

Vaccine-exempt students behind N.C. chickenpox outbreak

November 21 2018



(HealthDay)—North Carolina's largest chickenpox outbreak in decades

is centered in a primary school with a large number of vaccine-exempt students, according to health officials.

Thirty-six students at Asheville Waldorf School were diagnosed with the disease last Friday, according to the *Asheville Citizen-Times* newspaper, *BBC News* reported. The school has one of the state's highest rates of religious-based vaccine exemptions for students.

Of the school's 152 students, 110 have not received the vaccine against the virus that causes chickenpox, the *Citizen-Times* reported, according to *BBC News*. In 2017-18, nearly 68 percent of the school's kindergarten students had religious immunization exemptions on file.

"This is the biggest chickenpox outbreak state [health officials](#) are aware of since the vaccine became available," a state health department spokesman told *BBC News* in an emailed statement. The school is cooperating with local health officials and is compliant with all state laws, a [school](#) spokesperson said.

More information: [BBC News Article](#)

Copyright © 2013 [HealthDay](#). All rights reserved.

Citation: Vaccine-exempt students behind N.C. chickenpox outbreak (2018, November 21) retrieved 30 June 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2018-11-vaccine-exempt-students-nc-chickenpox-outbreak.html>

<p>This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.</p>
--