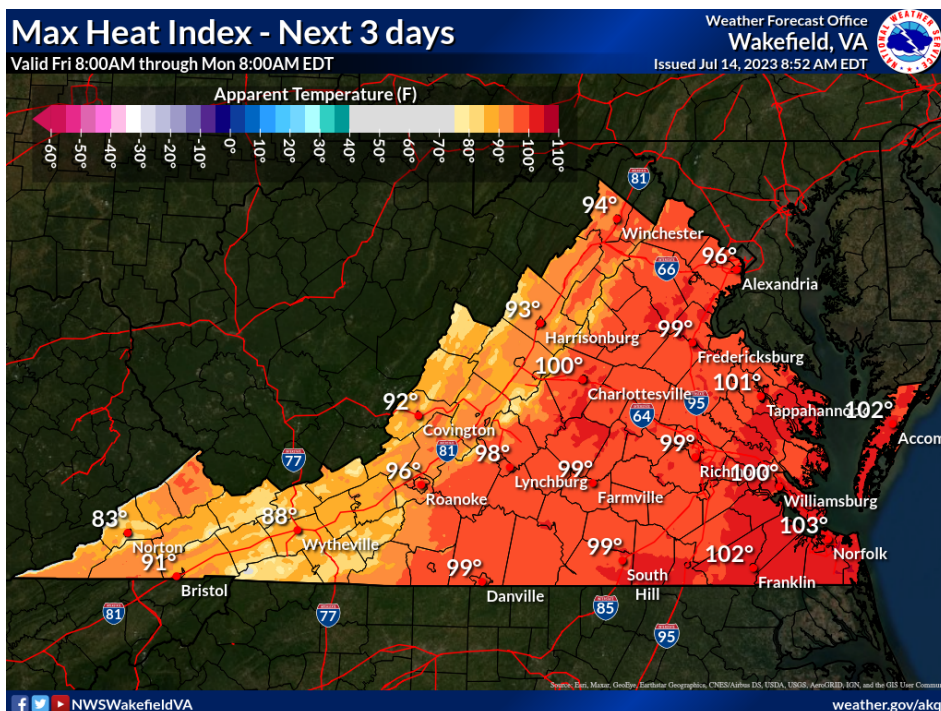


July 14, 2023

Key Takeaways

- Respiratory disease rates remain low across the Commonwealth.
- Hazardous heat is expected across most of Virginia this weekend and early next week, with the heat index exceeding 90 degrees, with the potential to hit triple digits in a few areas. The National Weather Service recommends "extreme caution" with heat indexes in this range.
- The WHO urged countries to work together to manage avian flu, noting the risk the ongoing outbreak affecting wild birds, poultry, and at least 26 mammal species poses a risk to humans.
- Despite a jump in the total number of Canadian wildfires, there are no uncontrolled wildfires in southern Quebec for the first time since May. Wildfire smoke is not expected to impact Virginia's air quality significantly over the next few days.
- Measles outbreaks continue globally, with Asia and Africa hit the hardest. The CDC has issued a health alert and recommends that all travelers without presumptive immunity be vaccinated. Case rates in the U.S. and Europe remain low.

Key Figures



Source: National Weather Service

COVID-19

17%

Chance that the WHO will identify a new COVID-19 Variant of Concern before 2024. (Metaculus forecast)

August 3

The last day the federal government will accept regular orders for COVID-19 vaccines, marking the transition to the commercial market.

Wildfires

572 of 907

The number of uncontrolled wildfires in Canada, out of the total number of active fires.

Heat-Related Illness

102 degrees

The heat index expected in Norfolk at 2PM on Sunday.

Spotlight: Measles

Forecasts are italicized

Spotlight

- **Measles outbreaks continue globally.** The WHO has cataloged over 100,000 measles cases since November of 2022, and now reports ongoing [outbreaks in all six WHO regions](#). As of this writing, India and Yemen are suffering the highest case rates. Significant new outbreaks have also been recently detected in [Turkey](#) and in [17 different European nations](#). The virus is also being blamed for the death of over a dozen refugee children in [Sudan](#).
- **CDC issues alert and recommends vaccination for all travelers.** Due to the [widespread distribution](#) of active measles outbreaks, the CDC is now [recommending](#) that all travelers without evidence of immunity be vaccinated before leaving the U.S.
- **Minor outbreaks detected across United States.** The CDC reports a total of [18 new cases in 2023](#). Many of these were related to international travel. Most recently, the virus was detected in [California's](#) central valley, and [North Texas](#). Closer to home, the recent measles outbreak in [Kentucky](#) (April 2023) is considered resolved.
- **Ongoing health education is vital to combating measles.** Despite the extremely effective vaccine, [officials from MSF](#) warn that vaccination during an outbreak is not sufficient to prevent future outbreaks. Education to increase routine childhood vaccination uptake is crucial to public health.

Measles

Rank	Country	Number of Cases
1	India**	73,536
2	Yemen	19,312
3	Pakistan	6,426
4	Indonesia	5,175
5	Somalia	4,929
6	Cameroon	4,385
7	Ethiopia	4,068
8	Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)***	2,816
9	Afghanistan	1,990
10	Gabon	1,787

Measles has sickened over 100,000 in 2023. The most severely hit areas tend to be in Asia and Africa. However, the virus has been detected in the U.S. and Europe.

Data Source: [CDC](#)

Other News

- **The number of wildfires in Canada [jumped](#) again from 651 in last week's report to 907 this week**, including 572 uncontrolled wildfires. However, there [were](#) no reported uncontrolled wildfires in Quebec's [southern zone](#) for the first time since May.
- **Peru [declared](#) a health emergency due to an increase in Guillain-Barre Syndrome (GBS)**. As of June 10, 191 cases had been identified affecting 8 departments. This follows a 2019 outbreak which resulted in 900 cases.
- **The WHO [urged](#) countries to work together to manage avian flu, noting the ongoing outbreak poses risks to humans**. Noting avian flu has affected at least 26 mammal species, including domestic minks, cats and dogs, WHO urged countries to increase surveillance and biosecurity efforts.
- **Extreme heat is [expected](#) to affect much of the United States this weekend**. The South and Southwest are expected have the highest temperatures, but the National Weather Service [warned](#) about hazardous heat covering the Southeast as well. Due to a stagnant "heat dome" some Southern states [have experienced](#) extreme heat for weeks.
- **Areas of New York and Vermont [experienced](#) major flooding Sunday and Monday**. Vermont had 5 to 7 inches of rain, while the Hudson Valley in New York had 6 to 8 inches, with local amounts higher. Wrightsville Dam, 4 miles north of Montpelier VT, is at capacity. Additional rain, a possibility this weekend, could force officials to release water, aggravating the situation downstream.