

# RFK Jr. And The Samoan Measles Outbreak

Painting RFK jr. As An Anti-Vaxxer Is A Transparent Facade. Guest Essay by David Marks.



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Robert F. Kennedy Jr. and Healthcare Activists in Samoa. Edwin Tamasese at Right.

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When the nomination of Robert F. Kennedy Jr. as Health and Human Services Secretary comes before the Senate, the specter of the Samoan measles outbreak of 2019 will dramatically be invoked to challenge him. Kennedy's critics have repeatedly

relied on this topic, citing stories that claim he was responsible for an epidemic in 2019 that caused at least 83 children to die due to vaccine hesitancy. In recent articles, reporters quote previous news coverage relying on unsubstantiated and minimal data to justify their analysis.

These stories repeat dubious assertions, fail to discuss analyses of the circulating viral strain and the vaccinations that immediately preceded many of the cases, and dismiss Kennedy's considered support of healthcare in Samoa. He had assisted the Samoan government in developing a system for health officials to assess the efficacy and safety of medical interventions or drugs, including vaccines.

In November 2019, while the deaths of Samoan children were rapidly increasing during a measles outbreak, Kennedy received a request from health activists. He wrote a comprehensive letter to the Samoan Prime Minister, presenting some possible causes of the unprecedented, virulent outbreak of measles. His concerns and analysis of the epidemic in Samoa highlight striking anomalies that were apparent to a few investigators at the time, although they remain unexplained.



The most convenient and generally accepted explanations of the outbreak claim the epidemic was the result of vaccine hesitancy, causing the population to be under-vaccinated. Measles, mumps, rubella (MMR) vaccination rates were low due to the **deaths of two infants** given improperly formulated injections in Samoa a year earlier.

Any considered analysis of the accessible facts soundly contradicts the conjecture that the high death count was related to low vaccination rates.

In past measles epidemics, dying children were often malnourished or immunocompromised. No deaths from measles **have occurred in the U.S.** in the last five years. From October through December of 2019, 1.5% of Samoan children with the disease died — over one in a hundred — *at a minimum, tenfold more deaths than any previous outbreak* in recent years. **No accounting** for this overt statistical deviance has been published.

Despite the presumptions of those who attack Kennedy, there was never any investigation into any aspect of this baffling tragedy. Edwin Tamasese, a Samoan health advocate who questioned his government's policies during the outbreak, gave Kennedy some insight into what was happening.

Tamasese was concerned about the number of sick and dying Samoan children and began to assist families whose children were severely ill. He and his colleagues encountered facts that contradicted the government's narrative.

While the press condemned him as an anti-vaxxer, Tamasese's interventions and observations are revelatory. **In an interview** after the outbreak subsided, he said, "We were very careful to take statistics when we were going in to try to identify trends. When we assessed our numbers, 98 percent of those who were getting ill had been vaccinated consistently six to seven days prior to illness. The excuse was that the vaccine did not have time to become effective. However, according to an immunologist

on the team, the six to seven-day period was also the length of time it would take an under-attenuated vaccine to make the recipient sick.”

The MMR vaccine is a live, attenuated vaccine that contains weakened live strains of measles, mumps, and rubella (German measles).

Doctors in hospitals reported that the very ill and dying children did not have symptoms consistent with normal cases of measles. When the outbreak began, blood from the first thirty-nine cases had been sent to Australia; *only seven samples were positive for measles.*

The government stopped testing to confirm the cause of these deaths in early November 2019. Without scientific confirmation, illness and mortality were attributed to low immunization rates. Samoan health authorities continued to claim that the only remedy for the deadly epidemic was a drive to increase vaccination, however, the campaign seemed to be associated with an increase in the number of measles cases.

Neighboring Pacific island countries, Tonga and Fiji, which had concurrent outbreaks of the virus — and were using a different measles vaccine — did not suffer the same dramatic mortality rates. This should have raised concerns, yet there hasn’t been an inquiry into whether there was a problem with the initial vaccine batch, nor why the Samoan government **switched vaccine sourcing** from India to Belgium mid-way through the crisis.

A renewed effort to vaccinate with this supply of vaccine began in the first week of December 2019; it was hailed as the reason the outbreak subsided. It takes about 10 days after receiving a measles vaccine to mount a sufficient immune response. Yet **cases dropped dramatically** two weeks before this vaccination drive could have had any effect. No one has explained this curious fact.

The Samoan government never acknowledged this information; instead, its efforts focused on promoting the vaccine and silencing those questioning authority.

With Samoan officials and the press deriding his work and views, Tamasese was arrested and charged with incitement of a government order and treating children without a license. Although this was deemed appropriate by the international news media as they echoed the government's praise of the vaccine, reporters again failed to address the questions raised by the outbreak.

The prosecution's primary witness against Tamasese was a nurse whose child had measles. He had suggested that administering vitamins A and C could be helpful — **and standard medical treatment for measles patients**. She had taken his advice and admitted that her child recovered soon afterward.

Tamasese reported that when the nurse left the courtroom, the judge, in throwing out the case, said, "That witness may as well have represented the accused." The news media was relatively silent when **all charges against him were dismissed**.

While worldwide attention on Samoa ignored dramatic inconsistencies, Kennedy was one of the few people who asked detailed and important questions about the outbreak. He was rightly concerned that the epidemic may have had other causes. His views were marginalized and suppressed; it was easier and politically correct to blame the tragedy on low rates of vaccination.

The relatively few details known about the Samoan measles outbreak indicate that forces intent on presenting vaccines as an infallible, unquestionable remedy, will not tolerate scrutiny or admit failures. This continuing tactic is applied internationally and is enthusiastically supported by most governments and the press.

**Analysis of the COVID-19 pandemic** has only recently vindicated those who were scorned for questioning the response. The parallels to the unfolding of the epidemic in Samoa **are not obscure**, and support Kennedy's contention that vaccine development, manufacturing, and application need much more effective evaluation and monitoring to prevent complications and death.

When the US government assures the public that any vaccine or medication is safe and effective, this must come from an independent, thorough, and transparent process, rather than relying only on data produced by the manufacturers.

The current criticisms of Kennedy try to make him look dangerously ignorant and irresponsible to sway members of the Senate. Much to the chagrin of those who vilify

him, his efforts to understand and assist in the Samoan measles outbreak exemplify his thoughtfulness and capabilities.

RFK Jr. is at the forefront of healthcare oversight; his confirmation as HHS Secretary will ensure that Americans benefit from his experience and knowledge.

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James Goodrich 1d

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Not to repeat myself but my wife has been an OR nurse in Boston for nearly 40 years. The hospital has now forced 4 mRNA injections onto the entire staff. 3 days ago a 50 year old nurse was complaining of shortness of breath and dropped dead. We had been friends with them, gone to dinner, eaten at each others homes. Another nurse there was rushed to the hospital with the same symptoms and is now getting open heart surgery. One surgeon there just after his 3rd injection had a massive cerebral stroke and basically never came back to work. Two others a nurse and a IT guy both in their early 50's got colon cancer at the same time. One has not done very well with life extending treatment the other a female nurse has had some success but has been out of work for well over a year and has been terribly ill for so long now, it's all heartbreaking. My wife and I can't help but think all of these horrible deaths and illnesses are not in some way related to the "COVID Vaccine".

It's amazing how short sighted people can be. There's a nurse there that has gotten exemptions for all of the mRNA injections and is very active in picking particular vaccinations for her children and she is looked at as unintelligent and misinformed by other nurses. My wife tells me they gave her exemptions because she is so brilliant and valuable. To me after all of the vaccine injuries this country has faced for 70 years, all the childhood sicknesses and autism kids and couples are faced with, I want an HHS secretary to question every milligram of chemicals injected into our children and all people. Isn't questioning and holding these companies responsible what the government should be doing. Is the HHS secretary's job to protect the public or make big pharma a profit? I would take RFK Jr. over Fauci a million times over. J.Goodrich



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Thomas A Braun RPh 1d Edited

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My Senator from Illinois, Congressman Richard Durbin has clearly stated that RFK Jr. is NOT qualified to run HHS! Why? Because he is an environmental lawyer and has no formal medical training. I guess Senator Durbin who is pro Big Medicine and believes the status quo at NIH is fine would rather have Alex Azar, a lawyer, lobbyist and Lilly Executive return to head HHS since he had the distinction of guiding the Covid con into fruition. I guess Dick Durbin doesn't believe in Regulatory Capture that is pervasive throughout our federal government for the benefit of special interests to maximize their profitability. The negative spin and disinformation will intensify between now and January 20th to discredit those in the new Trump administration that have put in place to reverse the great harm bestowed on the American public. The majority of our Congressman, left and right in DC stay silent on the Covid con that has created great physical and economic harm to Americans. They know who butters their bread.

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