

US CDC Issues Final Termination Notices to Over 600 Employees

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— Categories: Breaking News



At least 600 employees of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have received permanent termination notices as part of a federal workforce reduction. The layoffs were confirmed by the American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE), which represents more than 2,000 dues-paying CDC staff. Notices were issued this week, though many employees have not yet officially received them.

A spokesperson for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services confirmed the terminations but did not provide an exact number of personnel affected.

The reductions are part of a broader initiative by the Trump administration to shrink the federal workforce and reduce government spending. Earlier this year, the administration implemented mass layoffs affecting 10,000 staff across U.S. health agencies, including the CDC. Officials state that the cuts aim to streamline operations and eliminate inefficiencies, while critics warn the moves could hamper public health services and limit the government's ability to respond to emergencies.

A federal judge recently issued a preliminary ruling that protected employees in several parts of the CDC, including those working in sexually transmitted diseases, reproductive health, environmental health, and birth defects. However, the ruling did not cover all departments, and layoffs are proceeding in areas such as the Freedom of Information Office. The AFGE has raised concerns over the lack of transparency from the Department of Health and Human Services regarding which groups are affected, making it difficult to assess the full impact on the agency's workforce.

Officials and lawmakers have voiced differing opinions on the consequences of the staff reductions. Supporters argue that the CDC must operate more efficiently and reduce unnecessary spending, while critics contend that removing experienced personnel could hinder the agency's ability to monitor and respond to public health threats. They note that the CDC plays a critical role in coordinating responses to infectious disease outbreaks, health emergencies, and environmental hazards, and a reduced workforce could compromise those functions.

The terminations underscore the challenge of balancing fiscal responsibility with the need to maintain a capable public health infrastructure. With fewer employees, the CDC will be required to manage existing programs and initiatives with limited staff, which could affect monitoring, research, and emergency response operations. The agency has not yet released details on how the workforce reductions will affect specific programs or services, leaving employees and the public uncertain about future operational capacity.

The AFGE has pledged to continue advocating for affected employees, pressing for greater clarity from federal officials on how the cuts will be implemented and how essential public health functions will be maintained. Union representatives have also highlighted the potential long-term consequences of reduced staffing on national preparedness and public confidence in the CDC.

As these layoffs take effect, the CDC and other federal health agencies face the task of sustaining their mission with fewer resources. The developments are expected to influence broader discussions on federal workforce management and the allocation of resources within the public health system. Observers across the health community are closely monitoring the situation and preparing to address potential gaps in services and public health programs.