



COVID-19: CDC Museum Closed to the Public

Due to ongoing concerns about the novel coronavirus (COVID-19), the David J. Sencer CDC Museum is closed to the public and will remain closed as we continue to assess and monitor developments. All CDC Museum tours are canceled until further notice.

This decision is being made out of an abundance of caution and based upon the guidance of the CDC regarding social distancing and the elimination of large gatherings.

Please continue to check our website and social media accounts for additional updates.



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
CDC 24/7: Saving Lives, Protecting People™

David J. Sencer CDC Museum: In Association with the Smithsonian Institution

CDC Timeline 1990s

Take a minute to review many of CDC's momentous contributions to public health since it was organized in 1946 as the Communicable Disease Center.

[2020s](#) | [2010s](#) | [2000s](#) | [1990s](#) | [1980s](#) | [1970s](#) | [1960s](#) | [1950s](#) | [1940s](#)

1990s





1999

- CDC launches National Pharmaceutical Stockpile (now the [Strategic National Stockpile](#)), a stockpile of drugs, vaccines, and other medical products and supplies, to provide for the emergency health security of the United States and its territories
- CDC establishes [CDC's Laboratory Response Network](#), an integrated national and international network of laboratories that are fully equipped to respond quickly to acts of chemical or biological threats, emerging infectious diseases, and other public health threats and emergencies
- CDC responds to the first case of [West Nile virus](#) identified in New York City



1997

- CDC participates in the nationally-televised White House event of the Presidential Apology for the [Tuskegee Study](#)
- CDC convenes a group of organizations dedicated to advocacy and education about folic acid-preventable birth defects. This group becomes the National Council on Folic Acid (NCFA)
- Fenfluramine (fen-phen) diet pill deaths and heart valve damage identified

1998

- For the first time since 1981, [AIDS](#) is diagnosed in more African-American and Hispanic men than in white men
- The [Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Surveillance Network](#) is created in October and develops a multisource surveillance methodology to determine the prevalence of FAS within certain regions of the United States
- *MMWR* publishes the first [Surgeon General's report focusing on tobacco](#) use among ethnic and racial minorities
- Cereal grains will be enriched with [folic acid](#) through a federal mandate to reduce [congenital disabilities](#)
- The [Global Polio Eradication Initiative](#) [↗](#) launches: a public-private partnership led by national governments and spearheaded by the World Health Organization (WHO), Rotary International, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) with the Gates Foundation joining in 2000



1995

- CDC epidemiologists investigate an outbreak of deadly [Ebola virus](#) in Zaire
- CDC recommends offering [HIV testing to all pregnant women](#), and AZT therapy for HIV-infected pregnant women to reduce transmission of the virus to their babies
- [Emerging Infections Programs \(EIP\)](#) are established in response to CDC's 1994 strategy, *Addressing Emerging Infectious Disease Threats: A Prevention Strategy for the United States*



1996

- CDC establishes the [National Occupational Research Agenda \(NORA\)](#)
- NIOSH issues findings and recommendations for preventing [workplace homicides and assaults](#)
- CDC finds measurable levels of serum cotinine, a biomarker of [tobacco smoke exposure](#), in the blood of 88 percent of American nonsmokers
- [PulseNet](#), a [national network](#) of laboratories, launches to help detect and define outbreaks using the DNA of the foodborne bacteria making people sick
- Prevention Effectiveness Program and *The Guide to Community Preventive Services (The Community Guide)* [\[link\]](#) initiated
- As part of the celebration of its 50th anniversary, CDC opens the Global Health Odyssey, a museum designed to educate the public about CDC and public health

1994

- [Polio elimination](#) is certified in the Americas
- [Vaccines for Children Program](#) established
- CDC and the National Institute of Justice collaborate to create the National [Violence against Women Survey](#). The survey, conducted in 1995-1996, will provide the first national data on the incidence and prevalence of violence against women



1993

- *MMWR* reports on an outbreak of a mysterious illness in the southwestern United States, later recognized as [Hantavirus infection](#). The deadly virus is transmitted by infected rodents through urine, droppings, and saliva. CDC responds by developing prevention and information materials for the disease
- CDC establishes the [Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Unit](#) in the Division of Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities at the National Center for Environmental Health
- CDC responds to an [H5N1 avian flu](#) outbreak spread to humans

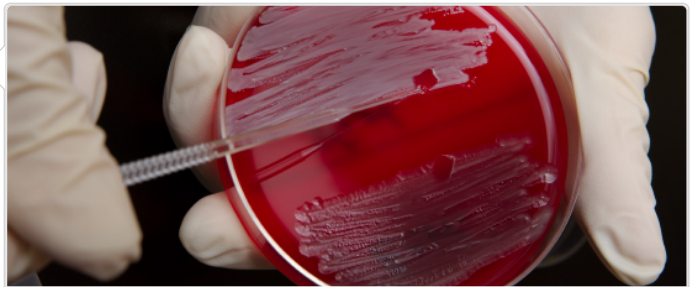
1992

- The agency is renamed Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to reflect a broader role and vision. The agency is asked by Congress to continue using the initials “CDC”
- CDC recommends that women who have had a pregnancy affected by a neural tube defect (NTD) consume 400 milligrams of the B-vitamin [folic acid](#) daily, prior to pregnancy, to prevent the recurrence of NTDs
- [National Center for Injury Prevention and Control \(NCIPC\)](#) is established



1991

- CDC establishes the [Division of Oral Health](#) to expand efforts to prevent oral disease and conditions
- CDC reports a sharp increase in cases of [tuberculosis](#) in the United States, linked to HIV infection and AIDS
- CDC begins development of a national strategic plan for early detection and control of [breast and cervical cancers](#) among all American women



1990

- CDC reports on the [viral agents of gastroenteritis](#), which causes diarrhea. Before 1990, severe diarrhea was a serious public health threat cause five to ten million deaths worldwide
- CDC develops guidelines for *Telecommunications Systems for Surveillance*, providing a systematic framework for public health surveillance data reported to CDC
- CDC reports possible transmission of HIV to a patient during invasive dental procedures
- CDC conducts the first national [Youth Risk Behavior Survey](#) to measure the prevalence of priority risk behaviors among adolescents
- CDC reports a large outbreak of [multidrug-resistant tuberculosis](#). This outbreak creates significant public health and economic burdens across Texas, California, and Pennsylvania
- CDC and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) develop the [Safe Water System \(SWS\)](#), protecting communities from contaminated water by promoting behavior change and providing affordable and sustainable solutions