

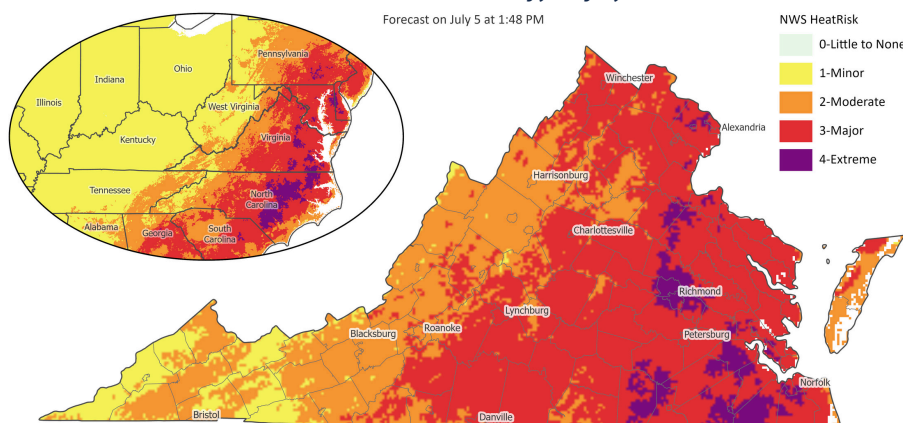
July 5, 2024

Key Takeaways

- The Heat Index will be above 100° F across much of the state this weekend and early next week.
- The CDC detected a fourth human case of HPAI A(H5N1) this week. The patient was a dairy worker from Colorado.
- COVID-19 activity continues to increase across the nation. Wastewater data suggest Virginia has a ‘moderate’ level of activity.
- Hurricane Beryl’s rapid intensification into a major hurricane may herald a difficult 2024 hurricane season.
- Hackers are targeting the health sector using personal information from previous data breaches to impersonate colleagues and IT staff.
- Have a fun and safe Independence Day weekend!

Key Figures

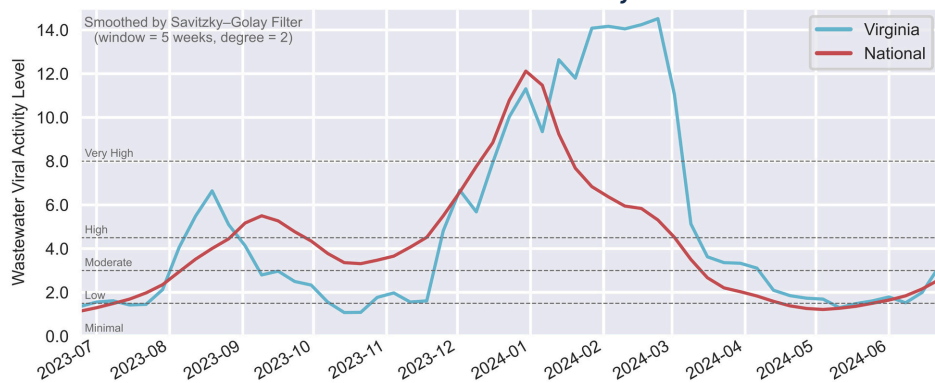
NWS HeatRisk for Saturday, July 6, 2024



Data Source: <https://www.wpc.ncep.noaa.gov/heatrisk/>

Yet another heat wave will affect Virginia this weekend, bringing high temperatures to the Commonwealth. Some regions will experience ‘Extreme’ HeatRisk. Please take appropriate precautions to protect against heat-related illness. Data Source: NWS.

COVID-19 Wastewater Viral Activity Level



Wastewater activity levels are increasing both locally and nationally. Viral activity is now ‘moderate’ in Virginia, having been ‘low’ for three months. Data Source: CDC.

COVID-19

97%

The likelihood that COVID-19 is growing in Virginia, according to CDC models as of July 2.

Measles

159

The number of new measles cases in the US detected since the start of 2024, as of June 27.

HPAI A(H5N1)

139

HPAI A(H5N1) detected in dairy cattle herds in the United States as of July 5.

Hurricanes

42 hours

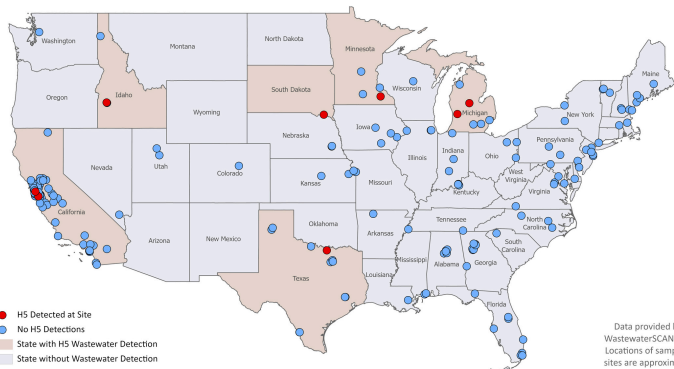
The amount of time it took Beryl to intensify from a tropical depression to a major hurricane.

Ongoing Monitored Situations

Avian Influenza A(H5N1)

- **CDC reports fourth human case of HPAI A(H5N1) in a dairy worker from Colorado.** The patient reported only conjunctivitis and recovered quickly after receiving oseltamivir. The CDC continues to believe that the risk posed by HPAI A(H5N1) to the public is low, however those with exposure to infected animals are at greater risk.
- **HHS is providing \$176 million to develop an mRNA vaccine for pandemic influenza.** The arrangement uses the Rapid Response Partnership Vehicle, a new multi-purpose acquisition vehicle and consortium vehicle to support the development of medical countermeasures. An mRNA-based vaccine could improve response timelines compared to more traditional vaccines.
- **FDA confirmed that pasteurization destroys HPAI A(H5N1),** offering a “large margin of safety”. The study replicated real-world commercial dairy and pasteurization processes.
- **A recent study found that only 47% of American adults recognize that raw milk is less safe than pasteurized milk.** Though the FDA has detected infectious HPAI A(H5N1) in raw milk, there have been no human cases associated with drinking raw milk.
- **CDC to expand human testing of HPAI A(H5N1).** The agency has distributed 750,000 H5-specific tests to local health officials and intends to ship another 1.2 million in the coming months. The CDC is also working with commercial labs to develop additional tests for the virus.

Wastewater Detections of H5 in the Last Two Weeks

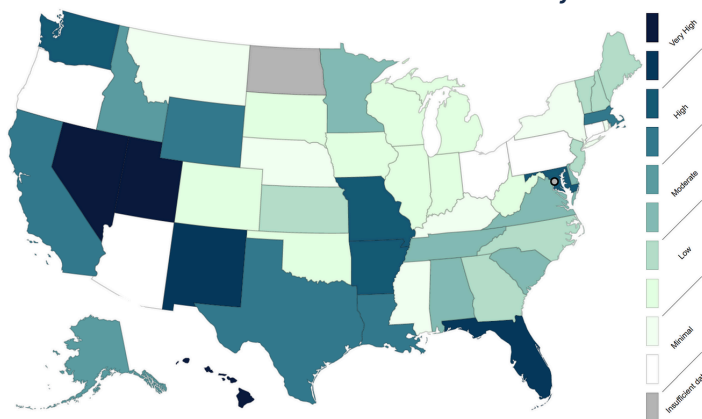


Between June 18 and July 2, H5 subtype viruses were detected at eight of 194 national wastewater sampling sites. No site in Virginia has detected the virus since testing began in May. Data Source: WastewaterSCAN.

Seasonal Respiratory Illness

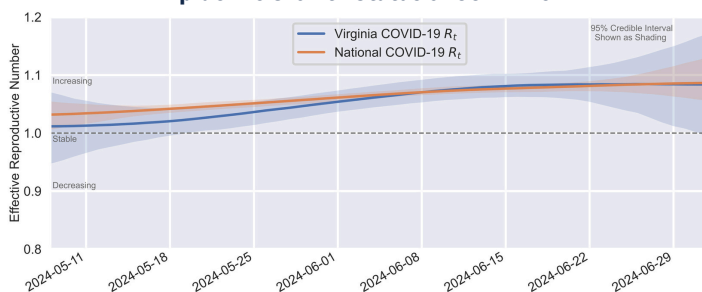
- **COVID-19 activity continues to increase nationally.** Diagnoses of COVID-19 in Emergency Departments are up 16% in Virginia and 23% nationally this week. The diagnosis rate in the Commonwealth has more than doubled since the start of June. Wastewater data supports this finding. Viral activity levels in Virginia have doubled since mid-May and are now ‘moderate’. The overall, national activity level is ‘low’, but several states now report ‘very high’ activity levels. Models forecast continued growth nationally and locally.

Current SARS-CoV-2 Wastewater Viral Activity Level



Several western states, along with Florida, now report ‘very high’ COVID-19 wastewater viral activity levels. Data Source: CDC.

Epidemic Growth Status of COVID-19



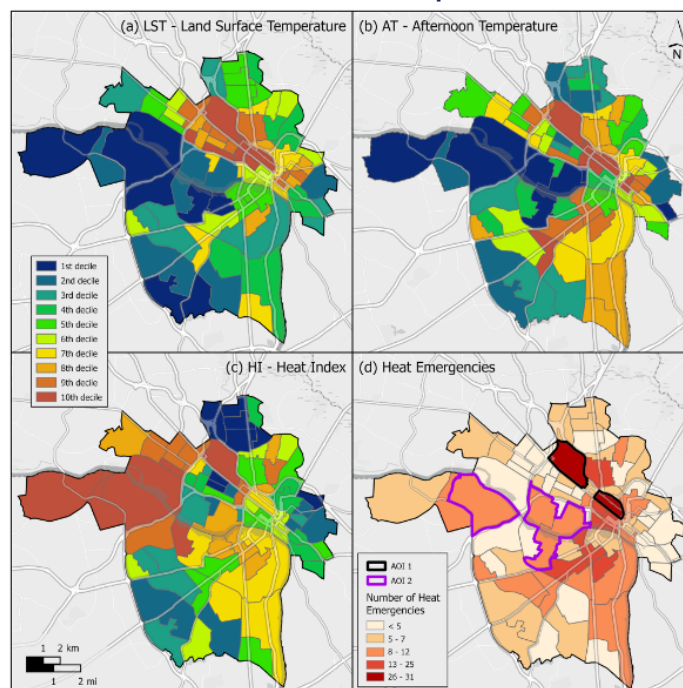
Models suggest that COVID-19 is growing nationally. Data Source: CDC.

- **Combination COVID+flu vaccine passes trials.** In phase-III trials, the Moderna-designed mRNA vaccine proved more effective than single-target vaccines. The firm intends to seek FDA approval shortly.
- **CDC updated its COVID-19 and Influenza vaccine recommendations.** The agency is recommending updated vaccination for both viruses for everyone six-months of age and older, with rare exceptions, as soon as the vaccines become available in the fall.

Other News

- **Eight people were transported to the hospital following carbon monoxide exposure in Goochland.** 24 people were affected by the leak at a local medical facility. School buses were deployed to protect evacuees from high outdoor temperatures.
- **Two multi-state salmonella outbreaks have been linked to cucumbers and backyard poultry.** A total of 449 cases and 125 hospitalizations have been linked to cucumbers, while 195 cases and 50 hospitalizations have been linked to backyard poultry. Virginia has reported 43 cucumber-linked cases, and one poultry-linked case.
- **The Virginia Department of Health launched a new Chronic Disease Dashboard.** Of note, in 2021 there were nearly 1.7 million hospitalizations and over 53,000 deaths among Virginians related to the most common chronic conditions. Additionally, a recent study found existing chronic conditions underlay the health disparities Virginia experienced during the pandemic.
- **Hackers are using social engineering tactics to target health sector organizations** according to an advisory from the FBI and HHS. Hackers posing as IT personnel, or close colleagues, often use credentials and personal information obtained from previous data breaches to manipulate employees.
- **Sporadic measles outbreaks continue nationally.** Most recently an international traveler exposed passengers in Boston's Logan Airport, and potentially on a bus line through New Hampshire. The same individual may have also exposed people on the campus of Dartmouth College. Unrelated cases were also identified in Ohio and Seattle.
- **Hurricane Beryl underwent rapid intensification prior to devastating several Caribbean islands.** After forming as a tropical depression on Friday, Beryl became a Category 5 hurricane by Monday evening, making it the earliest Atlantic basin Category 5 hurricane on record. Rapid intensification this early is considered exceptional. Beryl is expected to strike along the Texas/Mexico border as a hurricane on Monday.

Heat-related Illness Disparities



A new study focused on Richmond found heat-related disparities. Heat emergencies were associated with urban heat islands, while residents identifying as male, Black, and greater than 50 years old, or those experiencing behavioral health issues or homelessness, were also at increased risk. The study suggests improving access to cooling centers could help alleviate these disparities. Source: [GeoHealth](#).



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