

Unvaccinated Children In Rockland County Banned From Public

Unvaccinated people under age 18 are banned from public places in Rockland.

Rockland County is a suburban community of the New York City Metropolitan Area. The declaration is an attempt to contain the measles outbreaks that began late last year. Rockland county reports 153 cases since October as of Wednesday.

The declaration will expire in 30 days. Unvaccinated children who get the MMR vaccine are immediately allowed back in public places. County Executive Ed Day said officials will not be stopping people on the street to ask for their vaccination records. He says the ban will be enforced retroactively, with parents facing up to six months in jail and a \$500 fine if investigations reveal that they allowed their unvaccinated children into public while the ban was in effect.

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Ed says the goal isn't to make arrests. He calls the ban an "attention-grabber."

We're doing it in such a way to just get attention at this point so that people understand the seriousness of what they are doing – and not doing."

Ed Day

According to Rockland County's statistics, of the 153 confirmed cases reported as of Tuesday, March 26th, 82 percent had not received the MMR vaccine. The outbreak has been largely concentrated in ultra-Orthodox Jewish communities in

Rockland County.

The CDC says the outbreaks are linked to unvaccinated travelers who brought measles back from Israel and Ukraine, where large measles outbreaks are occurring.

On the 12th a federal judge denied a request from parents to issue a temporary injunction to let 44 unvaccinated children return to a Waldorf School in Rockland County.

State legislation has been introduced to allow minors older than 13 to get vaccinated without parental consent. Minors are currently permitted to get vaccinations without parental consent in Washington, D.C. and six other states.

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