

# Russia Drops Children's Hepatitis C Outbreak Case – Reports

January 22, 2021



Nearly 170 children had allegedly been infected through unsterile gloves and catheters at the pediatric hospital in Russia's Far East. **Kirill Zykov / Moskva News Agency**

A Far East Russian court has dismissed a criminal case against children's hospital staff blamed for a mass hepatitis C outbreak, the *Kommersant* business daily reported Friday.

Investigators alleged that 169 children had been infected through unsterile gloves and catheters at the pediatric hospital in the Amur region city of Blagoveshchensk between 2009-2018. Three doctors had faced up to three months in jail on charges of negligence.

**Related article:** [Hepatitis C Outbreak Infects Over 100 Russian Child Cancer Patients](#)

“The court ruled to dismiss the criminal case due to an expired statute of limitations. The decision can be appealed within 10 days,” *Kommersant* quoted the judge as saying.

The state prosecutor was said to have not objected to the dismissal since the statute of

limitations expired on Dec. 31, 2020.

The defense filed a motion to dismiss the case last week despite opposition from around 25 victims present at the court hearing, *Kommersant* said.

The high-profile case drew outrage in 2019, in part because most antiviral treatments that can cure hepatitis C had not yet been licensed for children's use at the time.

Original url:

<https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2021/01/22/russia-drops-childrens-hepatitis-c-outbreak-case-report-s-a72702>