

Measles outbreak casts spotlight on anti-vaccine movement

By ALICIA CHANG
AP Science Writer



AP Photo/Jae C. Hong

A woman with a Mickey Mouse hat walks toward Sleeping Beauty's Castle at Disneyland Thursday in Anaheim, Calif. California public health officials urged those who haven't been vaccinated against measles to avoid Disney parks where a spreading outbreak originated.

LOS ANGELES — A major measles outbreak traced to Disneyland has brought criticism down on the small but vocal movement among parents to opt out of vaccinations for their children.

In a rash of cases that public health officials are rushing to contain, at least 70 people in six states and Mexico have fallen ill since mid-December, most of them from California. The vast majority of those who got sick had not gotten the measles-mumps-rubella, or MMR, vaccine.

While still a scourge in many corners of the world, measles has been all but eradicated in the U.S. since 2000 because of vaccinations. But the virus has made a comeback in recent years, in part because of people obtaining personal belief exemptions from rules that say children must get their shots to enroll in school.

Others have delayed getting their children vaccinated because they still believe now-discredited research linking the measles vaccine to autism.

"Some people are just incredibly selfish" by skipping shots, said Dr. James Cherry, a pediatric disease expert at the University of California, Los Angeles.

As cases mount, several newspapers have criticized the

anti-vaccine movement.

Measles "is a disease that has been beaten by modern medicine. That makes it all the more frustrating that anti-science stubbornness has proven, in the case of the Disneyland-related measles, that when it comes to contagious diseases, it's a small world after all," the Los Angeles Times said in an editorial last week.

Barbara Loe Fisher, director of the National Vaccine Information Center, a Virginia-based nonprofit that favors letting parents decide whether to vaccinate, said, "I don't think it's wise or responsible to blame" unvaccinated people for the Disneyland outbreak. She noted that

a small number of those stricken had been fully vaccinated.

Health authorities believe the outbreak was triggered by a measles-stricken visitor to one of the Disney parks who brought the virus from abroad last month.

As one of the world's biggest tourist destinations, Disney was a perfect spot for the virus to spread, with large numbers of babies too young to be vaccinated and lots of visitors from countries that do not require measles shots. The disease has since spread beyond Disneyland.

The infected ranged from 7 months to 70 years old, including five Disneyland workers.

"It's tragic to see measles making a resurgence," said Deanne Thompson, a spokeswoman for the Orange County Health Care Agency. "When our immunity falls, it creates a problem for the whole community."

While all states require certain vaccinations for schoolchildren, parents in certain states such as California can opt out if they sign a personal belief waiver.

In the past five years, the percentage of kindergartners in California who are up to date on all vaccinations has held pretty steady from 90.7 percent in the 2010-11 school year to 90.4 percent in 2014-15. But there are some wealthy communities in Los Angeles and Orange counties and in Northern California with double-digit vaccination exemption rates.

To control this latest outbreak, those who are not vaccinated were warned this week to stay away from Disney theme parks. Disney employees who have no proof of immunization and may have come into contact with sick colleagues were placed on paid leave until they are given the medical all-clear.

"I'm terribly upset that someone has made a choice that not only affects their child but other people's children," said Jennifer Simon, whose 6-month-old daughter, Livia, was isolated after it was learned she may have been exposed to measles during a visit to the doctor's office.

Idaho has 22 breeding wolf pairs, estimated 1,000 wolves

By KEITH RIDLER
Associated Press

BOISE, Idaho — The number of wolves in Idaho has shown a steady decline since the approval of hunting and trapping of the animals in the state, but a new study showing there are 22 breeding pairs means state officials likely won't have to return management to the federal government, an official said Thursday.

Idaho Fish and Game biologist Jim Hayden said there are an estimated 1,000 wolves in the state, and probably many more breeding pairs of wolves than counted.

"The 22 is still tentative but it can only go up from there," he said before giving a presentation to the Idaho Fish and Game Commission in Boise.

Hayden said the number of breeding pairs in the state is not at risk of falling below 15, which would lead to the state having to return wolf management to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to ensure the species' survival under the Endangered Species Act.

The estimate of 1,000 wolves is based on a sampling of wolf packs to determine pack size, Hayden said, and then determining the number of wolves associated with packs. He said about 10 to 15 percent of wolves are lone wolves not associated with a pack, so that is added.

The number of wolves in Idaho increased steadily since their reintroduction in 1995 and peaked in 2009 just before hunting and trapping began. It has declined each year since.

A final estimate for the total number of wolves currently in Idaho won't be made until April. But Hayden said that through mid-January it appears the wolf population has declined slightly from the estimate of 1,036 wolves as of Jan. 1, 2014.

Hayden noted that the report prepared for the Idaho Fish and Game Commission meeting on Thursday included an estimated range of 15-25 breeding pairs in Idaho. Hayden said those numbers were meant to show that the state is safely above the 15 minimum.

The declining wolf population reflects Idaho's poor management of the species, said Andrea Santarsiere, an attorney for the Center for Biological Diversity.

"After fighting tooth and nail for the right to manage wolf populations, Idaho has already proven its true goal is to wipe out most of the state's wolves," she said in a statement. "This report should be a wake-up call to Fish and Wildlife Service."

The state agency spends much of its energy documenting breeding wolf pairs. Hayden said there are likely more than 22 breeding wolf pairs in the state as biologists this winter have gathered information on only 30 of the 107 known wolf packs in Idaho.

BRIEFLY

GOP pushes broad abortion curbs through the House

WASHINGTON (AP) — With thousands of abortion protesters swarming the city in their annual March for Life, Republicans muscled broadened abortion restrictions through the House on Thursday after a GOP rebellion forced leaders into an awkward retreat on an earlier version.

By a near party-line 242-179 vote, the House voted to permanently forbid federal funds for most abortion coverage. The bill would also block tax credits for many people and employers

who buy abortion coverage under President Barack Obama's health care overhaul.

A White House veto threat and an uncertain fate in the Senate mean the legislation has no realistic chance of becoming law. But on a day when crowds of anti-abortion demonstrators stretched for blocks outside Capitol windows — and hours after the embarrassing GOP stumble on another abortion measure — Thursday's vote let party leaders signal that the Congress they now command is at least trying to end abortion.

The GOP's passage of one bill and the abrupt derailment of another forbidding most late-term abortions underscored the

party's perilous balancing act of backing abortion restrictions crucial to conservatives while not alienating women and younger voters wary of such restrictions.

Japan faces deadline to free 2 captives of Islamic State

TOKYO (AP) — The deadline for paying ransom for two Japanese hostages held by the Islamic State group was fast approaching early Friday with no signs of a breakthrough.

Lacking clout and diplomatic reach in the Middle East, Japan has been scrambling for a way to secure the release of the

two men, one a journalist, the other an adventurer fascinated by war. Two Japanese who said they have contacts with a leader in the Islamic State group offered Thursday to try to negotiate, but it was unclear if the Japanese government was receptive to the idea.

The militants threatened in a video message to kill the hostages within 72 hours unless they receive \$200 million. Based on the video's release time, that deadline would expire sometime Friday.

Government spokesman Yoshihide Suga said Thursday that Japan was trying all possible channels to reach those holding the hostages.

Corrections

The East Oregonian works hard to be accurate and sincerely regrets any errors. If you notice a mistake in the paper, please call 541-966-0818.

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AccuWeather.com Forecast

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Mostly cloudy	Intervals of clouds and sun	Fog in the a.m.; rather cloudy	Sunny to partly cloudy and mild	Mild with clouds and sun

PENDLETON TEMPERATURE FORECAST

43°	41°	55°	43°	57°	36°	52°	39°	52°	40°
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HERMISTON TEMPERATURE FORECAST

44°	41°	55°	41°	58°	37°	52°	37°	51°	38°
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ALMANAC

PENDLETON
through 3 p.m. yesterday

TEMPERATURE	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	33°	27°
Normals	42°	28°
Records	67° (1897)	-26° (1930)

PRECIPITATION
24 hours ending 3 p.m. Trace
Month to date 0.70"
Normal month to date 1.07"
Year to date 0.70"
Last year to date 0.38"
Normal year to date 1.07"

HERMISTON
through 3 p.m. yesterday

TEMPERATURE	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	36°	31°
Normals	43°	29°
Records	64° (1968)	-33° (1930)

PRECIPITATION
24 hours ending 3 p.m. Trace
Month to date 0.43"
Normal month to date 0.92"
Year to date 0.43"
Last year to date 0.27"
Normal year to date 0.92"

REGIONAL FORECAST

Coastal Oregon: Mostly cloudy today; a little rain across the north.

Eastern Washington: Mostly cloudy today; a passing shower in the north and toward the Cascades.

Cascades: Mostly cloudy today and tonight; a couple of showers across the north.

Eastern and Central Oregon: Cloudy most of the time today.

Western Washington: Mainly cloudy today and tonight; periods of rain, except a shower across the south.

Northern California: Partly sunny today. Clear tonight. Plenty of sunshine tomorrow.

REGIONAL CITIES

	Today			Sat.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Astoria	55	51	r	55	45	c
Baker City	36	27	c	37	26	pc
Bend	52	36	c	57	38	pc
Brookings	60	46	pc	61	49	s
Burns	44	26	pc	46	27	s
Enterprise	43	31	c	45	30	pc
Eugene	55	42	c	59	41	pc
Heppner	49	38	c	57	39	pc
Hermiston	44	41	c	55	41	pc
John Day	46	32	c	48	33	pc
Klamath Falls	52	29	pc	57	29	s
La Grande	44	34	c	47	34	pc
Meacham	44	35	c	48	36	pc
Medford	56	38	pc	59	39	s
Newport	58	49	c	58	47	c
North Bend	62	48	c	62	46	pc
Ontario	35	28	c	37	26	s
Pasco	45	40	c	54	39	pc
Pendleton	43	41	c	55	43	pc
Portland	52	45	c	56	43	c
Redmond	53	33	c	60	35	pc
Salem	55	46	c	58	42	c
Spokane	37	35	c	43	37	pc
Ukiah	49	35	c	53	36	pc
Vancouver	52	43	c	55	41	c
Walla Walla	45	42	c	55	45	pc
Yakima	43	35	r	52	35	c

WORLD CITIES

	Today			Sat.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Beijing	48	22	s	36	21	sf
Hong Kong	68	60	s	69	62	pc
Jerusalem	66	49	pc	66	47	pc
London	43	35	pc	45	33	pc
Mexico City	73	43	pc	70	45	pc
Moscow	25	23	sn	30	15	sn
Paris	36	28	s	43	30	pc
Rome	57	45	sh	56	38	pc
Seoul	39	26	s	44	28	pc
Sydney	86	72	t	86	70	t
Tokyo	52	38	pc	48	39	c

WINDS

(in mph)	Today	Saturday
Boardman	NE 2-4	SW 6-12
Pendleton	SSW 3-6	SW 6-12

UV INDEX TODAY

0 1 1 1 0 0

8 a.m. 10 a.m. Noon 2 p.m. 4 p.m. 6 p.m.

0-2, Low 3-5, Moderate 6-7, High; 8-10, Very High; 11+, Extreme

The higher the AccuWeather.com UV Index™ number, the greater the need for eye and skin protection.

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NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY

Shown are noon positions of weather systems and precipitation. Temperature bands are highs for the day.

National Summary: Rain will drench much of the Southeastern states with spotty storms in northern Florida. Snow showers will dot the Upper Great Lakes with some rain in store for western Washington state and coastal Oregon.

Yesterday's National Extremes: (for the 48 contiguous states)
High 84° in Fort Myers, Fla. Low -17° in Pinedale, Wyo.

NATIONAL CITIES

	Today			Sat.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Albuquerque	43	20	s	46	24	s
Atlanta	47	39	r	50	35	pc
Atlantic City	42	31	pc	41	33	sn
Baltimore	40	31	pc	39	27	sn
Billing	47	34	pc	53	41	c
Birmingham	51	35	r	49	32	s
Boise	35	28	c	39	29	pc
Boston	37	28	s	35	27	sn
Charleston, SC	60	55	r	56	36	r
Charleston, WV	45	32	r	43	34	sn
Chicago	38	32	pc	39	32	c
Cleveland	35	25	pc	36	28	sf
Dallas	52	32	pc	58	39	pc
Denver	45	25	pc	52	32	s
Detroit	35	25	pc	37	28	sf
El Paso	45	24	s	52	27	pc
Fairbanks	-5	-19	sn	-11	-28	sf
Fargo	41	26	pc	37	33	sn
Honolulu	82	68	pc	79	66	sh
Houston	49	35	sh	59	38	s
Indianapolis	40	26	pc	43	31	pc
Jacksonville	71	61	r	62	35	pc
Kansas City	50	30	s	56	40	pc
Las Vegas	62	41	s	67	42	s
Little Rock	47	30	r	58	37	c
Los Angeles	77	52	s	81	54	s
Louisville	45	29	pc	49	34	s
Memphis	44	31	r	54	37	s
Miami	80	70	pc	79	52	sh
Millwaukee	38	32	pc	40	32	sf
Minneapolis	38	30	sn	38	31	s
Nashville	42	32	r	49	34	s
New Orleans	52	38	r	56	39	s
New York City	59	33	s	37	31	sn
Oklahoma City	50	32	s	60	37	s
Omaha	48	30	pc	55	39	s
Philadelphia	41	31	pc	39	29	sn
St. Louis	67	45	s	76	46	pc