

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **CIDRAP launches new partnerships to support independent, evidence-based vaccine information**

**MINNEAPOLIS, Minn.**, January 27, 2026 — The University of Minnesota’s Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy (CIDRAP) today announced new partnerships with [Unbiased Science](#) and [The Evidence Collective](#) (TEC) to strengthen efforts to expand access to clear, evidence-based vaccine information and counter inaccurate and misleading claims by delivering accurate information through the channels people rely on, in language that is accessible and familiar.

The collaboration brings together complementary strengths in scientific analysis, policy expertise, and public communication at a time of heightened confusion and rapid change in U.S. vaccine policy. The spread of inaccurate and unsubstantiated information around immunization isn’t new, but it has never before been a regular feature of federal health communications.

Through this partnership, CIDRAP, which also houses the Vaccine Integrity Project, will expand its capacity to respond quickly and clearly to emerging vaccine safety claims, inaccuracies and major federal policy developments and support independent science communicators and experts in engaging the public with empathetic, understandable, and accurate information.

“Accurate vaccine information is essential for informed decision-making,” said CIDRAP Director Dr. Michael Osterholm. “But the challenge Americans face today in trying to sort fact from fiction is bigger than it has ever been. By partnering with Unbiased Science and The Evidence Collective, we are connecting CIDRAP’s research and policy expertise with teams that know how to explain complex scientific information in real time in terms people can understand through the channels they use.”

CIDRAP’s Vaccine Integrity Project conducts independent reviews of vaccine safety and effectiveness and publishes analyses designed to inform the public, health professionals, and decision-makers. CIDRAP’s award-winning news team also provides in-depth coverage of federal vaccine policy, including actions by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

The Evidence Collective, co-founded by Drs. Katelyn Jetelina and Jess Steier, is a consortium of 25-plus scientists and clinicians with a combined monthly reach of more than 150 million. Its members pool multidisciplinary expertise to equip independent content creators, journalists and other trustworthy communicators with the tools to respond in real time to emerging health and vaccine questions, concerns, rumors, and myths, as well as major policy shifts. CIDRAP will support TECs work to produce rapid briefings and collaborative content when accurate information matters most.

“Vaccine myths spread quickly, causing confusion and sowing doubt that can endanger people’s health,” Jetelina said. “By aligning scientific expertise with coordinated communication, this partnership can improve the reach of accurate information, helping to ensure that trusted voices have the tools they need to respond quickly and accurately to protect people’s health.”

Unbiased Science is a science communication organization that reaches up to 30 million people monthly. Backed by an interdisciplinary team of public health professionals, clinicians, immunologists, epidemiologists, and toxicologists, the team makes health science feel human, using social media

infographics, video, podcasts, and long-form storytelling to connect with general audiences, not talk at them.

“Science doesn’t help anyone if it isn’t understood,” Steier said. “This partnership will further our efforts to bring credible, evidence-based vaccine information directly to communities in ways that are human, relatable, and grounded in empathy.”

Through this partnership, CIDRAP will collaborate with and support the work of Unbiased Science and The Evidence Collective, improving access to evidence-based vaccine information and ensuring that diverse, trusted voices have the resources and expertise they need to answer the public's questions about vaccines accurately and honestly.

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