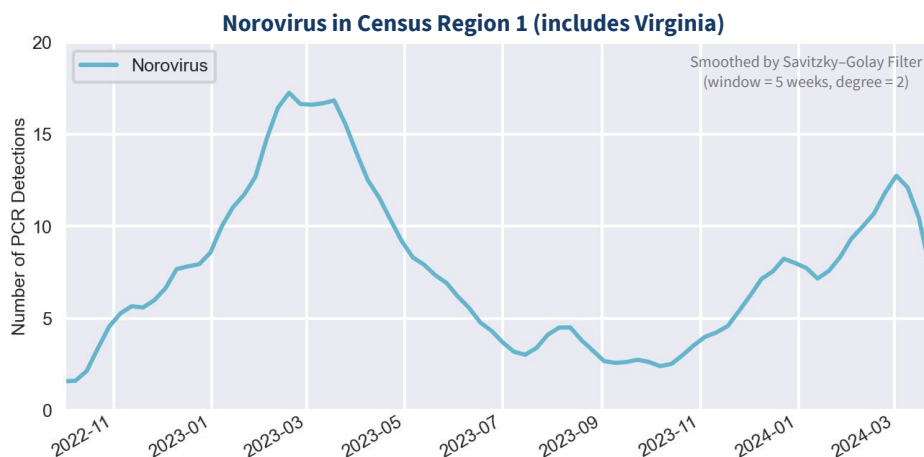


March 29, 2024

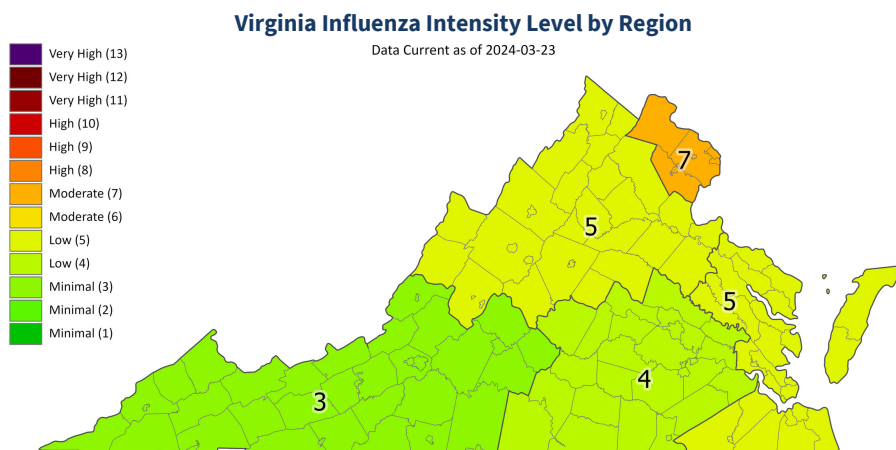
### Key Takeaways

- Seasonal gastrointestinal disease activity is decreasing in the region. Though levels remain elevated, data suggest that both norovirus and rotavirus are in decline.
- Seasonal respiratory disease activity is decreasing in Virginia. Flu and COVID-19 emergency department diagnoses have dropped by 40% in the last two weeks. Models suggest both are in a ‘declining’ trajectory.
- Hospital admissions for flu and COVID-19 continue decreasing. They are down 30% in the last four weeks. Models expect COVID-19 admissions to stabilize, while flu admissions continue a very gradual decline.
- Virginia is seeing an increase in reported mpox cases.
- The CDC has issued a health advisory regarding an increase in invasive meningococcal disease.

### Key Figures



Norovirus detections in the region have declined for three weeks in a row. Data Source: [CDC NREVSS](#).



No region in the Commonwealth reports a ‘high’ flu activity level. Data Source: [VDH](#).

### COVID-19

**Low / Low**

Characterization of statewide COVID-19 related hospital admissions / hospital bed occupancy as of Mar 23.

### Influenza

**Low**

Statewide influenza activity levels in Virginia, as of Mar 23.

**0**

Virginia regions with High influenza intensity levels, as of Mar 23.

### Mpox

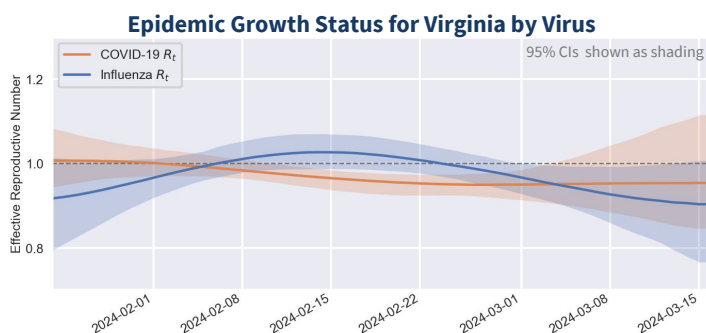
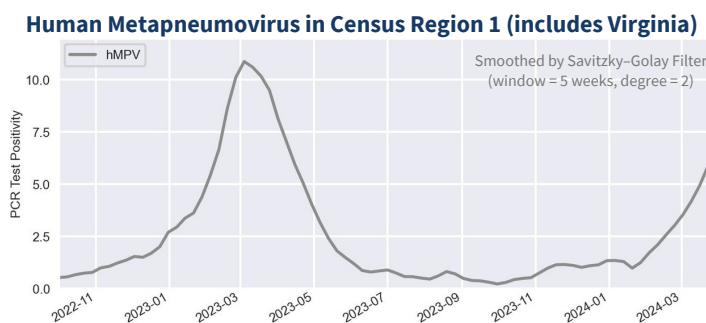
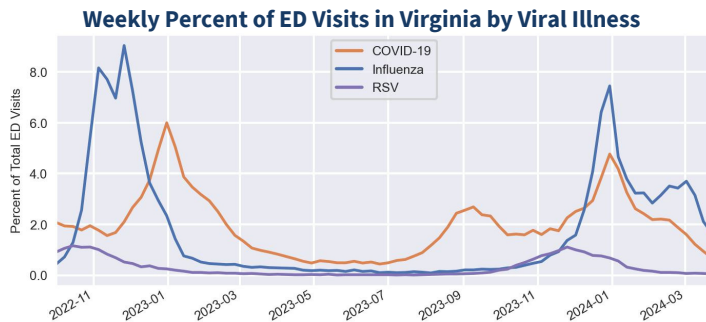
**12**

The number of mpox cases reported in Virginia in 2024 as of Mar 25.

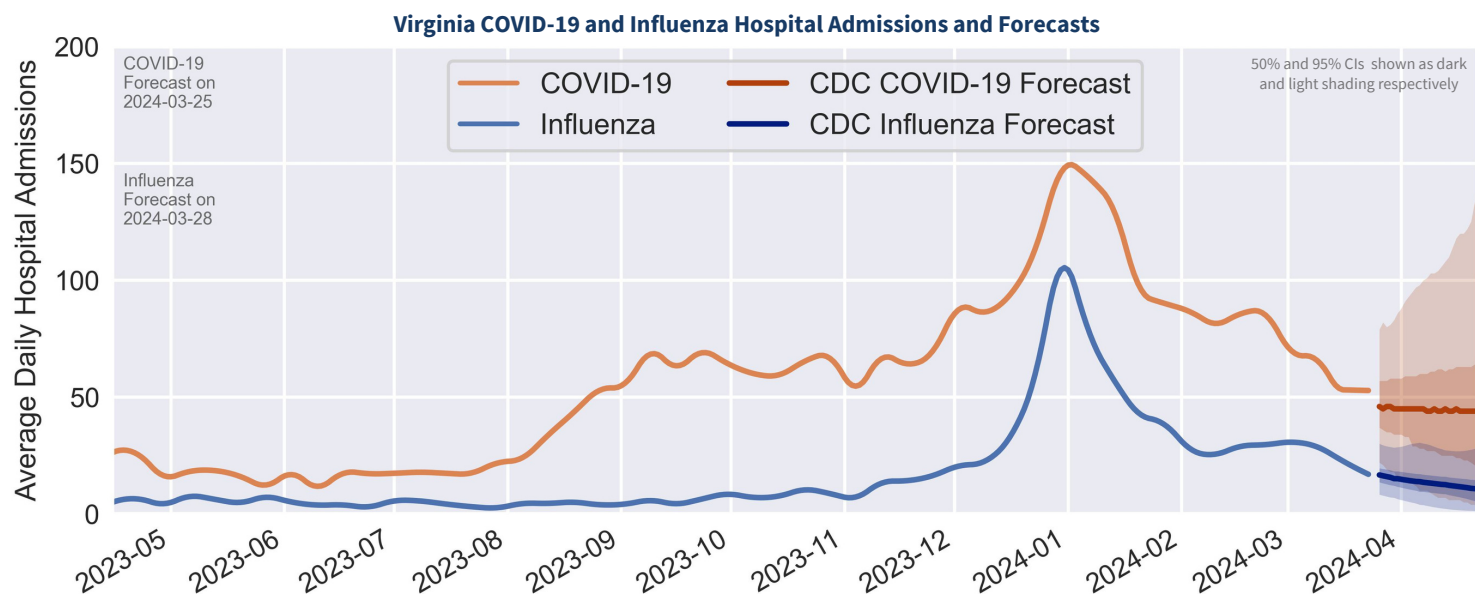
**Spotlight:**  
**Mpox**

## Seasonal Illness

- **Gastrointestinal disease activity decreased in the region.** After peaking in early March, PCR detections of Norovirus in Census Region 1 (which includes Virginia) have decreased for three weeks in a row. Rates are now down almost 40% since the start of the month. [Wastewater data](#) suggest that Rotavirus activity is also decreasing. Despite these recent declines, activity for both viruses remains elevated.
- **Human Metapneumovirus still increasing.** PCR test positivity of hMPV in Census Region 1 is continuing along a growth trajectory started in January. Rates are now double what they were in mid-February.
- **COVID-19 and flu activity decreasing statewide.** Emergency Department diagnoses of both viruses are down by at least 40% since the start of March. The CDC [respiratory illness activity level](#) for Virginia is now 'low'. [Wastewater viral activity](#) for COVID-19 is now at the lowest level seen since early November of 2023. [Epidemic growth models](#) suggest activity for both viruses is likely 'declining'.
- **Hospital admissions are decreasing slowly for COVID-19 and quickly for flu.** Over the last fortnight, flu and COVID-19 hospital admissions in Virginia fell by 41% and 20% respectively. Models suggest that COVID-19 hospital admissions will stabilize at about 45 per day by late April. Flu admissions are expected to continue a gradual decline to about 10 per day.

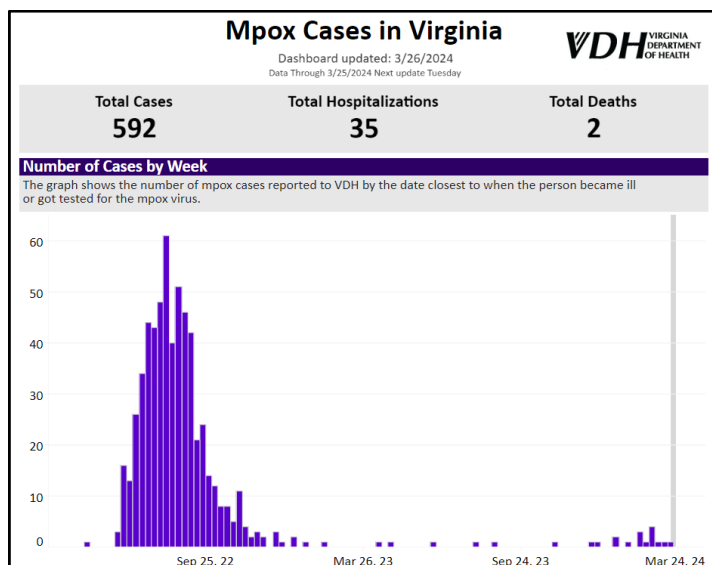


Data Sources: Top [CDC](#), Center [CDC NREVSS](#), Bottom [CDC CFA](#).



Epidemic models suggest a stabilization of hospitalizations for COVID-19, while flu hospitalizations continue a very gradual decline. Historical data source: [HealthData.gov](#), COVID-19 forecast data source: [CDC CFA](#), flu forecast data source: [CDC FluSight](#).

## Spotlight



VDH is monitoring a recent increase in mpxo cases, including 12 cases so far in 2024. Four of these cases have required hospitalization. Image Source: [VDH](#).

## Other News

- **Francis Scott Key bridge in Baltimore collapsed after being struck by a cargo ship**, resulting in six deaths and prompting Maryland's governor to declare a state of emergency. The collapse has blocked Baltimore's port, the ninth largest in the U.S., putting pressure on regional supply chains.
- **The CDC issued a health advisory regarding an increase in invasive meningococcal disease.** As of Mar 25, 2024, 143 cases have been reported to the CDC this year, compared to 81 during the same period in 2023. Virginia declared a statewide outbreak of the sequence type (ST) 1466 on Aug 30, 2023.
- **Avian flu has been detected in dairy cows in Texas, Kansas, and New Mexico.** About 10% of the herds on outbreak farms were affected, disproportionately affecting mature cows. Earlier this year avian flu was also detected in a goat in Minnesota.
- **Puerto Rico has declared a state of emergency due to an increase in dengue activity.** Over 550 cases and 300 hospitalizations have been reported. The illness also continues to spread across South America, particularly in Argentina, Brazil, and Paraguay, which account for over 90% of recorded cases.

## Mpxo

- **The Virginia Department of Health has reported 12 cases of mpxo across four of the five health regions** since the beginning of the year. A total of 12 cases, all from the Northern health region, were reported throughout 2023. Information related to mpxo symptoms, treatment, vaccination, and current data is available to the public on the [VDH webpage](#).
- **The mpxo outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo continues to spread and has been reported in 23 of the country's 26 provinces.** [DRC](#) is also managing outbreaks of other infectious diseases, including cholera, measles, and anthrax, presenting challenges to containing the outbreak.
- **The WHO is continuing to monitor the rise of mpxo cases worldwide and the associated high case fatality rate.** Almost 30 countries reported cases of mpxo in February 2024.

- **The Governor's Office introduced a Regional Emergency Response Effort following wildfires that affected Page County**, bringing funding and resources to the affected community. With recent rainfall, all wildfires in Virginia are contained or controlled as of Friday morning. Over 7,500 acres across Virginia have been impacted by wildfires this year, including 3,400 acres in Page County.
- **White House officials warn of the risk of cyberattacks on critical water and wastewater infrastructure.** Cyberattacks associated with foreign governments have targeted these systems, including on-going 'pre-positioning' attacks.
- **A National Academies review found several challenges to smallpox and related virus outbreak response.** In particular, the report highlighted limited and outdated vaccine and therapeutic stockpiles, limited manufacturing capabilities, and the need for flexible, scenario-based planning.
- **A fuel storage tank leak at a gas station prompted evacuations in South Hill, VA last week.** Almost 50 businesses and over a dozen homes were evacuated, but residents were able to return the following day.