



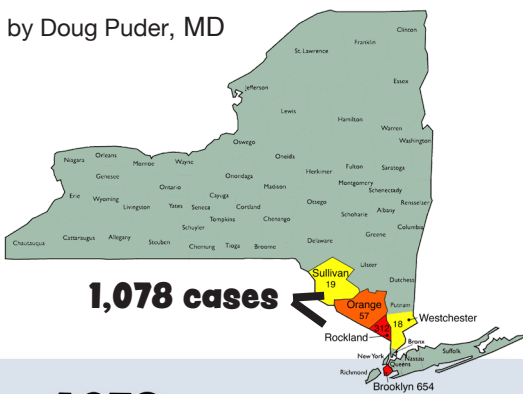
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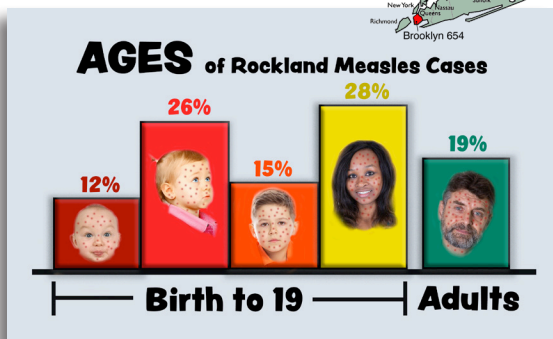
MEASLES Outbreak Ends!

by Doug Puder, MD

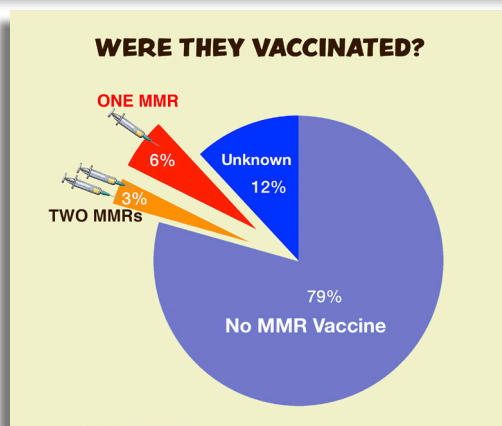


An outbreak of measles began in Rockland County on October 1st, 2018. Nearly a year later, September 25th 2019, our Rockland County outbreak was declared over. Finally we had no new cases for 42 days (two 21 day incubation periods).

During this time there were **312** documented cases of measles in Rockland county. New York City had 654 cases, Orange County had 57, Ulster County 19, Westchester County 18. In total New York State had **1,078** cases. Measles was also seen in 30 other states, but 75% of cases were in New York. This is the highest total by far since 1992! Imagine that in year 2000 measles had been declared eliminated in the US.



There were 131 people hospitalized during this outbreak, and 65 with complications such as pneumonia or brain swelling (encephalitis). Over 80% of cases were under age 19 (see chart).



One dose of MMR will protect about 93% of people and two doses will protect about 97%. This is exactly what was shown during the outbreak (see chart). If an entire community is vaccinated, the disease will not spread. Those who are not immune from the vaccine will still be protected.

Thanks again to all of you who came for extra MMR vaccines. You are the heros who stopped this outbreak! We can finally go back to our normal MMR vaccine schedule (ages one and four).

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