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## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

[60Day-24-0572; Docket No. CDC-2024-0044]

#### Proposed Data Collection Submitted for Public Comment and Recommendations

**AGENCY:** Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

**ACTION:** Notice with comment period.

**SUMMARY:** The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), as part of its continuing effort to reduce public burden and maximize the utility of government information, invites the general public and other Federal agencies the opportunity to comment on a continuing information collection, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995. This notice invites comment on a proposed information collection project titled Health Message Testing System (HMTS). The HMTS is a Generic information collection that enables programs across CDC to test proposed health messages on a target audience before these messages are disseminated to the public.

**DATES:** CDC must receive written comments on or before August 5, 2024.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments, identified by Docket No. CDC-2024-0044 by any of the following methods:

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov). Follow the instructions for submitting comments.
- *Mail:* Jeffrey M. Zirger, Information Collection Review Office, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 1600 Clifton Road NE, MS H21-8, Atlanta, Georgia 30329.

*Instructions:* All submissions received must include the agency name and Docket Number. CDC will post, without change, all relevant comments to [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov).

*Please note:* Submit all comments through the Federal eRulemaking portal ([www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov)) or by U.S. mail to the address listed above.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** To request more information on the proposed project or to obtain a copy of

the information collection plan and instruments, contact Jeffrey M. Zirger, Information Collection Review Office, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 1600 Clifton Road NE, MS H21-8, Atlanta, Georgia 30329; Telephone: 404-639-7570; Email: [omb@cdc.gov](mailto:omb@cdc.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA) (44 U.S.C. 3501-3520), Federal agencies must obtain approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for each collection of information they conduct or sponsor. In addition, the PRA also requires Federal agencies to provide a 60-day notice in the **Federal Register** concerning each proposed collection of information, including each new proposed collection, each proposed extension of existing collection of information, and each reinstatement of previously approved information collection before submitting the collection to the OMB for approval. To comply with this requirement, we are publishing this notice of a proposed data collection as described below.

The OMB is particularly interested in comments that will help:

1. Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;
2. Evaluate the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;
3. Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected;
4. Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, *e.g.*, permitting electronic submissions of responses; and
5. Assess information collection costs.

#### Proposed Project

Health Message Testing System (HMTS) (OMB Control No. 0920-0572, Exp. 10/31/2024)—Extension—Office of Communication (OC), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

#### Background and Brief Description

Before CDC disseminates a health message to the public, the message always undergoes scientific review. However, even though the message is based on sound scientific content, there is no guarantee that the public will

understand a health message or that the message will move people to take recommended action. Communication theorists and researchers agree that for health messages to be as clear and influential as possible, target audience members or representatives must be involved in developing the messages and provisional versions of the messages must be tested with members of the target audience. Increasingly there are circumstances when CDC must move swiftly to protect life, prevent disease, or calm public anxiety. Health message testing is even more important in these instances, because of the critical nature of the information need.

In the interest of timely health message dissemination, many programs forgo the important step of testing messages on dimensions such as clarity, salience, appeal, and persuasiveness (*i.e.*, the ability to influence behavioral intention). Skipping this step avoids the delay involved in the standard OMB review process, but at a high potential cost. Untested messages can waste communication resources and opportunities because the messages can be perceived as unclear or irrelevant. Untested messages can also have unintended consequences, such as jeopardizing the credibility of Federal health officials.

The Health Message Testing System (HMTS) is a Generic information collection, that enables programs across CDC to collect the information they require in a timely manner to:

- Ensure quality and prevent waste in the dissemination of health information by CDC to the public.
- Refine message concepts and to test draft materials for clarity, salience, appeal, and persuasiveness to target audiences.
- Guide the action of health communication officials who are responding to health emergencies, Congressionally-mandated campaigns with short timeframes, media-generated public concern, time-limited communication opportunities, trends, and the need to refresh materials or dissemination strategies in an ongoing campaign.

Each testing instrument will be based on specific health issues or topics. Although it is not possible to develop one instrument for use in all instances, the same kinds of questions are asked in most message testing. This package includes generic questions and formats that can be used to develop health message testing data collection instruments. These include a list of screening questions, comprised of demographic and introductory questions, along with other questions

that can be used to create a mix of relevant questions for each proposed message testing data collection method. However, programs may request to use additional questions if needed. Message testing questions will focus on issues such as comprehension, impressions, personal relevance, content and wording, efficacy of response, channels, and spokesperson/sponsor. Such information will enable message developers to enhance the effectiveness of messages for intended audiences. Data collection methods proposed for HMTS include intercept interviews, telephone interviews, focus groups, online surveys, and cognitive interviews. In almost all instances, data will be collected by outside organizations under contract with CDC.

For many years, CDC programs have used HMTS to test and refine message concepts and test draft materials for clarity, salience, appeal, and persuasiveness to target audiences. Having this Generic Clearance available has enabled them to test their information and get critical health information out to the public quickly. Over the last three years, more than 22 messages have been tested using this clearance. CDC’s Division of Tuberculosis Elimination was approved to conduct message testing for their Latent Tuberculosis Infection (LTBI)

Awareness Campaign within target audiences—non-US-born Vietnamese and Filipino persons and the healthcare professionals (primary care physicians, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants) that serve them. Assessing the immediate effects of campaign materials provides helpful insights that can be used to inform adjustments of campaign materials for intended audiences.

CDC’s Division of Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Obesity (DNPAO) is tasked with leading our nation’s efforts to prevent chronic diseases by promoting good nutrition, regular physical activity, and a healthy weight. One of the key ways DNPAO does this is by providing State and community partners with practical tools to promote healthy lifestyles such as the SCHMC communication resources. It is imperative that this ad testing be conducted so that CDC/DNPAO can best support grantees and local partners by providing timely information about how specific ads resonate with key audiences. The insights gained from the ad testing also provided DNPAO with timely information to inform development of additional ads and communication materials that they will resonate with audiences and lead to intended actions/behavior changes related to increasing physical activity,

reducing sugary drink consumption, and improving infant and toddler nutrition.

The National Center for Injury Prevention and Control (NCIPC) collected data to assess older adults’ perceptions of products developed as part of the expansion phase of CDC’s Still Going Strong Campaign. Digital products were developed as part of this effort to expand the campaign to address social connectedness and isolation. The messages conveyed the importance of social connectedness to health to maintaining a high quality of life as we age. Participants learned about how social connectedness as well as physical and mental health are interconnected and critical to the well-being of older adults.

Over 17,307 respondents were queried and over 5,400 burden hours used during this time period. Because the availability of this data collection has been so critical to programs in disseminating their materials and information to the public in a timely manner, The Office of Communications is requesting a three-year Extension of this information collection. CDC requests OMB approval for an estimated 2,470 annual burden hours. There is no cost to the respondents other than their time.

**ESTIMATED ANNUALIZED BURDEN HOURS**

Type of respondents	Form name	Number of respondents	Number of responses per respondent	Average burden per response (in hours)	Total burden (in hours)
Public Health Professionals, Health Care Providers, State and Local Public Health Officials, Emergency Responders, General Public.	Moderator’s Guides, Eligibility Screeners, Interview Guides, Opinion Surveys, Consent Forms.	18,525	1	8/60	2,470
<b>Total</b> .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	<b>2,470</b>

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**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

**Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services**

**[Document Identifiers: CMS–R–142 and CMS–10379]**

**Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request**

**AGENCY:** Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, Health and Human Services (HHS).

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is announcing an opportunity for the public to

comment on CMS’ intention to collect information from the public. Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), Federal agencies are required to publish notice in the **Federal Register** concerning each proposed collection of information (including each proposed extension or reinstatement of an existing collection of information) and to allow 60 days for public comment on the proposed action. Interested persons are invited to send comments regarding our burden estimates or any other aspect of this collection of information, including the necessity and utility of the proposed information collection for the proper performance of the agency’s functions, the accuracy of the estimated burden, ways to enhance the quality, utility, and