

Anti-vaxxers blamed for 300% rise in measles

29th April, 2019



Creative Commons 2.0
via Julien Harnels on flickr.com

UNICEF has reported that measles cases worldwide have surged by 300% in the first three months of 2019. UNICEF's report came out on the same day that the USA's Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reported that

confirmed measles cases in the U.S. are the highest they've been since the disease was declared eradicated in 2000. UNICEF reported that an estimated 169 million children worldwide have missed out on measles vaccines. It added that 110,000 people (mostly children) died from measles in 2017, up 22 per cent from the year before. UNICEF said: "The measles virus will always find unvaccinated children....We need to vaccinate every child, in rich and poor countries alike."

The CDC blamed the anti-vaxxer (anti-vaccination) movement for a drop in the number of parents vaccinating their children. The anti-vaccination movement began in France in 1763, when doctors believed vaccines were harmful. The anti-vaxxer message is now being widely spread across social media websites. Facebook has vowed to take down anti-vaxxer posts. The CDC blamed the anti-vaxxer movement for the rise in measles cases. It said: "A significant factor contributing to the outbreaks...is misinformation...about the safety of the measles vaccine. Some organizations are deliberately targeting...communities with inaccurate and misleading information about vaccines."

Sources: npr.org / bbc.com / marketwatch.com

Writing

Everyone in the world should be vaccinated against measles. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

measles / worldwide / UNICEF / eradicated / disease / vaccine / virus / children / anti-vaxxer / movement / harmful / message / rise / outbreaks / safety / information

True / False

- a) Cases of measles went up by 300% last year. T / F
- b) People said measles was eradicated in the USA in 2000. T / F
- c) Around 110,000 children died from measles in 2017. T / F
- d) UNICEF said the priority is to vaccinate children in poor countries. T / F
- e) The anti-vaccination movement began in France in 1763. T / F
- f) Facebook said it would remove posts made by anti-vaxxers. T / F
- g) The CDC blamed anti-vaxxers for the rise in cases of measles. T / F
- h) The CDC said anti-vaxxers always provided correct information. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------|
| 1. worldwide | a. verified |
| 2. first | b. intentionally |
| 3. confirmed | c. accused |
| 4. eradicated | d. initial |
| 5. blamed | e. campaign |
| 6. drop | f. globally |
| 7. movement | g. deceptive |
| 8. vowed | h. fall |
| 9. deliberately | i. promised |
| 10. misleading | j. eliminated |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you know about measles?
- b) What do you think has caused the surge in measles cases?
- c) How do you think measles reappeared after it was eradicated?
- d) What vaccinations have you had?
- e) What would the world be like without vaccinations?
- f) How worried are you about viruses?
- g) How can we eradicate all disease?
- h) What do you know about UNICEF?

Phrase Match

- measles cases worldwide have
- the disease was declared
- missed out on measles
- The measles virus will always find
- in rich and poor countries
- a drop in the number of parents vaccinating
- Facebook has vowed to take
- A significant factor contributing
- deliberately targeting
- inaccurate and
- vaccines
- alike
- communities
- eradicated in 2000
- to the outbreaks
- surged by 300%
- misleading information
- down anti-vaxxer posts
- unvaccinated children
- their children

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- What do you know about vaccinations?
- What do you know about the anti-vaxxer movement?
- What do you think about the anti-vaxxer movement?
- Is Facebook right to remove anti-vaxxer posts?
- Who do we believe about measles?
- What does measles do to someone's body?
- What questions would you like to ask UNICEF?

Spelling

- rusged by 300%
- onicmrfed measles cases
- since the disease was cdalered
- adciearet in 2000
- an tmisaetd 169 million children
- iccvnaate every child
- The CDC lmabed the anti-vaxxer movement
- idewly spread across social media
- ovewd to take down anti-vaxxer posts
- contributing to the trbueokas
- lbeaeritedly targeting communities
- ncirucaate and misleading

Answers – Synonym Match

1. f	2. d	3. a	4. j	5. c
6. h	7. e	8. i	9. b	10. g

Role Play

Role A – Measles

You think measles is the worst virus. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their viruses aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the most-easily curable of these (and why): influenza, rabies or yellow fever.

Role B – Influenza

You think influenza is the worst virus. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their viruses aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the most-easily curable of these (and why): measles, rabies or yellow fever.

Role C – Rabies

You think rabies is the worst virus. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their viruses aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the most-easily curable of these (and why): influenza, measles or yellow fever.

Role D – Yellow Fever

You think yellow fever is the worst virus. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their viruses aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the most-easily curable of these (and why): influenza, rabies or measles.

Speaking – Viruses

Rank these with your partner. Put the worst viruses at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- Rabies
- Rotavirus
- Hepatitis
- Shingles
- Measles
- Influenza
- Polio
- Yellow fever

Answers – True False

a	F	b	T	c	F	d	F	e	T	f	T	g	T	h	F
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.