



*Acting Commissioner*

**NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
AND MENTAL HYGIENE**  
Michelle Morse, MD, MPH

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**January 23, 2026**

**STATEMENT FROM NYC HEALTH DEPARTMENT ACTING COMMISSIONER DR.  
MICHELLE MORSE ON THE U.S. WITHDRAWAL FROM THE WORLD HEALTH  
ORGANIZATION**

NEW YORK — Today, New York City Health Department Acting Commissioner Dr. Michelle Morse issued the following statement in response to the Trump administration officially withdrawing the United States from the World Health Organization (WHO):

The U.S. withdrawal from the World Health Organization (WHO) impacts everyone's health. Disease knows no boundaries — an outbreak abroad is an outbreak at home.

New York City is often impacted first and hardest by infectious disease outbreaks. The decision by the Trump administration to withdraw from the WHO leaves us all more at risk of outbreaks and other public health emergencies. With almost 70 million visitors per year, NYC bears an outsized risk.

Without WHO membership, access to certain data and outbreak intelligence is limited. We cannot protect against what we do not know.

This doesn't just impact the U.S. Without this partnership, every country around the world is less prepared to respond to the spread of infectious diseases such as Ebola, mpox, and measles. This will result in unnecessary risk in the United States and globally.

In the absence of federal support, the NYC Health Department continues to prioritize the health and humanity of all New Yorkers. We will continue our essential infectious disease surveillance and work with our partner networks to protect everyone who lives in and travels to and through NYC.

Dr. Michelle Morse, MD MPH  
Acting Commissioner, NYC Health Department

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