



WHO issues measles warning in Europe

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2. And the vast majority of cases were in Ukraine.
3. The World Health Organization urged authorities on Tuesday (May 07) to make sure vulnerable people get vaccinated.
4. The death toll reported across 42 countries reached 13 during that period, with the virus killing people in Ukraine, Romania and Albania.
5. And the WHO warned that outbreaks might continue to spread.
6. Measles is a highly contagious disease that can kill and cause blindness, deafness or brain damage.
7. It can be prevented with two doses of an effective vaccine.
8. But - in part due to pockets of unvaccinated people - it's currently spreading in outbreaks in many parts of the world including in the United States, the Philippines and Thailand.
9. There is no specific antiviral treatment.
10. And vaccination is the only way to prevent it, the WHO said.
11. Europe did achieve around 90% coverage for the second dose of measles vaccination in 2017.
12. But research suggest there are still areas of declining or stagnating uptake and immunity gaps among older people.
13. The WHO urged health authorities in Europe to work out who had missed vaccinations in the past and target them specifically.