

Consumer Watchdog Calls for Psychologist Opinions on Pokemon Go

By [The Moscow Times](#)

July 20, 2016

The  **Moscow Times**

Russia's consumer rights watchdog Rospotrebnadzor has been ordered to investigate the “possible harmful psychological effects” of the viral mobile game Pokemon Go, the Interfax news agency reported Wednesday.

Growing mobs of Muscovites prowling the parks, thoroughfares and back alleys of Russia's capital hunting for the animated creatures have alarmed a number of Russian officials and pundits.

The game has been decried as satanic, a CIA plot, and a potential threat to national security by a number of prominent Russians. Now Rospotrebnadzor will gather expert opinions from psychologists and teachers to investigate the game's possible hazardous effects on Russian players.

The government watchdog has asked experts to assess the game “in the very near future,” so that “every aspect of this new phenomenon” can be analyzed, said Russia's head doctor of sanitation, Anna Popova.

The recommendation will then be used to formulate a government response to the increasingly popular game.

Pokemon Go took the internet by storm when it was released in select countries on July 6. The game uses an augmented reality feature where virtual images are overlaid onto real-time footage of the user's immediate surroundings via their smartphone camera.

The Russian release of the game has been indefinitely delayed due to server capacity issues, but Russians have found ways to download the game by registering with Apple and Google app stores in countries such as the U.S.

Original url:

<https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2016/07/20/consumer-watchdog-calls-for-psychologist-opinions-on-pokemon-go-a54661>