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CDC Shakeups

RFK Brings the Battle to Congress

By Clara Herman

Robert F. Kennedy Jr. became the secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) in February. This government department makes rules about health and medicine for the country. Since his appointment, Kennedy has made some big changes. One has to do with rules about **vaccines**.¹

A vaccine is a medicine that protects people from catching certain sicknesses.

One office in the HHS is the CDC. This office gives the country **guidance**² on health matters. The CDC has a group of people who study vaccines.

Continued on next page →

1. **vaccine**: medicine that helps protect people from getting sick

2. **guidance**: advice and information



CDC Shakeups *Continued*

But Kennedy replaced all the people in this group with new people. He said he wanted people who would study whether all the vaccines were safe. He did not want people who may **approve**³ the vaccines without checking them out carefully.

People are worried about Kennedy's action. He has long spoken out about how vaccines may not be safe, even though almost all doctors disagree. People worry that Americans will no longer trust the CDC if Kennedy makes changes about vaccines.

Another change Kennedy made was to say that children should no longer get Covid vaccines. The chance that they will get Covid is very low. Kennedy has also said that some Covid vaccines may not be safe. He said they have not been tested enough.

Last week, Kennedy was invited to the Senate. Lawmakers asked him many questions about his decisions for the CDC. They were not happy with his answers, but nothing was done. Kennedy continues to say that these changes are needed to make sure Americans are getting the right vaccine advice.

For a video clip of the Senate hearing, [click here](#).

3. **approve**: accept

Review Questions



RFK Brings the Battle to Congress

1. What changes did Robert F. Kennedy Jr. make at the CDC?

2. What reasons did Kennedy give for making changes at the CDC?

3. What do people think about Kennedy's changes?



Kids' Corner

By Hannah Ziskind



Festival of Redheads

There was a special festival earlier this month in Tilburg, Netherlands. The festival included food, music, and workshops. Most importantly, the festival celebrated redheads.

Red hair is rare — only one in 50 people has it. Each year, thousands of people from many countries join the Redhead Days Festival. They come together to celebrate their unique red hair and take a group photo together.



The festival started over 20 years ago. An artist named Bart Rouwenhorst was looking for red-haired people for an art project. He put an ad in the newspapers. A lot of people reached out. Bart gathered them all for a group photo. People loved it, and the event is now arranged every year.

To see photos of this event, [click here](#).

Caterpillars in Disguise

Most caterpillars eat leaves. But now, scientists have found the bone collector caterpillar in Hawaii. It eats bugs and also wears bugs on its back.

The bone collector is tiny, smaller than a piece of rice. It eats bugs it finds in spiderwebs. The caterpillar hides from spiders by sticking dead bugs on its back. That is how it got its name.

The bone collector is very hard to find. Only 62 have been found by scientists so far.

To watch a short video clip about the bone collector caterpillar, [click here](#).

By Ettel Royde

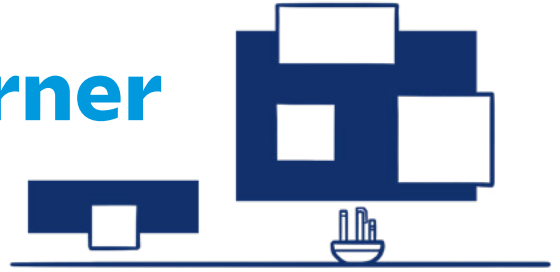


TOTAL



Academic Corner

By Hannah Ziskind



History of Vaccines

Vaccines are medicines that protect people from catching harmful diseases. The vaccines are usually given to people in a shot. Let's explain how vaccines work.

When a germ enters a person's body, the body will fight back. The person's blood makes special fighting cells called **antibodies**⁴ that can kill the germs. Every sickness needs a different antibody. Once the person gets better, the body keeps these antibodies. If the germ ever comes back, the blood is ready to fight. The germ is killed right away before it can grow.

Vaccines can cause the body to make antibodies. They have very weak or dead germs. The germs are harmless. But they trick the blood into fighting them anyway. Now the person has antibodies even though they never got sick. They are protected from the disease.

The first vaccine was made in 1796. Edward Jenner was an English doctor. He noticed that people who got a sickness called cowpox would no longer catch smallpox.



Smallpox was much more dangerous and killed a lot of people. So the doctor purposely made people sick with cowpox. They got better. Now they were protected from smallpox.

Since then, many new vaccines have been made. They protect millions of people from very dangerous sicknesses. Some deadly diseases are now **extinct**.⁵ That means they are totally gone from the world. In the past 50 years, about 154 million lives have been saved by vaccines! That's why many countries have laws that say everyone has to get the vaccines.

4. **antibodies**: cells in the blood that fight sicknesses

5. **extinct**: no longer alive

This Week in History

By Rebecca Stone

SEPTEMBER 11, 2001:

Twin Towers Attack

On this day, a group of **terrorists**⁶ attacked important buildings in the U.S. The terrorists **hijacked**⁷ four planes and forced each of them to crash into a different building.

At 8:46 in the morning, five terrorists crashed a plane into one of the Twin Towers. The plane made a huge hole in the building. Anyone above the 91st floor was stuck.

At 9:03, another plane slammed into the other building of the Twin Towers. The two buildings later collapsed. Many people died in or near the buildings.

A third plane crashed into the Pentagon. That is the headquarters of the **military**.⁸ A fourth plane crashed in an empty field. The people on the plane did that on purpose after the terrorists took over the plane. They heard about the attacks and did not want the plane to hit another building. Maybe the terrorists wanted to hit the White House, where the president lives.



Altogether, 2,977 people were killed in the attacks. A new tall building was built where the Twin Towers used to be. It has a museum to remember the September 11 attacks.

6. **terrorists**: people who hurt others to make people afraid

7. **hijacked**: took over an airplane by force

8. **military**: armed forces

September 7: In 1994, the U.S. Army left Berlin. It had been there since World War II ended in 1945.

September 8: In 1900, the “Great Storm” hit Texas. The winds were very powerful. The hurricane killed many people and destroyed a lot of buildings.

September 9: In 1776, the government named the new country “United States of America.”

September 10: In 1846, a new sewing machine was invented called the lockstitch machine. It made sewing much easier and quicker.

September 12: In 1962, President Kennedy gave a famous speech. He promised that the U.S. would land a man on the moon in less than ten years. In 1969, his promise came true.

September 13: In 1788, New York City was chosen as the first capital of the United States.



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