

**LATINMUN 2026**

# **World Health Organization (WHO)**

**Epidemiological alert amid continued  
measles transmission worldwide**



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**Welcoming message from the chair:**

Dear delegates,

We are glad to welcome you to LatinMun 2026. It is great to have you present here with us. We are your chairs for this MUN simulation. Our names are Regina Calvillo and Abril Rocha and we are at your disposition throughout this whole event. We sincerely hope that you find the chosen topic interesting and you find to have an enjoyable and engaging experience. We encourage all the fellow delegates to be confident and collaborative, showing their skills and dedication.

Thank you and good luck!

Sincerely,

Regina Calvillo and Abril Rocha

**Committee's Background:**

The World Health Organization (WHO) was founded in 1948, and it is a major influence on the direction of global health policy, as it is the United Nations' specialized health body. WHO's impact is found in its capacity to coordinate scientific research, establish global health norms, and direct nations toward shared standards in disease prevention, health equality, and system resilience, despite its wide acceptance for its emergency

response capabilities. The organization's function goes beyond managing emergencies, and its charter upholds health as a fundamental human right.

The structure of WHO is a reflection of this dual identity. The World Health Assembly (WHA) assembles all 194 nations that are members to create budgets, authorize resolutions, and discuss goals. The Executive Board, which is made up of 34 health specialists, converts the suggestions into viable proposals. The Director-General commands the Secretariat, which oversees daily operations, coordinates research, and manages emergencies through more than 150 national offices. WHO is able to strike a balance between scientific management and political representation due to its multi-layered governance, yet conflicts between the two frequently arise during global crises.

WHO operates a hybrid financial approach. Less than 20% of its funding is provided by assessed contributions, which are required payments determined by a nation's GDP (gross domestic product). GDP is the market value of all goods and services from a nation in a given year. The other 80% of its budget is made up of voluntary donations, which are mainly designated for particular initiatives. A considerable amount of WHO's operations and focuses are determined by significant donors such as the United States, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and the European Commission. WHO's leadership is still crucial for promoting equitable health policies and inclusive conversations among all areas.

The World Health Organization has contributed to the infrastructure of global health in methods beyond crisis management. It has aided nations by setting up disease surveillance systems, training medical personnel, and founding national health ministries. WHO's Essential Medicines List directs the acquisition and distribution of life-saving pharmaceuticals, while the International Classification of Diseases (ICD) provides an international standard for recognizing and reporting illnesses. This organization leads international campaigns to raise awareness of emerging diseases, but also of continuous

epidemics, such as the current outbreak of measles transmission that is affecting the whole world.

### **Topic Background:**

Measles is a highly contagious virus transmitted through airborne particles and respiratory droplets when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or breathes. The virus can remain active in the air or on surfaces for up to 2 hours, and it is contagious four days before to four days after the rash appears.

Due to it traveling through the air, it spreads faster than most diseases, and people who have not been exposed to or have not been vaccinated against it are at the highest risk. According to the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), an epidemiological alert has struck out due to the continued measles transmission in the Americas, and they have alerted the countries to increase health measures, vaccinations, and quick outbreak responses to stop the spread of this disease.

There has been an increase of measles cases in 2025 compared with the previous years, and it has only continued to increase in 2026. In the early's 2026, 1,031 measles cases were confirmed in 7 different countries: Bolivia, Canada, Chile, The United States, Guatemala, México, and Uruguay, with no deaths reported. 78% of the cases were unvaccinated and 11% had unknown vaccination status, and the highest incidence rates were in children under one year of age.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), more than 552,000 suspected measles cases were notified across 179 countries, of which about 45% cases were confirmed, just adding to the global urgency of this topic. Measles is highly contagious but preventable through timely vaccination.

## **Current Situation:**

The World Health Organization's current priorities are to ensure that a billion more people have universal health coverage, to protect a billion more people from health emergencies, and provide a further billion people with better health and well-being. Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus stated, "Our vision is health for all: rich and poor, able and disabled, old and young, urban and rural, citizen and refugee. Everyone, everywhere." The WHO also focuses on major global health challenges such as heart disease and stroke, cancer, infectious diseases, and diabetes. In addition, the Children's Investment Fund Foundation (CIFF), a partner of WHO, has committed US\$ 7.2 million to support research in human reproduction, especially at a critical time when cuts to health and development assistance threaten progress in sexual and reproductive health and rights.

Currently, the WHO is facing increasing pressure due to the rise of infectious diseases such as measles, which continues to spread across multiple regions despite being preventable through vaccination. The resurgence of measles cases in 2025 and 2026 has highlighted gaps in immunization coverage, especially in vulnerable populations and regions with limited healthcare access. This situation has pushed WHO to strengthen vaccination campaigns, improve surveillance systems, and encourage countries to respond quickly to outbreaks in order to prevent further transmission.

At the same time, global health systems are still recovering from previous health emergencies, which has created additional challenges in funding, preparedness, and response capacity. WHO continues to coordinate with international partners, governments, and organizations to maintain essential health services while also addressing new and ongoing crises. However, reliance on voluntary funding and donor

priorities can influence which programs receive the most attention, sometimes limiting the organization's ability to respond equally to all health issues.

In response to these challenges, WHO is reinforcing international cooperation and promoting equitable access to healthcare resources, including vaccines and medical treatments. The organization emphasizes the importance of early detection, rapid response, and sustained investment in public health infrastructure. As global health threats continue to evolve, WHO's role remains essential in guiding countries toward coordinated action, strengthening resilience, and ensuring that progress toward health equity is not lost

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