

News Item

Measles 'misinformation campaigns' through social media, fuel rising toll | UN News

By UN News December 6, 2019

In a warning over dangerously low vaccination levels and large outbreaks in several countries – spurred on by social media "misinformation campaigns" – the UN health agency insisted that anything less than 95 per cent coverage risked sparking an outbreak.

Samoa epidemic

In the Pacific island nation of Samoa, just 31 per cent of the island's people have immunity against measles, the <u>WHO</u> said, highlighting the impact there of a single anti-vaccine group's social media messaging.

The situation has resulted in a <u>major health crisis</u>, with hospitals and clinics reportedly overwhelmed and struggling to treat the most vulnerable – children under the age of five – and other patients with chronic illnesses including diabetes.

[...]

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