to save this republic Standing up and fighting back was a theme connecting the comments by the most famous of the 2025 Idea Fest speakers including voting rights activist Stacey Abrams of Georgia

2 New York City The Living Room Where History Still Happens Gloria Steinem now 91 is still at the center of vital conversations On Tuesday Gloria Steinem invited nearly 30 women into her Upper East Side apartment to discuss the research funding gap in health of women at an event hosted by Alex Taylor a health of women advocate and the journalist Danielle Robay **Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501C3 nonprofit organization** The New York Times September 14 2025 Nearly 30 women filed into her apartment a guest list that included the actress Lupita Nyong'o the businesswoman Lauren Bush Lauren the television personality and businesswoman Jenna Lyons and the artist and photographer Cass Bird I never expected Trump said Ms Steinem aged 91 And that we still have not had a female president I would

not have expected that Ms Steinem has gathered guests for nearly 60 years The apartment has been her anchor since the late 1960s Ms Steinem still remembers walking out its doors for the 1968 Democratic Convention and being in the same place for decades feels like a stark contrast to her nomadic childhood My family lived in Southern Michigan in the summertime and in the wintertime we got in a house trailer and went to Florida or California she said I did not have the experience of being in the same house But she fell in love with her one bedroom one bathroom apartment with a small loft space eventually deciding to purchase the ground floor of her building and join apartments I never expected Trump Ms Steinem said before the event And that we still have not had a female president I would not have expected that At this particular gathering a talking circle hosted by Alex Taylor a health advocate for women and Danielle Robay a freelance journalist and podcast host the focus was on the research funding gap in health of women Gemstones are found on tables and dressers Many of the gemstones came from the late older sister of Ms Steinem and only sibling Susanne Steinem Patch who was a lawyer and a gemologist Each woman shared her name and shared something she wished she had known earlier about health of women with stories that were both personal and political One topic was convincing men that the health of women deserves attention and funding Women slipped into the crowded living room tucking under a loft space to find spots at the banquette underneath the nearby walls plastered with a wallpapered landscape photo It is heavy Ms Lyons said I think about all the things that she has collected over the years where they came from and where she was in her life Lupita Nyong'o said I joined this world of health advocacy for women only two months ago when I spoke up about my experience with fibroids Ms Nyong'o is now partnering with the Foundation for Health of Women to fund research for uterine fibroids I needed to plug into women who have been in this world for a while she said describing the room as where she can feel and exchange ideas Working to Experience Empathy For some women the gathering represents new territory

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Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501C3 nonprofit organization

Your Local Epidemiologist September 15 2025 Infectious disease weather report Covid 19 Wastewater levels a key indicator of community spread are now high Encouragingly infections appear to be slowing in Florida and Hawaii the leaders of this wave suggesting the national peak may be near Other metrics like emergency department visits for Covid 19 and the number of positive tests have already started decreasing The common cold gray line is also experiencing a significant spike Everything else is quiet still Flu Outpatient visits for flu like illness are climbing especially among kids We have not crossed the 3 percent threshold that defines flu season yet but the South is seeing early growth as it often does RSV Still quiet nothing notable so far What does this mean for you? If you are sick it is most likely the cold or Covid 19 It is safest to continue to mask in indoor crowded areas If you start to feel sick stay home To get ahead of the flu and RSV plan for your vaccine and other fall vaccines with our 2025 guide to fall vaccines Another measles death A sobering reminder Los Angeles County reported the tragic death of a school aged child from a complication of measles The child was infected years ago before they were eligible for vaccination They later developed subacute sclerosing panencephalitis SSPE a rare but fatal brain disease that appears years after initial infection About 1 in 600 infants infected with measles will develop SSPE SSPE causes progressive neurologic decline most victims die within 1 to 3 years of symptom onset There is no cure The CDC still lists three measles

deaths this year. It is unclear whether they will add this delayed case to official counts. Ultimately this is a heartbreaking reminder of one reason we vaccinate to protect those who cannot protect themselves. This type of story will be increasingly important to elevate to neighbors and communities if and when more states drop vaccination requirements for schools. See more from CA YLE Matt Willis here. And if you are a grandparent consider joining Grandparents for Vaccines grassroots effort. Learn more here!

Covid vaccine access States to the rescue mostly. As of Friday 16 states have acted to preserve Covid 19 vaccine access by ensuring pharmacists can keep administering shots. This matters over 90 percent of Americans get vaccinated at pharmacies. States are improvising because many laws tie access to federal guidance and this year federal decisions are not following the best science. Some states are now exclusively relying on professional organizations like the American Academy of Pediatrics who continue to use transparent evidence informed practices. So far we have seen: Expanding the scope of a pharmacist California, Colorado, Maryland, CA, CO, MD. Executive orders or emergency declarations Massachusetts, New York. Standing orders Washington, New York, Delaware, North Carolina. Pharmacy board directives Pennsylvania, Nevada, Kentucky. What we are hearing from you: Confusion is everywhere. More than 200 of you shared stories from all 50 states. Many are incredibly frustrating to read. My provider said I could not get any fall vaccines at my visit or even make a plan because they are not in season and my local hospital part of a national health care system has not stocked them yet in my small community given the confusion. What is the point in having the power to make an informed choice if the system is not set up to give us access? With permission we compiled these stories into a congressional brief sent to senators and professional societies last week. Keep sharing your stories here. Expect even more vaccine headlines this week. There will be two key developments in the vaccine policy space this week.

1. The HELP committee hearing. Former CDC director Susan Monarez removed by HHS Secretary RFK Junior will testify about political interference in vaccine policy. She is expected to describe the pressure she faced to rubber stamp recommendations not grounded in science. This could prompt pushback from senators including Bill Cassidy Republican of Louisiana, a physician who cast the deciding vote for the RFK Junior confirmation. That said this is an oversight hearing more investigation than action so it will not directly affect you.
2. The September ACIP meeting. On Thursday and Friday the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices ACIP the external body that sets vaccine policy will hold a special session its second under the RFK Junior leadership. This committee already has a record of disregarding scientific evidence. On the agenda three vaccines MMRV measles mumps varicella rubella hepatitis B for infants and Covid 19. There is a real possibility this group could vote against recommending some or even all of them. If that happens these vaccines may be removed from many state programs or forced off market. The consequences could be deeply disruptive for families trying to access routine lifesaving immunizations. Why this meeting will spark confusion. Beyond the decisions themselves and implications for access expect a wave of rumors and falsehoods online and in conversations with your family and friends. Last time this ACIP committee handpicked by RFK Junior flat out ignored scientific evidence or consensus. There is little reason to think this meeting will be any different so scientists policymakers and communicators are bracing for chaos. We already have a preview. On Friday The Washington Post reported that ACIP plans to discuss reports of 25 pediatric Covid 19 deaths using VAERS the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System. VAERS is an important tool for spotting early safety signals but it has significant limitations. Anyone can file a report not just healthcare providers. It runs on an honor system which means reports can be incomplete inaccurate or

even intentionally misleading Most critically VAERS data cannot establish causality CDC conducts investigations after reports come in but the raw data alone does not prove that a vaccine caused an event This is why VAERS is often misused by vaccine skeptics to cast doubt on safe vaccines I would not be surprised if this committee leans on VAERS in the same way to justify pulling Covid 19 vaccines off the market for pediatric patients What this means for you Until the votes are final the exact impact is hard to predict But you can expect a flood of headlines and social media chatter this week much of it a mix of rumors and falsehoods amplified by misuse of data like VAERS I will be back as quickly as possible to help sort through what is fact what is spin and what it means for your health and your family **Headlines**

The New York Times September 15 2025 Consumers Clocks The 7 Best Alarm Clocks of 2025 Reviews by Wire cutter Consumers Coffee Shop The Starbucks Turnaround That Has Baristas and Customers Steamed The New York Times Consumers Laptop Stands Why We Love the Rain Design iLevel2 Laptop Stand for 2025 Reviews by Wire cutter Consumers Online Conferencing The Zoom Boom Days Are Over What Comes Next? The New York Times Consumers Reading The Constitution Book Review We the People by Jill Lepore The New York Times Consumers Real Estate The Insult Comic Who Sells Million Dollar Homes The New York Times Consumers Stamps The Best Part of Any Piece of Mail Is the Stamp The New York Times Feminist The Gloria Steinem Living Room Has Hosted Nearly 60 Years of Gatherings Here is a Visit to One The New York Times Nature Opinion How to Count Butterflies The New York Times New York **RAWSEP View** Democratic Representative Primary Race in 2026 **From the article headline** Micah Lasher The Jerry Nadler Protégé Says He Is Running to Succeed His Mentor The New York Times New York City Mayoral Race Hochul Endorses Mamdani for Mayor of New York The New York Times New York City Mayoral Race How Mamdani Proposes to Make New York City Safer The New York Times New York City Mayoral Race Opinion Kathy Hochul Why I Am Endorsing Zohran Mamdani The New York Times RFK Junior **RAWSEP View** Cancer Fight Disabled **From the article headline** How the Trump Administration Is Dismantling the Cancer Research System in America The New York Times RFK Junior **RAWSEP View** Cancer Fight Disabled **From the article headline** Trump Is Shutting Down the War On Cancer The New York Times RFK Junior **RAWSEP View** Denial of Vaccines endangers the health of America **From the article headline** Opinion The Trump Policies Are Endangering Your Health The New York Times RFK Junior **RAWSEP View** Denial of Vaccines endangers the health of America and Denial of Vaccines endangers health worldwide **From the article headline** The World Wants More Vaccines An Against Vaccine America Is not Helping The New York Times RFK Junior Obesity Drugs Targeting Hims and Hers FDA Takes on a New Type of Drug Advertiser The New York Times RFK Junior Pesticide Ban weakened by Republicans GOP Plan on Pesticides Faces Revolt From MAHA Moms The New York Times RFK Junior **RAWSEP View** Vaccine denials can sometimes be reversed by prior authorization **From the article headline** How Doctors Can Help Patients Better Understand Prior Authorization The New York Times Trump Actions Opinion The Demonic Hypocrisy of the Trump Plea for Peace The New York Times Trump Actions **RAWSEP View** Money taken from Diversity Programs of most Universities with some money directed to Historically Black Colleges and Charter Schools **From the article headline** Trump Redirects Millions to Historically Black Colleges Charter Schools The New York Times Trump actions against the Federal Reserve Board The Fed In Some Records Fed Governor Lisa Cook Listed Atlanta Home as Secondary The New York Times Trump Economy The Fed Tried to Avoid a Fight With Trump It Got One Anyway The New York Times Trump Economy Opinion Our Booming Stock Market Is in Peril The New York

Times Trump Economy Trump Administration Claims Vast Powers as It Races to Fire Fed Governor Before Meeting The New York Times Trump Economy Trump Administration Live Updates White House Races to Keep Fed Governor Out of Central Bank Meeting The New York Times Trump Supreme Court Supreme Court Is Split on What to Call the Shadow Docket The New York Times Trump Supreme Court White House Seeks More Supreme Court Security Funding After Kirk Killing The New York Times Canada The Trump Tariffs Test of the Leadership of Mark Carney in Canada The New York Times Brazil **RAWSEP View** Lula is the Liberal Leader of Brazil at this time **From the article headline** Opinion Lula Brazilian Democracy and Sovereignty Are Non Negotiable The New York Times United Kingdom Did Britain Win the Trade War Why It is Tough to Declare a Victor The New York Times Italy and Ukraine Pope Leo Says He Cannot Broker a Peace Deal for Ukraine The New York Times China Artificial Intelligence Opinion Could China Be a Partner in A I Evolution The New York Times China **RAWSEP View** Computer Chip Technology Company **From the article headline** Nvidia Broke Antitrust Law China Says as Tensions With U S Mount The New York Times Taiwan Trump Actions Opinion How Trump Can Prevent a War Over Taiwan The New York Times **Headlines The Guardian September 15 2025** California Wildfires United by tragedy California dining club aims to save one restaurant at a time California The Guardian Florida Against Vaccines Florida vaccine mandate rollback falters after Trump criticism Florida The Guardian Idaho Wildfires A tiny town in Idaho dodged incineration in 2024 Will the next wildfire take it out Idaho The Guardian Iowa official defies the order of the governor to fly flags at halfstaff for Charlie Kirk Charlie Kirk shooting The Guardian Media Trump Actions Republicans How the US right wing is taking over news media and choking press freedom US news The Guardian RFK Junior Lung Cancer I was told I had two weeks to live why are so many young fit nonsmoking women getting lung cancer Lung cancer The Guardian Trump Actions Trump news at a glance president claims people on the left are under investigation after Kirk shooting Trump administration The Guardian United Kingdom Here is the truth Keir Starmer Whitehall cannot solve the urgent problems of the UK Find a fast track Peter Hyman and Morgan Wild The Guardian United Kingdom Labor MPs will hope the Starmer words after far right rally signal shift in tone Labor The Guardian United Kingdom Labor Prime Minister Far Right Protesters Britain will never surrender flag to far right protesters Starmer says Keir Starmer The Guardian United Kingdom Musk Grok AI bot falsely suggests police misrepresented footage of far right rally in London X The Guardian United Kingdom Nigel Farage admits breaching parliamentary rules over Trump event Nigel Farage The Guardian United Kingdom Police seek man who called for Keir Starmer to be assassinated at far right rally UK news The Guardian United Kingdom Starmer urged to make populist case for reform of the rights of workers Employment law The Guardian United Kingdom The super rich are swapping mansions for 2 million pound motorhomes Do they know something we do not Emma Beddington The Guardian United Kingdom Trump state visit will see police drones and airspace limits over Windsor Donald Trump The Guardian United Kingdom The Trump UK state visit arrives at awkward moment after Mandelson exit Politics The Guardian Germany **RAWSEP View** Alternative for Deutschland AfD party is neo Nazi party **From the article headline** Far right AfD vote triples in elections in German bellwether state Germany The Guardian Poland Russian drone incursion into Poland was Kremlin test on Nato Poland The Guardian Turkey Tens of thousands protest in Ankara against legal crackdown on Turkish opposition Turkey The Guardian Qatar and India Trump retreat from Nato was priced in But his humiliation of Qatar and India spells total chaos Nesrine Malik The Guardian