Waiver Notice

Pursuant to section 319 of the Public Health Service (PHS) Act, 42 U.S.C. § 247d, Acting Secretary Hargan determined on October 26, 2017, that a public health emergency (PHE) exists as a result of the consequences of the opioid crisis affecting the Nation and renewed that determination on January 24, 2018. Secretary Azar renewed this determination on the following dates: April 24, 2018; July 23, 2018; October 21, 2018; January 19, 2019; April 19, 2019; July 18, 2019; October 16, 2019; January 14, 2020; April 13, 2020; July 12, 2020; October 10, 2020; and January 8, 2021. Secretary Xavier Becerra renewed this determination effective April 8, 2021; July 7, 2021; October 6, 2021; January 4, 2022; April 4, 2022; July 4, 2022; October 3, 2022; January 1, 2023; April 1, 2023; July 1, 2023; September 29, 2023; December 28, 2023; March 27, 2024; June 25, 2024; September 23, 2024; and December 22, 2024. Secretary Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. renewed this determination effective March 22, 2025; June 20, 2025; September 18, 2025; December 17, 2025; March 17, 2026; June 15, 2026; and September 13, 2026.

The Secretary's determination to declare the PHE was made after consultation with public health officials, as necessary. As a result of the PHE, Secretary Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. determined pursuant to section 319(f) of the PHS Act that circumstances of the PHE necessitate a waiver from the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA), 44 U.S.C. § 3501 *et seq*., effective as of the date of this notice. The waiver is justified to collect information to support the Department of Health and Human Services' investigation of and response to the opioid crisis. This waiver applies to information to be collected by the Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response (ASPR) for the purpose of evaluating the skills and deployability of Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) volunteers and determine whether they could support response efforts during the opioid crisis PHE.

Pursuant to the waiver, the requirements of 44 U.S.C. § 3501 *et seq*. shall not be applicable with respect to voluntary collection of information during the effective time period.

The PRA waiver is effective as of November 3, 2026, and is anticipated to remain in effect throughout the time period of the immediate investigation of and response to the emergency declared pursuant to section 319(a) of the PHS Act, and for a reasonable length of time for immediate post response review regarding the PHE.

Any initiative subject to this waiver that is ongoing after the termination of the effective period shall be subject to the requirements of the PRA within 30 days of expiration of the waiver. The waiver applies to the voluntary information collection related to the opioid crisis PHE undertaken by ASPR.

This notice will be updated as needed.