

Trump's CDC Stopped Monitoring Explosive Diarrhea Parasite Before Outbreak

 [newsweek.com/donald-trump-cdc-food-net-monitoring-parasite-cyclospora-12180951](https://www.newsweek.com/donald-trump-cdc-food-net-monitoring-parasite-cyclospora-12180951)

Marni Rose McFall

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The Trump administration's Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) scaled back a federal-state partnership that monitors foodborne illnesses, including cyclospora, a year before several states began reporting an outbreak of [cyclospora infection](#), a foodborne illness that can cause "explosive" diarrhea.

In July of 2025, the Foodborne Diseases Active Surveillance Network, known as FoodNet, reduced a program that tracked food poisoning infections. The required monitoring was cut down to two pathogens, down from eight. The program had been in place for three decades.

As of July 2026, cases of cyclosporiasis have surged across the country, with an abnormally large outbreak of 700 cases having been reported in Michigan, and cases having been recorded across 17 states.

Newsweek has contacted the CDC and the FDA for comment via email.

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FoodNet Scales Back Foodborne Illness Surveillance

FoodNet was established in July of 1995, and it is a collaborative program amongst the CDC, 10 state health departments, and the USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service.

The 10 states that participate in FoodNet are: California, Colorado, Connecticut, Georgia, Maryland, Minnesota, New Mexico, New York, Oregon and Tennessee. The programme's surveillance covers roughly 16 percent of the U.S. population.

The network had previously surveilled pathogens that cause food poisoning infections, including campylobacter, cyclospora, listeria, shigella, vibrio and Yersinia.

Reporting of those pathogens began in 1996, but became optional in 2025, according to information [published on the FoodNet website](#)

What Is Cyclosporiasis?

Cyclosporiasis is caused by the microscopic parasite *Cyclospora cayetanensis*.

According to the CDC, the illness commonly causes watery diarrhea that can include frequent, and sometimes explosive, bowel movements.

In the past, outbreaks have been linked to contaminated fresh produce, and infections tend to worsen over the summer months.

The Latest on the Cyclosporiasis Outbreak

Health officials across the U.S. are investigating a surge in cyclosporiasis.

[Cases have been reported in at least 18 states](#), including Alaska, Florida, Michigan, New York, Ohio, Texas and Wisconsin, with several states reporting higher-than-usual numbers of infections.

Michigan is reporting the largest outbreak, with more than 700 confirmed cases, while Ohio has recorded 177 cases. Increased case numbers have also been reported in North Carolina (110), New York (120), Illinois (141) and Texas (48).

State and federal investigators are reviewing patients' food histories and grocery purchases in an effort to identify a potential source of contamination.

Officials caution that national data lag behind local reports and likely underestimate the true scale of the outbreak because many infections go undiagnosed or unreported.

Investigators have not yet linked the illnesses to a specific food product, but previous U.S. outbreaks have been associated with fresh produce including basil, cilantro, bagged salad mixes, raspberries and green onions.

The CDC, FDA and state health departments continue to investigate whether the recent cases stem from a common source or from multiple unrelated contamination events, with additional cases expected to be identified in the coming weeks.

The Division of Parasitic Diseases and Malaria Is Quietly Disbanded

And there have been broader changes across the CDC.

The division was responsible for work on malaria, neglected tropical diseases and a range of parasitic infections, including foodborne illnesses such as cyclosporiasis.

Remaining staff were reassigned to other parts of the agency, where some of the work is expected to continue.

The initiatives were primarily run by USAID. Trump [dismantled the agency early in 2025](#), and it officially closed in July of that year.

Federal officials maintain that the CDC remains committed to combatting malaria and other infectious diseases. But there are concerns that the loss of a dedicated parasitic diseases division could reduce the agency's capacity to monitor, research and respond to parasitic infections.