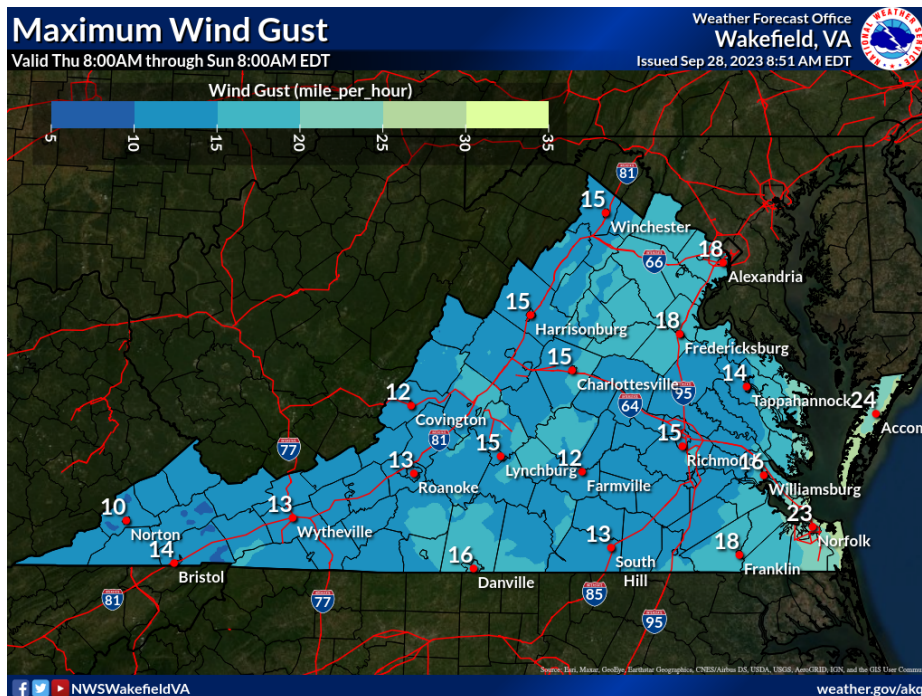


September 29, 2023

## Key Takeaways

- COVID-19 indicators continue to suggest a plateau or decline in activity. The percent of weekly Virginia emergency visits with diagnosed COVID-19 declined by 6.8%, while hospital admissions increased by 1.4%. CDC forecasts suggest a plateau or moderate decline in the coming weeks.
- RSV continues to increase in the Southeast and South US, suggesting a potential early start to the season.
- The CDC has launched the Outbreak Analytics and Disease Modeling Network. The goal of the project is to create new epidemic modeling tools and make them available to local public health officials.
- Flu season has started in Japan which has seen a surge of cases among school-age children. Flu B continues to linger in Australia despite the end of the usual flu season there.
- Idaho has reported an outbreak of Measles among the unvaccinated.
- Some Kaiser Permanente employees in the DC area may strike Oct 4 to Oct 6, pending outcome of national labor negotiations.

## Key Figures



## COVID-19

4%

*Chance that the WHO will identify a new COVID-19 Variant of Concern in 2023. (Metaculus forecast)*

Low

Characterization of COVID-19 hospital admissions and hospital occupancy in Virginia.

44.3%

*Share of Virginians age 65+ with an up-to-date COVID-19 vaccination.*

## OADM Network

\$263 Million

CDC funding over 5 years provided to the 13 Centers of Excellence in the new CDC CFA Outbreak Analytics and Disease Modeling Network.

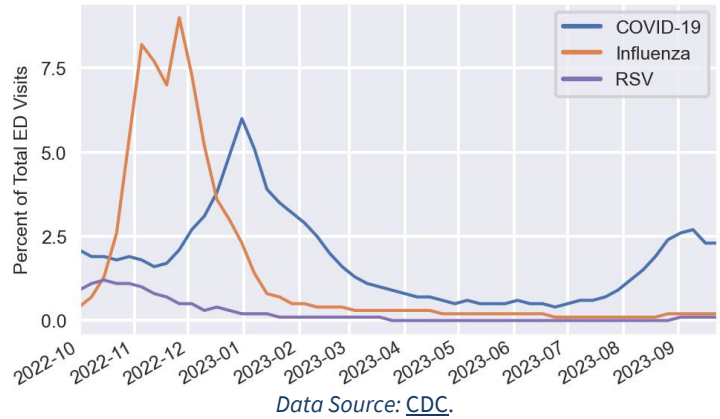
***Spotlight:***  
**OADM Network**

*Forecasts are italicized*

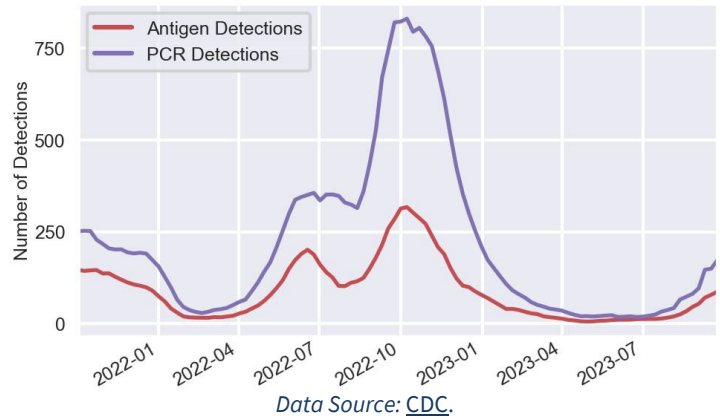
## Respiratory Illness

- **COVID-19 indicators continue to suggest a plateau or decline.** The percent of weekly Virginia emergency visits with diagnosed COVID-19 declined by 6.8%, while hospital admissions remained stable (<5% change).
- **Hospital occupancy increased 9.3%**, with 2.3% of inpatient beds occupied by COVID-19 patients. Hospital occupancy is a lagging indicator. Both hospital occupancy and hospital admissions are classified as ‘low’.
- **On Sept 5th, the CDC warned that RSV activity in the Southeast suggested an early RSV season.** RSV activity continues to increase in the Southeast. Other regions, including HHS region 3 (which includes Virginia) have seen slight upticks, though detections remain minimal in most of the US.
- **The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) posted an alert about the possibility of early onset of respiratory virus season.** The alert described early season starts in five South American countries. Seven states and one city in Brazil declared public health emergencies due to RSV spikes.

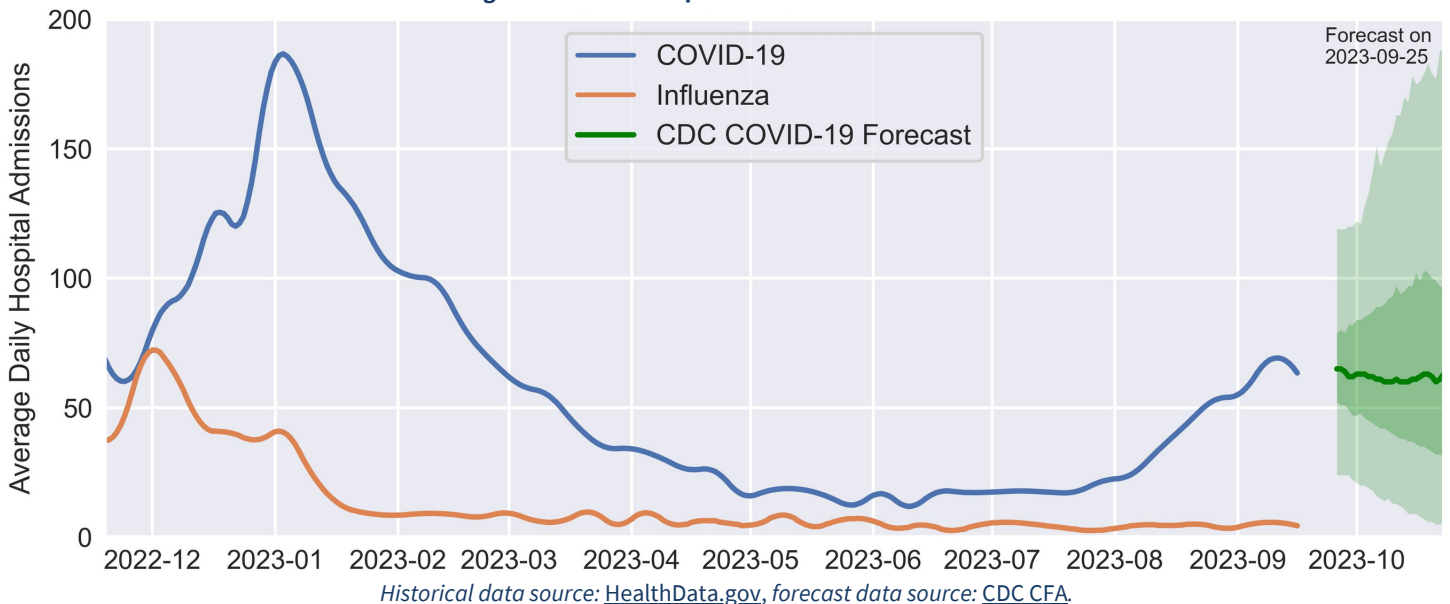
**Percent of Virginia ED Visits with Diagnosis**



**HHS Region 4 (Atlanta) RSV Detections**



**Virginia COVID-19 Hospital Admissions and Forecast**



## Spotlight

- **CDC creates new Outbreak Analytics and Disease Modeling Network.** The \$263 million project aims to assemble academic and technical collaborators to design and streamline data modeling tools. The hope is that this will support public health decision making, especially in regards to future pandemics.
- **OADM centers are organized into three categories.** Innovators like Emory University are meant to design new analytical methods and tools. Integrators like the University of Minnesota are expected to test and refine these tools in a small scale. Implementers like International Responder Systems will scale these new tools nationally, making them available to state, local, and territorial health departments.

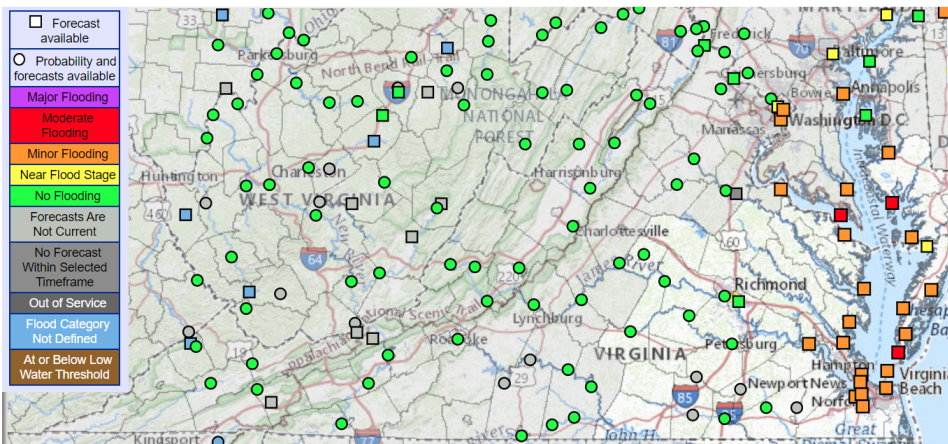
## OADM Network



The new CDC OADM network consists of thirteen centers spread around the United States and a headquarters in North Carolina. Source: [CDC](#).

## Other News

- **Measles outbreak in Idaho.** An adult and four children have been diagnosed with the disease in the last few days. All five were unvaccinated. A measles outbreak has also struck New Zealand this week.
- **China reports fatal case of H5N6 avian flu.** The 68 year old man from Chongqing died on August 20th. He is the sixth spillover case this year. So far, there is no evidence of person-to-person transmission.
- **Australia still battling Influenza B.** Though flu season typically ends in the Southern Hemisphere in September, authorities are still recommending flu shots as the nation struggles with lingering cases.
- **Flu strikes Tokyo schools.** Authorities issued an alert as cases doubled in the last week. Most cases were among school-age children.
- **Kaiser Permanente strike.** Over 4,000 Kaiser Permanente workers in the Washington DC area may strike October 4 to 6 if a national deal is not reached between the company and unions.
- **Potential mass shooting thwarted in Fairfax.** Fairfax County police report arresting a man with a loaded gun and ammunition at a Northern Virginia church. Police were tipped off to the threat by an individual who saw concerning posts on social media.



Minor coastal flooding is expected in Hampton Roads as well as the southern tip of the Eastern Shore. Advisories are in effect for the rest of the coastline, and a small craft advisory is in effect for the entire Chesapeake Bay and other coastal waterways (left). Source [NSW](#).