

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1011

July 16, 2026

The Honorable Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.
Secretary
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Secretary Kennedy,

Last year, you terminated the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC's) Foodborne Diseases Active Surveillance Network (FoodNet) required surveillance of *Cyclospora cayetanensis*, the parasite responsible for cyclosporiasis.ⁱ And now a cyclosporiasis outbreak sweeps the nation.ⁱⁱ Your foolish and self-indulgent demolition of critical public health programs puts Americans at risk.

The Trump Administration is actively undermining food safety. To date, CDC has confirmed 1,645 cases – and there are still thousands of pending cases waiting for CDC to confirm.ⁱⁱⁱ Americans are suffering from severe diarrhea and painful complications.

Across the country, parents feel increasingly uncertain about how, and whether they can, shop safely for their families. This is unacceptable. Please answer the following questions within 72 hours.

1. Has the CDC's FoodNet been restored to require tracking of *Cyclospora cayetanensis*? If not, why?
2. Why did you terminate tracking of *Cyclospora cayetanensis* in the first place?
3. What is the status of epidemiological and food safety investigations to determine the source and scope of the outbreak?

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Respectfully,



Jon Ossoff
United States Senator

ⁱ U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (Last updated April 28, 2026). Foodborne Diseases Active Surveillance Network. <https://www.cdc.gov/foodnet/about/index.html>

ⁱⁱ USA Today. (July 14, 2026). RFK's CDC cut back on parasite monitoring. Then an outbreak spiraled. <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/state/georgia/atlanta/2026/07/14/parasite-behind-explosive-outbreak-not-part-of-required-monitoring/90912239007/>

ⁱⁱⁱ U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (Last updated July 15, 2026). Surveillance of Cyclosporiasis. <https://www.cdc.gov/cyclosporiasis/php/surveillance/index.html>