

## An anti-vaccination ‘hotspot’ near Portland declares an emergency over measles outbreak

A quickly escalating **measles** outbreak around Portland, Oregon, has led health officials in nearby Clark County, Washington, to declare a public health emergency.

measles 麻疹

At the beginning of last week, there were only a handful of confirmed cases. On Friday, the day the emergency was declared, there were 19. The latest update came Tuesday, when county officials said they had confirmed 23 cases and were investigating two more suspected cases. The vast majority of those who have fallen ill had not been immunized.

The outbreak makes concrete the fears of **pediatric** epidemiologists that a **citadel** of the movement against **compulsory** vaccination could be **susceptible** to the rapid spread of a potentially deadly disease.

pediatric 儿科的

citadel 城堡；大本营

compulsory 强制的；义务的

susceptible 易受影响的

State data shows that 7.9 percent of children in Clark County were exempted in the 2017-18 school year from vaccines required for **kindergarten** entry, which includes the two-dose course for measles that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says is 97 percent effective. Nationally, about 2 percent of children went without required immunization for nonmedical reasons.

kindergarten 幼儿园

Because measles is among the most highly **contagious** of all infectious diseases, it is bound to spring up in areas with low vaccination rates, according to Peter J. Hotez, a professor of pediatrics and dean of the National School of Tropical Medicine at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston.

contagious 感染性的；蔓延的

"This is something I've predicted for a while now," he said of the public health emergency in Clark County. "It's really *awful* and really *tragic* and totally preventable."

awful 恐怖的; 可怕的

tragic 悲剧的