

The Philadelphia Inquirer

ALWAYS ASKING. ALWAYS PHILLY.

Measles affects more adults in Pa. outbreak

Two-thirds of cases have been among grownups, the opposite of how measles has typically spread.

By Sarah Gantz and Aubrey Whelan
Staff Writers

The adults who arrive at Penn State Lancaster Medical Center with measles have symptoms far more severe than the virus' hallmark cough, fever, and rash.

They are weak and disoriented with meningitis, sepsis, or pneumonia. Some have bacterial infections in their blood, kidney failure, or hepatitis.

"To see that in otherwise young healthy patients is very unusual," said Fahmida McGann, an infectious disease physician at the hospital.

Pennsylvania's measles outbreak is defying epidemiologists' expectations and historical trends: Adults account for about two-thirds of the 1,300 cases reported by the state in the largest outbreak the country has seen in decades.

Until now, measles was rarely

seen among adults. The virus is so contagious that virtually no one made it out of childhood without getting sick prior to the advent of a vaccine in the 1960s. Recent major outbreaks in Texas and South Carolina primarily affected children, with adults accounting for about a third of cases.

Pennsylvania's outbreak is also sending people to the hospital at almost twice the rate seen in other recent outbreaks. Six people diagnosed with measles — four of them adults — have died, according to state health officials and local coroners. An infant, born with the disease after his mother was sick

during pregnancy, was among the deaths.

The toll showcases how adults over age 20 are among the groups at greatest risk for serious complications, given that they are more likely than children to have underlying medical conditions that make it harder to recover.

Pennsylvania is seeing the highest hospitalization rate among children under 4 years old. They represent one in three of those admitted to the hospital, according to the state health department.

Doctors say adults who waited to seek medical attention until they were too sick to carry out their

home and work responsibilities could also be contributing to the high hospitalization rate.

And just this week, health providers received a state-issued alert about congenital measles, which occurs when a pregnant woman passes on measles to her newborn infant. Cases are so rare that standard tracking is non-existent, and little is known about its long-term implications.

Pennsylvania's measles outbreak is a phenomenon decades in the making, experts say. The virus appears to be spreading widely in communities, such as Amish

→ SEE MEASLES ON A10



Pope Leo in the clear

Pope Leo XIV arrives in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican on Wednesday for his weekly general audience, his first since surgery to remove the lower lobe of his right lung. According to his doctors, the pope needs no further treatment for lung cancer. Story, A5 Gregorio Borgià / AP

A former Pro Bowl quarterback has a message for Hurts

Concussions ended Mike Boryla's career. The former Eagle wants Hurts to consider the preciousness of his post-football life.

By Alex Coffey
Staff Writer

Mike Boryla has never seen Jalen Hurts take a snap. He's never seen him throw a spiral, or run for a touchdown, or execute a Tush Push. It's not personal; the former NFL quarterback, who played for the Eagles from 1974-76, doesn't watch football at all.

This isn't a choice, but a necessity. The last time he tried was about seven years ago, at his home in Castle Rock, Colo., with his wife, Annie.

As the Denver Broncos took the field, Boryla started to get sick. Painful memories of his five-year career came rushing back: the glare of a flashlight in his eyes, the uneasy feeling of reviewing film he

had no recollection of.

Concussions weren't often talked about in the 1970s; when they were, Boryla says they were dismissed as "no big deal."

Decades later, he is still suffering from what psychiatrists diagnosed as post-traumatic stress disorder. So whenever the Broncos are on, Boryla drives to a nearby sushi restaurant. He sits with a friend, eating sashimi, sipping chai tea, blissfully unaware of the local football team.

He's always been aware of Hurts, though, albeit not through his television screen. Boryla has followed the Super Bowl-winning quarterback by way of box scores and articles, and has long admired him.

Which is why, when he found out about Hurts' diagnosis of deep vein thrombosis and "bilateral pulmonary emboli," he was distraught.

"I'm just devastated about what happened to Jalen Hurts," Boryla said. "I'm just blown away with his blood clot making it to the lungs. I feel so bad for him. He's such a great guy, and such a critical quarterback, but I'm just devastated by that."

The former Eagle knows some of

→ SEE BORYLA ON A10

If Democrats win Congress, could GOP refuse to seat them?

Experts say it's unlikely, but the party disputing election results is not without precedent.

By Michael Gold
New York Times

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump's unfounded claims of large-scale voter fraud have Democrats bracing for what they worry could be substantial interference by the federal government in the midterm elections.

But with polls showing that Democrats are likely to win control of the House, some lawmakers and commentators have turned their attention to a different scenario that could unfold after the voting: Republicans in Congress, egged on by Trump, could try to block them from assuming the majority by refusing to seat elected Democrats.

The possibility sounds far-fetched and is regarded by many legal scholars as a vanishingly remote one.

"It requires a lot of ducks to be in a row that I don't think would be in

a row," said Brian C. Kalt, a law professor at Michigan State University.

But the same might have been said in 2020 of the possibility that Republican lawmakers, under pressure from Trump, would challenge the Electoral College results that confirmed Joe Biden's victory. That is precisely what a majority of Republicans voted to do on Jan. 6, 2021, an effort in which Rep. Mike Johnson, who has since become speaker, played a major role.

That is among the reasons that two moderate House members, one from each party, have asked their colleagues to pledge to accept certified election results and block efforts to refuse or delay seating winners.

Rep. Hakeem Jeffries (D, N.Y.) the minority leader, said this month that his party was "preparing for all eventualities, including making sure that the results of the American people that emerge from the Nov. 3 general election are brought to life on Jan. 3 in the new Congress."

That is the day that the next Congress is scheduled to convene. Here's a closer look at what could happen.

→ SEE CONGRESS ON A5

Former cops kept access to Flock cameras

One ex-officer used his old log-in to track his estranged wife's car during a custody dispute.

By Douglas MacMillan,
Drew Harwell,
and Aaron Schaffer
Washington Post

When Andrae Wright left his job as an investigator at the Effingham County Sheriff's Office in 2021, he handed in his gun and badge. But he kept something powerful: his log-in credentials for Flock, a police tool he used to search a vast network of roadside cameras tracking the locations of passing cars.

In the five years after leaving the force, Wright searched the system more than 60 times without being stopped by anyone at the Georgia sheriff's office, according to a statement by the Georgia Bureau of Investigation and Flock audit logs reviewed by The Post. He repeatedly searched the location of a vanity license plate bearing the middle name of his wife, according to the audit logs. The couple divorced this year, court records show, and at the time of some of his Flock searches, Wright was fighting for permanent custody of their teenage daughter.

In July, after a tipster alerted local authorities, police arrested Wright and charged him with stalking his wife, claiming he misused Flock data "for the purpose of harassing and intimidating her," according to his warrant. State law restricts the use of license plate readers to legitimate law enforcement investigations.

Wright did not respond to phone calls, text messages, or voicemails seeking comment. Brian Bailey, a sheriff's office spokesman, said that the agency had not conducted regular audits of who had access to its Flock system during that time but that it plans to begin doing so.

The case marked one of at least 11 times in which government officials have discovered unauthorized

→ SEE FLOCK ON A9

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