

《美国疫情数据报送绕过疾控中心 引发卫生专家担忧》

Hospital data on coronavirus patients will now be rerouted to the Trump administration instead of first being sent to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Department of Health and Human Services confirmed to CNN on Tuesday.

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The move could make data less transparent to the public at a time when the administration is downplaying the spread of the pandemic, and threatens to undermine public confidence that medical data is being presented free of political interference.

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Michael Caputo, the assistant secretary for public affairs at the department, confirmed the change first reported by The New York Times earlier in the day, saying in a statement that the "new faster and complete data system is what our nation needs to defeat the coronavirus and the CDC, an operating division of HHS, will certainly participate in this streamlined all-of-government response. They will simply no longer control it."

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"The CDC's old hospital data gathering operation once worked well monitoring hospital information across the country, but it's an inadequate system today," Caputo said in the statement.

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The Times said hospitals are to begin reporting the data to HHS on Wednesday, noting also that the "database that will receive new information is not open to the public, which could affect the work of scores of researchers, modelers and health officials who rely on CDC data to make projections and crucial decisions."

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The information removed from the website is the hospital data that was reported to the CDC's National Healthcare Safety Network, according to CDC spokesperson Kristen Nordlund.

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The data includes...

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the current inpatient and intensive care unit bed occupancy

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Health care worker staffing

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Personal protective equipment supply status and availability

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CNN Chief Medical Correspondent Dr. Sanjay Gupta said the change is "going to lead to more opaqueness" about coronavirus data.

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Restaurant tables sit empty at the tourist destination Pier 39 in San Francisco, California, on July 09, 2020.

[Photo/Agencies]"What logic does this have, other than to take away the data from the epidemiologists that are the best in the world at looking at this data, making sense of it, translating it for people, versus giving it to HHS," he asked on CNN's "New Day" Wednesday morning.

[illegible]

Former CDC acting director Dr. Richard Besser on Wednesday said rerouting hospital data is a "step backwards" for the country's coronavirus response.

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"It's another example of CDC being sidelined. Not only should the data be coming to CDC, but CDC should be talking to the public through the media every day," Besser told Gupta in an interview.

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He worried that the data going directly to HHS could "be further politicized, and that's the last thing you want."

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Public health experts, they said: "Face two opponents: covid-19, but also political leaders and others attempting to undermine" the CDC.

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