

Experts say the Trump administration is woefully unprepared for an epidemic

Major public health posts unfilled in the Trump administration

Heads of:



**Centers for
Disease
Control**



**U.S. Agency for
International
Development**



**National Security
Council – Global
Health**

Sub-cabinet positions:



**HHS –
Assistant secretary
for health**



**HHS –
Assistant secretary
for global affairs**



**HHS –
Assistant secretary
for preparedness
and response**

Trump administration is not prepared for a pandemic

- The Trump administration has **not nominated or appointed top officials for public health agencies**, worrying experts that a vacuum of leadership could impair the response to a global health crisis
- The Trump administration has also proposed **severe cuts to the budgets of both the CDC and USAID** – which could significantly impact the ability of the agencies to respond to an emerging outbreak
- Trump has not appointed a global health expert to the NSC – rather, global health security is under the purview of Tom Bossert, Trump's homeland security adviser
- The G-20 health ministers will convene next month; however, no one knows who will be sent to represent the U.S.
- The Obama administration committed to the Global Health Security Agenda partnership, which is funded through 2019 – the Trump administration has not committed to extend that funding
- Between March 2014 and December 2016, the CDC has tracked more than 300 outbreaks in 160 countries
- Infectious disease outbreaks are becoming more common and will become increasingly so as trade, travel, poverty, and population density increase and the climate warms

Sources: Lena Sun, "The Trump administration is ill-prepared for a global pandemic," *The Washington Post*, April 8, 2017; "Global Health Protection and Security," CDC, March 24, 2017; Catherine Smith et al., "Global rise in human infectious disease outbreaks," *The Royal Society*, October 2014; Julia Beluz, "4 reasons disease outbreaks are erupting around the world," *Vox*, May 31, 2016.