

April 12, 2024

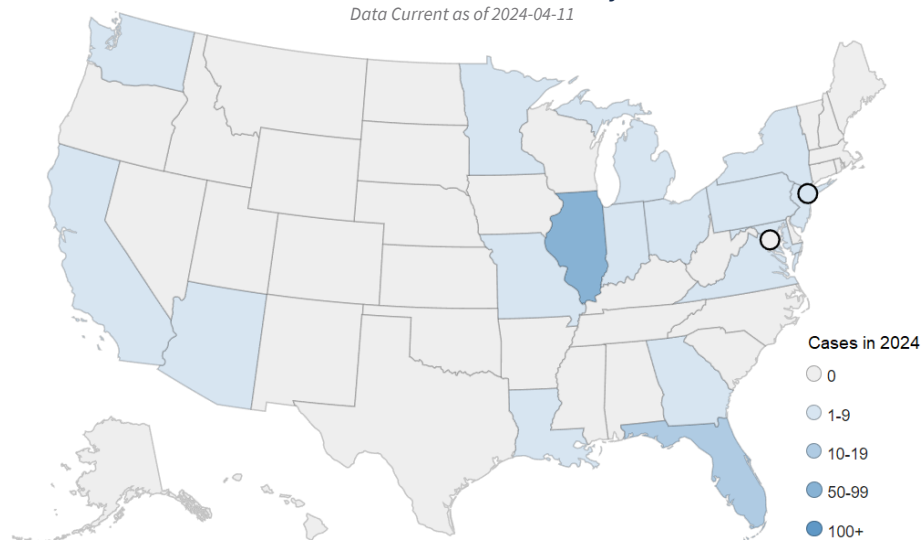
Key Takeaways

- Measles is continuing to cause sporadic outbreaks nationally. Since the start of the year, cases have been detected in 18 states including Virginia.
- Mpox cases continue to occur in the Commonwealth. This year's total cases already exceed those of 2023.
- Avian influenza was detected in dairy cattle in North Carolina. The CDC considers the threat to the public 'low'.
- Seasonal gastrointestinal disease activity remains elevated. Seasonal respiratory disease activity is continuing to decline.
- Virginia continues to report an increase of meningococcal disease cases.
- A small earthquake occurred in Central Virginia but caused no damage.

Key Figures

Number of Measles Cases in 2024 by State

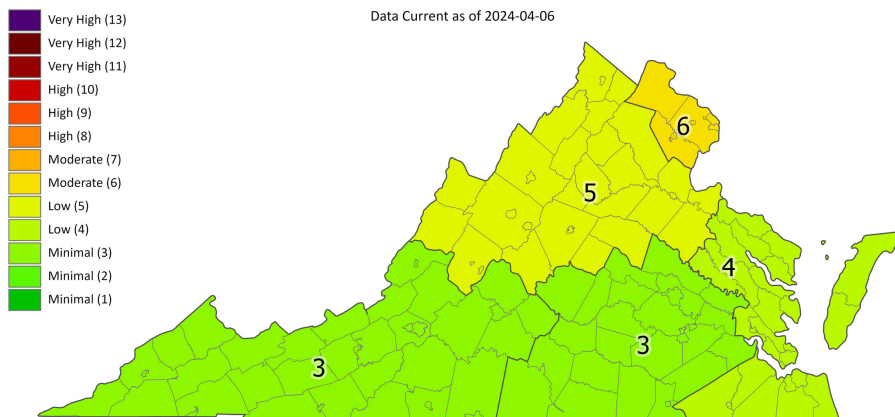
Data Current as of 2024-04-11



Measles cases have been detected in 18 states so far this year. Image Source: [CDC](#).

Virginia Influenza Intensity Level by Region

Data Current as of 2024-04-06



Influenza activity continues to fall across the Commonwealth. Data Source: [VDH](#).

COVID-19

Low / Minimal

Characterization of statewide COVID-19 related hospital admissions / hospital bed occupancy as of Apr 06.

Influenza

Minimal

Statewide influenza activity levels in Virginia, as of Apr 06.

1

Virginia region with moderate influenza intensity levels, as of Apr 06.

Mpox

17

The number of mpox cases reported in Virginia in 2024 as of Apr 09.

Measles

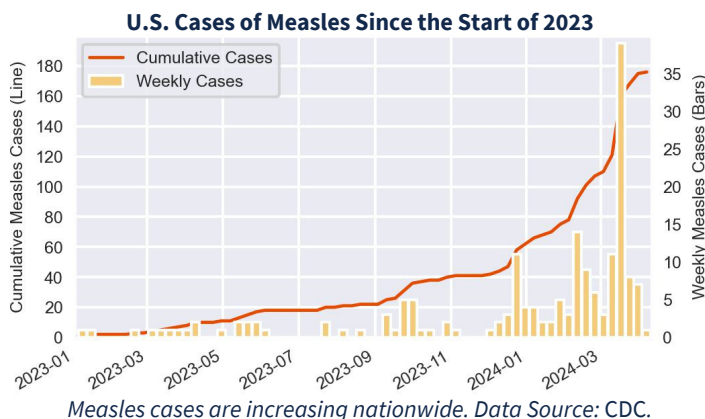
114

The number of new measles cases in the US detected since the start of 2024, as of Apr 12.

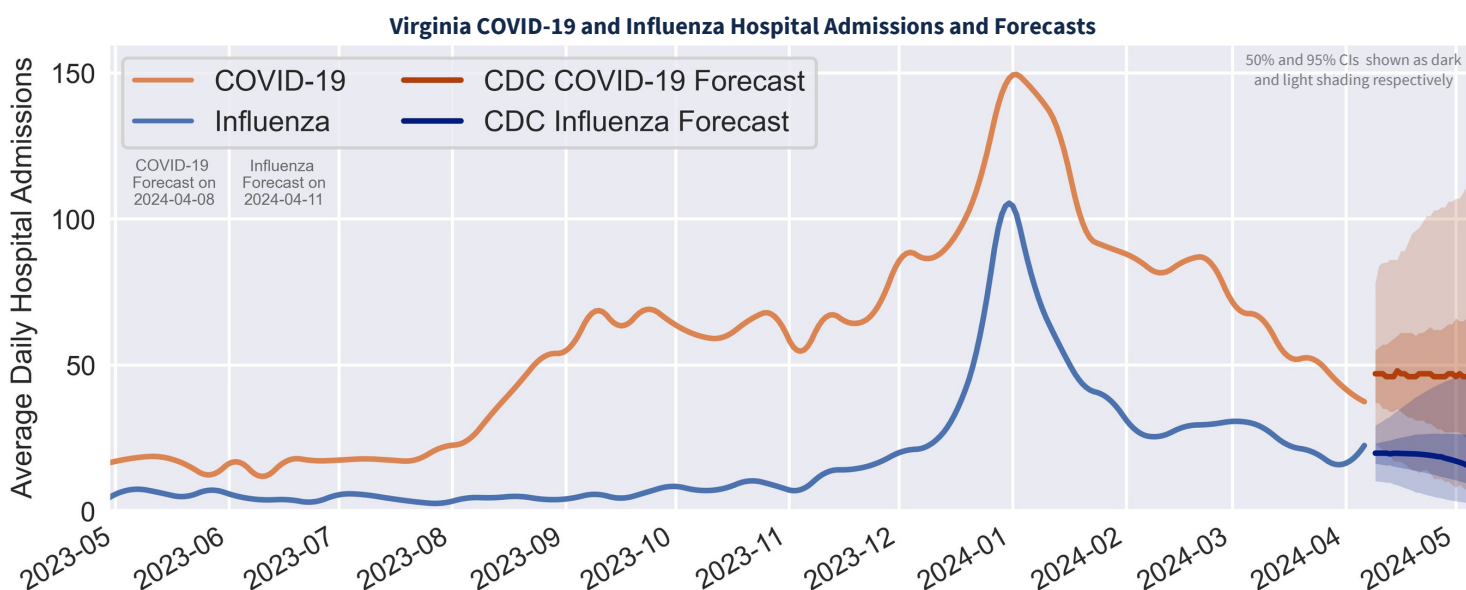
Spotlight: At-risk Populations

Ongoing Monitored Situations

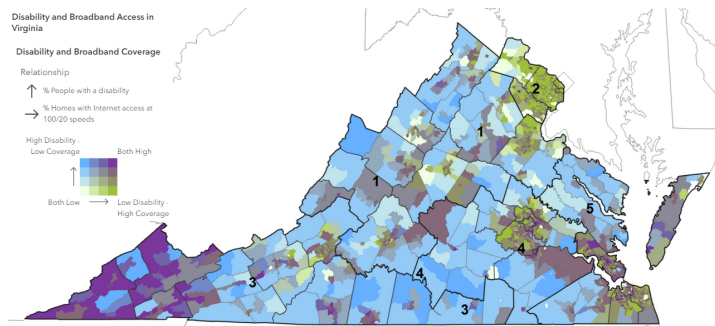
- **Measles still causing sporadic outbreaks.** The total measles case count is now 114 since the start of the year. Cases have been reported from 18 states, with Illinois and Florida being the only states to report ten or more cases so far. As of this report, 50% of cases were children under five, and 83% were unvaccinated or had unknown vaccine status.
- **Mpox cases continue to occur in Virginia.** VDH reports a total of 17 cases this year, including four hospitalizations. Though these rates are far lower than those seen during summer of 2022, current cases have already exceeded the total mpox cases of 2023.
- **Seasonal respiratory diseases still decreasing.** Emergency department diagnoses of influenza and COVID-19 have decreased again this week. Both are now at six-month lows. RSV diagnoses have been stable around 0.1% since late February. Wastewater COVID-19 activity for Virginia is considered ‘low’, and influenza intensity is considered ‘minimal’. Human Metapneumovirus is an exception to this trend, with rates increasing in the U.S. South.
- **Avian influenza reassortment detected in Vietnam.** The UN FAO noted a viral reassortment involving multiple clades of H5N1. Vietnam has also reported a novel human case of A/H9 avian flu in a man who lives near a wet market that sells poultry.



- **Avian influenza has been detected in additional dairy cattle herds.** Now called Bovine Influenza A when infecting cattle, the virus was detected in seven additional herds last week, including herds in North Carolina and South Dakota. Although unconfirmed, evidence suggests spread may occur by “milking and herd transport”. The CDC considers the risk to the public to be ‘low’, but some states have begun restricting imports of cattle from affected regions.
- **Gastrointestinal disease rates remain elevated.** Norovirus and rotavirus detections in the Southern U.S. Census Region (which includes Virginia) remain near six-month highs. Wastewater data suggest rates for both viruses are elevated nationwide. Wastewater data also suggest rotavirus is on an ‘upward trend’.



Spotlight



According to a recent [assessment](#) from the Virginia Board for People with Disabilities, telehealth has improved health care access for persons with disabilities in recent years. However, broadband internet is not always available, particularly in some parts of rural Virginia. Bright blue areas on this map identify census tracts with both high share of disability and low broadband access, while purple areas identify areas with a high share of disability but also high broadband access. Image Source: [VBPD](#)

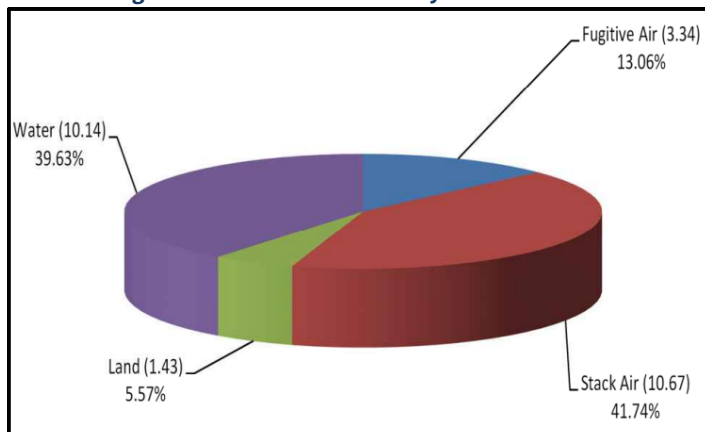
At-risk Populations

- **Virginia’s prison population decreased 26.7% from 2012 to 2022**, according to [data](#) from the U.S. Dept. of Justice. From 2021 to 2022 it decreased 10.6%. VA Dept. of Corrections (DOC) [data](#) shows a similar trend, with the average daily census of DOC institutions dropping 19.3% between FY2014 and FY2023.
- **About 390,700, or 5.9%, Virginia adults identify as LGBT** according to recent [estimates](#) using 2020-2021 CDC BRFFS data. This compares to 5.5% nationally. Nationally, about 15.2% of 18- to 24-year-olds identify as LGBT, while just 1.8% of those over age 65 do.
- **Richmond’s homeless population has remained stable over the past three years** according to a Jan Point-in-Time survey. 681 homeless people were identified in the Greater Richmond region on Jan 24 this year, compared to 690 last year. However, about 30% were unsheltered, an increase of 9.6% over the same period. According to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Virginia’s [homeless population](#) declined by over 30% from 2007 to 2022.

Other News

- **Virginia continues to report an increase of meningococcal disease cases.** A total of 36 outbreak-associated cases were reported between June 2022 and March 2024. Cases caused by antimicrobial-resistant strains of the bacterium *Neisseria meningitidis* serogroup Y have also been sporadically detected in Northern Virginia.
- **The Minnesota Department of Health reported an outbreak of 13 cases of Campylobacter in February 2024.** Several of these cases showed antimicrobial resistance, prompting an [informative note](#) from the Pan-American Health Organization regarding the possibility of spread among the MSM community.
- **A 2.3 magnitude earthquake occurred in Central Virginia this week.** The epicenter was just north of Glen Allen. No damage was reported.
- **Severe storms knocked out power and spawned tornado warnings in Virginia.** The same storm system caused [flash floods](#) in Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and other states. April to June is the [peak period](#) for tornadoes in Virginia.

Virginia Toxic Release Inventory On-Site Releases



Among Virginia facilities, over 25 million pounds of toxic release inventory chemicals were released in 2022, corresponding to a 5% decrease from the previous year. Methanol, nitrate compounds, and manganese including manganese compounds were the most commonly released chemicals. Image Source: [Virginia DEQ](#)