BALTIMORE (WJZ) — Deadly diseases, once nearly wiped out, are making a frightening comeback in Maryland and across the country. Now — a warning that parents who don’t vaccinate their children are putting others at risk.

Linh Bui explores an alarming and controversial trend.

Measles, mumps, whooping cough — all deadly diseases. Until recently, they were virtually eliminated thanks to vaccines that prevent kids from getting sick.

But now doctors see an alarming trend — more and more people are coming down with these diseases.

“Kids die from measles on a regular basis. Kids are in hospitals and can die from whooping cough very commonly. So these kids are at risk,” said Dr. Scott Krugman, Chairman, Department of Pediatrics, MedStar Franklin Square Medical Center.

Here in Maryland, cases of whooping cough are skyrocketing — tripling from 123 cases in 2011 to nearly 370 last year. Outbreaks of measles and mumps have swept through states across the country.

Measles, mumps, whooping cough — all deadly diseases. Until recently, they were virtually eliminated thanks to vaccines that prevent kids from getting sick.

But now doctors see an alarming trend — more and more people are coming down with these diseases.

“Kids die from measles on a regular basis. Kids are in hospitals and can die from whooping cough very commonly. So these kids are at risk,” said Dr. Scott Krugman, Chairman, Department of Pediatrics, MedStar Franklin Square Medical Center.

Here in Maryland, cases of whooping cough are skyrocketing — tripling from 123 cases in 2011 to nearly 370 last year. Outbreaks of measles and mumps have swept through states across the country.

Just how serious a problem is it when a child gets sick? Summer Robinson experienced it firsthand. Her son, Roarik, was just 3 weeks old when whooping cough put him in intensive care for five days and nearly killed him.
Bui: “When you went to the hospital and he was diagnosed with whooping cough, what went through your mind?”

Robinson: “You worry about, are they going to start breathing again? If they do start breathing, how long have they not been breathing? What are the side effects of that going to be? It’s just so scary.”

Too young for the recommended vaccine, Roarik was defenseless. He’s living proof one contagious person can start an outbreak.

“If your 10-year-old has it and you’re in Wal-Mart near my 3-week-old baby, you could essentially kill my 3-week-old baby because you didn’t want to vaccinate your child,” said Robinson.

So, if these diseases can be prevented by a vaccine, why is a growing number of parents not getting their children the shots? Some fear the vaccines can do more harm than good.

“These vaccines and all of these doses also can be deadly,” an Annapolis mom said.

After researching vaccines and talking with doctors, an Annapolis mom decided not to vaccinate her young children. She asked WJZ to hide her identity because other parents are angry her kids could put their kids in danger.

Bui: “What happened that led you to make this decision not to vaccinate your kids?”

Annapolis mom: “It just didn’t make sense to me. I didn’t understand why a little human had to get so many drugs at one time.”

She believes her family’s healthy lifestyle will keep her children from getting sick. But most doctors insist that’s not enough.

“It doesn’t matter what vitamins they’re on, how healthy they are, how natural everything is, everything organic. It’s irrelevant. Your child is going to get sick,” said Krugman.

“You don’t ever want to go through that. You don’t ever want to be in an ICU not knowing if your child is going to live, especially over a disease that’s supposed to be preventable,” Robinson said.

In Maryland, children must be immunized to attend school, but can be exempt for medical or religious reasons.

Other Local News:

- 300 Bishops Gather In Baltimore To Pray & Discuss The Future Of The Catholic Church
- Maryland May See A Little Snow
- GoDaddy Founder Helps Fund U-Baltimore Vet Center
- Police Trainee Killed In Car Crash
- Driver Charged In Death Of Pedestrian

FROM AROUND THE WEB

25 Most Deceiving Exercises (They Tone More than You Think!) (Shape Magazine)
10 Things You Should Never Buy at Garage Sales (Reader's Digest)
Finally, One Link Established-Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (CFS), Lupus, Fibromyalgia, Autoimmune disease and Chronic Lyme Disease (Envita)
8 Germ Cesspits & How to Avoid Them (AARP)
Arrest Warrant Issued for Dog The Bounty Hunter’s Wife Beth Chapman (Radar Online)
Michelle Obama’s mixed race heritage proved by DNA. (Ancestry.com)

TODAY’S CIRCULARS
Select 4’ X 8’ Paneling 15% OFF on Menards.com
PetSmart Celebrate The Season 2013 Gift Guide

WE RECOMMEND
Md. Man Charged In 2011 Murder Of Identical Twin Shot Dead In Ga.
Man Fatally Shot When 3 Force Their Way Into Home
Power Outage Closes Md.’s McDaniel College
Revising The Math: Chances Of Asteroid Hitting Earth Greater Than Once Thought
New Life For ‘Silk Road’ Website Selling Illegal Drugs
Driver Killed In Crash With Tractor-Trailer During Police Pursuit

Recommended by

2877 comments

Leave a message...

Newest  Community  Share  5

RecklessProcess • 5 hours ago
I blame Jim Carrey and Daryl Hannah. Both of them spread the wildly unscientific and broadly disproven claim that science causes autism. I mean the claim that vaccination causes autism. It isn't true. It never was. But they continue to spread the lie and these outbreaks are what we get in return for stupid actors who think they know everything because they are rich.

C'est la vie • 16 hours ago
Flat earthers united against science.

guest • 17 hours ago
OK the story is about one newborn baby who did not get mumps or measles or die so why a misleading title. Everyone my age survived mumps & measles & more and we all got them- they are hardly deadly here. It's just a scam by the drug companies because people are rising up and discovering their kids do not need all those shots which mybe causing worse problems just for some diseases kids get over in a few days. All those lawsuits these days should tell you that all medicine is not good and it turns out a bunch of it ends up making you worse or even killing you but they told you it was tested safe and you needed it. The whole secret to marketing is to make you think you need something that you probably don't.

TK4 • 18 hours ago
Sounds like the baby in the article contracted the disease from being born in the hospital. Did that hospital admit anyone who was found to have had whooping cough in the 2-3 weeks prior?

Why is this omitted from the article? Especially when the incubation period for whooping cough in children is up to ... you guessed it, 3 weeks. Doh. There you have it.

TK4 • 19 hours ago
Those who have gotten vaccinated yet contract these extremely rare [and only lethal to the most vulnerable/unhealthy of society] show that vaccines are not completely effective. Given the side effects of preservatives and other toxins within vaccines, and the fact that doctors are prohibited from allowing you to keep a sample in case
Deadly Diseases Like Measles And Mumps Make Frightening Comeback « CBS Baltimore