

but the front door is now <https://endpoints.news>



Stéphane Bancel, Moderna CEO (Lenin Nolly/NurPhoto via AP Images)

May 28, 2025 06:01 PM EDT

Updated 06:58 PM

Pharma, Coronavirus

## Updated: Trump administration halts more than \$750M in funds for Moderna's bird flu vaccine

**Max Bayer**

Pharma Reporter

The Trump administration has killed an award worth \$766 million to help Moderna develop a bird flu vaccine, according to the company.

The biotech said Wednesday that it received notice from the Department of Health and Human Services that it would be terminating the contract minus expenses borne so far. Moderna [announced](#) that it had received a \$176 million award in July 2024, which was [expanded](#) to include an additional \$590 million in January. Moderna said it had expected to advance the program into late-stage development with the assistance

You are reading this article for free. Enjoy! Upgrade for unlimited access.

UPGRADE

The administration's action is the latest example of how the Trump administration's approach to vaccines has changed since the days of Operation Warp Speed, when President Donald Trump's team worked closely with drugmakers — including Moderna — to speed the development of mRNA-based vaccines for the virus that causes Covid-19.

ADVERTISEMENT

## From weeks to days: how Aizon Intelligent Agents transform pharma validation

Validation in GxP environments is often the bottleneck in digital transformation—manual, repetitive, and complex. Aizon Intelligent Agents change that. Aizon Intelligent Agents are patented, industry-first ...

**SPONSORED** | Aizon

ADVERTISEMENT

But under HHS Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr., a longtime anti-vaccine activist and skeptic, the new Trump administration has cut vaccine contracts and research, and has upended Covid-specific guidance.

Last week, for example, the FDA released a new framework indicating that future Covid-19 vaccines will likely be approved for a narrower population. And on Tuesday, Kennedy announced that he was rescinding existing Covid-19 recommendations for healthy children and pregnant women.

Despite the decision, Moderna said early Phase 1/2 data of the pandemic influenza vaccine were positive. Three weeks after a second dose, 97.8% of trial participants reported antibody levels that correlate with protection, the company said.

The vaccine was generally well-tolerated, Moderna said, with no dose-limiting issues seen so far.

The administration's reconsideration of the bird flu investment comes as two other Moderna products are under review at the FDA. The agency is set to decide on the company's next-gen Covid vaccine in a matter of days, and is also considering whether to expand Moderna's RSV vaccine label to include high-risk younger adults, with a June 12 PDUFA date.

*Editor's note: This story was updated with additional details, a statement from HHS and to correct that Moderna was granted one award that was expanded, not two.*

**AUTHOR**

You are reading this article for free. Enjoy! Upgrade for unlimited access.

UPGRADE