

# SEPTEMBER 2026 PROTECTING OUR HEALTH CAMPAIGN

## PARTNER TOOLKIT

### Campaign Overview

This month, we're working to strengthen the public's understanding of how the federal government protects our health by monitoring our food, water, and air and how it alerts us when any of these vital resources are at risk.

As we continue to see federal agencies navigate haphazard personnel and funding cuts, we invite you to join us in raising awareness about the scientist and public health workers behind these systems who:

- Ensure our food is held to the highest quality standards
- Study air quality and its impacts
- Ensure public lakes and drinking water are properly treated and free of harmful pollution levels
- And keep us informed when dangerous levels of pollution threaten our food, water, or air

**This toolkit will help you talk to your audience about what different health agencies do, why their work matters to communities across the country, and what's at stake when the people who keep these programs and systems running have been stripped from government.**

### How to use this toolkit:

- **Newsletter blurb** – Use our sample language to introduce your audience to the public servants and scientists who keep our food, air, and water safe and how workforce and funding cuts are putting this work at risk.
- **Email blast** – Use our email language to mobilize your audience to support public health experts protecting our food, air and water, and amplify the importance of investing in American science.
- **Social media posts** – Use our social media graphics and captions to spread the word across all four issue areas and encourage people to learn more about how the Trump administration's personnel and funding cuts are affecting experts' ability to meet the needs of the communities they serve.

## Top-Line Messages

### **THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR PROTECTING THE FUNDAMENTAL RESOURCES WE RELY ON EVERY DAY: FOOD, WATER, AND AIR.**

Reducing its capacity and workforce opens the door to prolonged outbreaks, illnesses that cross state and global borders, and declining community health, all of which carry negative economic costs.

### **CUTTING HALF OF RESEARCH AND CONTRACTS AT PUBLIC HEALTH, DISEASE PREVENTION, AND FOOD AND AGRICULTURE AGENCIES THREATENS AMERICAN LIVES.**

### **FEDERAL AGENCIES LIKE THE CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION AND THE FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION MONITOR POTENTIAL HEALTH THREATS EVERY DAY.**

Fewer workers and cut programs dramatically slow down how quickly you're notified about new disease outbreaks or food recalls.

## Newsletter Blurb

### **Safe food, clean air, and clean water in your city does not happen by accident.**

Public servants and scientists work every day across the country to inspect our food supply, monitor air quality, test our lakes and drinking water, and run the alert systems that catch problems before it's too late. Yet from September 2024 to February 2026, agencies in the environmental research sector lost nearly a quarter of their workforce, scaled-back federal surveillance of pathogens has contributed to massive outbreaks, and food and agriculture agencies have seen a 60% decrease in project grants and research and development contract funding.

We're already seeing the consequences. When we deprioritize and strip funding away from science, we get fewer researchers tracking toxic smog and local air quality, slower testing for pollutants in local rivers and lakes, delayed plans to cool hot cities and neighborhoods, and communities left with fewer defenses against environmental hazards. The Cyclospora outbreak has sickened thousands across 15 states, and cuts to the CDC's FoodNet, the public health tracking program that monitors illnesses caused by germs, were a key reason the response has been slower than it should be.

The Partnership for Public Service's "The Cost of Cutting American Science" is an interactive tool that helps you explore how the Trump administration's federal workforce and funding cuts are threatening this work, and why continued investment in science and public health workers is more important than ever.

[Learn more](#)

# Email Blast

## **Subject Line**

When public health protections disappear, your safety is on the line

## **Preview Text**

Learn more about the systems and experts who protect our food, air and water

Hi **[Name]**,

One of the many jobs of the federal government is to protect the food, water and air we depend on to survive. In your community, that can look like inspecting your food supply, regulating pesticide use on crops and mandating honest and clear labeling. When public servants are able to do their job effectively, you are not left wondering if the lake you like to visit is too dangerous to be around, and if it is, you trust that you will receive an alert that warns you of the dangers before it turns into a catastrophe.

But when the systems and the experts running them are deprioritized by the federal government, the American public is left vulnerable to health risks, that include fewer inspections at food processing plants, weaker pathogen surveillance — like the CDC's FoodNet, which has scaled back from tracking eight dangerous microbes to just two — and slower outbreak responses. The same is true for our water and air. Fewer inspections mean pollution violations go undetected longer, and reviews of hazardous chemicals face growing backlogs, leaving communities exposed, and state agencies stretched thin to fill the gap.

The scientists and public health workers that show up to protect you and your family deserve to be supported, funded and prioritized.

Help us share the facts and support our experts by amplifying the importance of investing in American science.

## **Learn more**

Thank you for helping us connect the dots and keep communities informed.

# Social Media Content

## Post 1

Safe food, clean water and breathable air are fundamental human needs that our government plays a critical role in protecting. But when federal health and safety programs, and the experts running them, are cut and deprioritized by the administration, we lose vital protections that impact our daily lives.

The Cost of Cutting American Science is an interactive tool that helps you explore what federal changes to science, health and our environment could mean to you.

Share this post with your networks

## Post 2

The ongoing Cyclospora outbreak is one of the most widespread and severe foodborne crises America has seen in decades. Experts are pointing to the quiet structural degradation in our government's epidemiological surveillance as a critical part of the story.

The race to track, identify and control this outbreak has been challenged by deep staff cuts at public health agencies, a lack of disease surveillance data, and less coordination between federal and state governments.

Stopping a foodborne outbreak that spans multiple states is a complex job that requires personnel and funding investment to keep us all safe. When public health funding is cut, epidemiologists and other federal and state health experts are left to pick up the pieces, and the American public suffers the consequences.

Read the full story.

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## Post 3

Did you know that more than 4 in 10 people in the U.S. live in places with unhealthy air pollution? They often live without knowing so until it has already affected their health.

Environmental Protection Agency scientist James Szykman spent decades bridging space and public health data with NASA's TEMPO satellite by pinpointing pollution down to the neighborhood, distinguishing car exhaust from industrial emissions and tracking wildfire smoke as it spreads in real time.

Groundbreaking technology like this provide new ways to address air pollution and help state and local government leaders better invest their federal funding to improve air quality. In return, Americans have increased visibility into the health of their communities.

Read about the critical work James does at [servicetoamericamedals.org](https://servicetoamericamedals.org).

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# | Social Media Content

## | Post 4

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Wastewater Surveillance System tracks disease by testing sewage in nearly 1,300 sites nationwide, covering areas with roughly 144 million Americans. The system compiles data into a picture of how diseases, like COVID-19, flu, measles and even polio, are spreading in communities in real time, and is one of the most cost-effective tools we have for catching outbreaks early.

Secure and routine federal investment in critical warning systems like wastewater surveillance keeps our communities safe and protected from preventable illness.

Dig deeper into [The Cost of Cutting American Science](#) to better understand federal cuts to science, health and our environment.

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## | Post 5

The Clean Water Act and Safe Drinking Water Act exist to control pollution in lakes and rivers across the U.S., ensuring our public drinking water is protected.

But if the systems that monitor threatening pollution levels in our water lose support or are defunded, our safeguards disappear, leaving us vulnerable to unsafe water supplies and preventable illnesses.

Dig deeper into [The Cost of Cutting American Science](#) to better understand how federal cuts to science, health and our environment could affect you.

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## | Post 9

When wildfire smoke from Canada recently blanketed the eastern seaboard, federal scientists and state health departments were on the front lines using tools, like the AirNow Fire and Smoke Map, to warn the public in real time.

The map, developed jointly by the Environmental Protection Agency and Forest Service, pulls together official monitors, low-cost sensors and satellite smoke data to track pollution as it moves. State and local health departments use these real-time readings to issue air quality advisories and alert people to stay indoors.

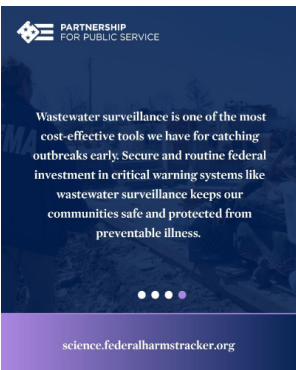
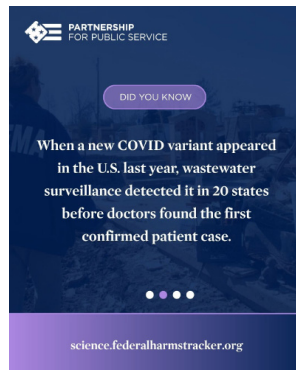
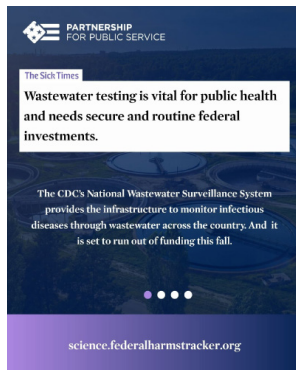
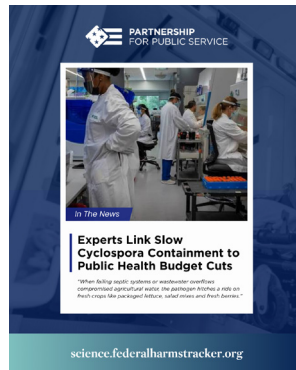
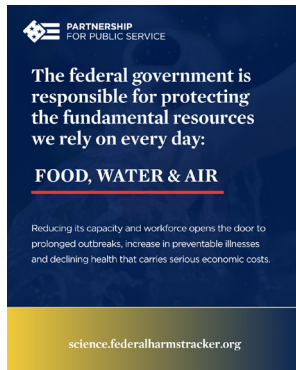
This kind of real-time coordination depends on sustained federal investment. Without it, communities lose the early warning systems that tell them when the air outside isn't safe to breathe.

Dig deeper into [The Cost of Cutting American Science](#) to better understand federal cuts to science, health and our environment.

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# Graphics

## Facts



Click here to download these images and share the facts with your networks

## RESOURCES

- ★ The Cost of Cutting American Science
- ★ Save Our Science - Partnership for Public Service
- ★ Honoree Archive • Service to America Medals