

Just When You Thought the Spread of Measles was Just a US Problem...Don't Forget Europe!

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Lewis First, MD, MS, Editor in Chief, Pediatrics

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It is hard not to find a story about the spread of measles in the US originating in areas where children have been under or not vaccinated. But there may be another reason why measles are spreading in this country—and that is due to the spread of this viral illness in Europe. Angelo et al.

([10.1542/peds.2019-0414](#)) provide us with a special article this week

describing 41,000 cases of measles and 37 deaths that occurred in the first six months of 2018 in World Health Organization European region countries. Why the outbreak? Similar to the US, there is low vaccine coverage in some countries such as the Ukraine (which has had the most cases), but just as worrisome are elevated rates in France, Georgia, Greece, Italy, the Russian Federation, and Serbia. If you are traveling to Europe and are under or not vaccinated against measles, you are putting yourself and your children at risk for contracting measles. In addition, if you aren't traveling but interacting with those who did travel to Europe and are not vaccinated properly, you can also put yourself at risk. If your patients are planning a trip to Europe, please ask them if they need a measles vaccine—because not doing so, may only make the spread of this potentially fatal virus all the more problematic. Read this special article and learn more.

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