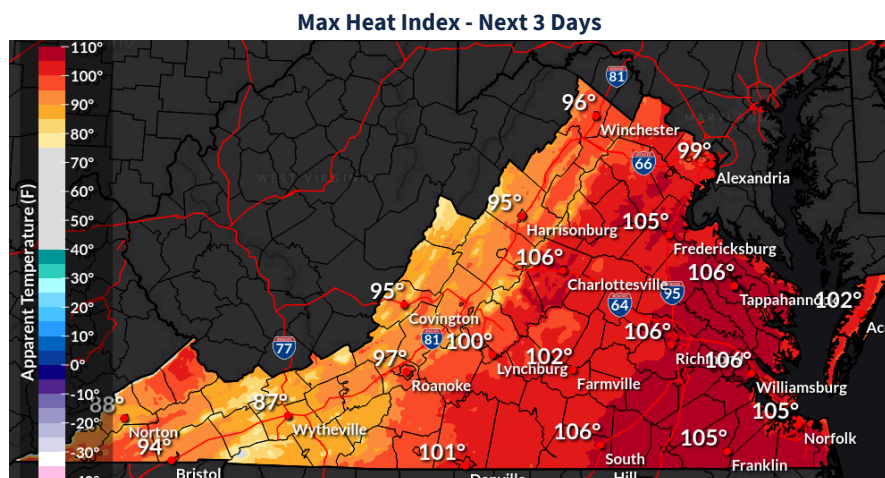


June 28, 2024

## Key Takeaways

- A heat wave will bring dangerous temperatures to Virginia this weekend.
- HHS has unveiled a “Pandemic Influenza Preparedness and Response Strategy” to optimize the response to a potential HPAI A(H5N1) outbreak.
- The FDA will begin testing commercial dairy products for signs of HPAI A(H5N1) contamination.
- Indicators continue to suggest COVID-19 growth. Levels remain low.
- The US Surgeon General declared firearm violence a public health crisis.
- Severe weather and flooding have impacted much of the Midwest, killing two and causing significant damage to infrastructure.
- The CDC issued a HAN alert related to an increase in dengue cases in the US, including among US travelers.

## Key Figures



A heat wave will bring dangerous high temperatures to Virginia Saturday and Sunday. Take precautions to avoid heat-related illness. Image Source: NWS.

Daily Heat Related Illness (Visit Counts) in Virginia

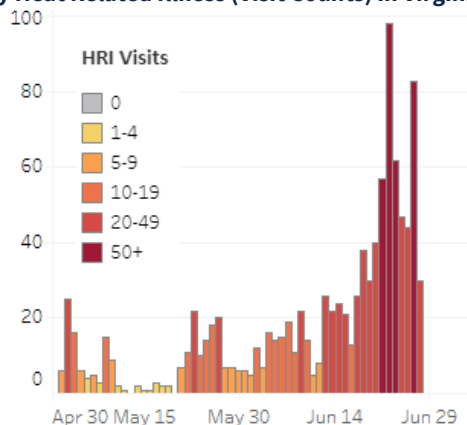


Image Source: VDH.

## COVID-19

**96%**

The likelihood that COVID-19 is growing in Virginia, according to CDC models as of Jun 25.

## Measles

**159**

The number of new measles cases in the US detected since the start of 2024, as of Jun 28.

## HPAI A(H5N1)

**132**

HPAI A(H5N1) detections in dairy cattle herds in the United States as of Jun 28.

**23**

HPAI A(H5N1) detections in wild birds in Virginia during Q2 2024, as of Jun 27.

## Dengue

**745**

The number of dengue cases identified among US travelers from Jan 1 to Jun 24, 2024.

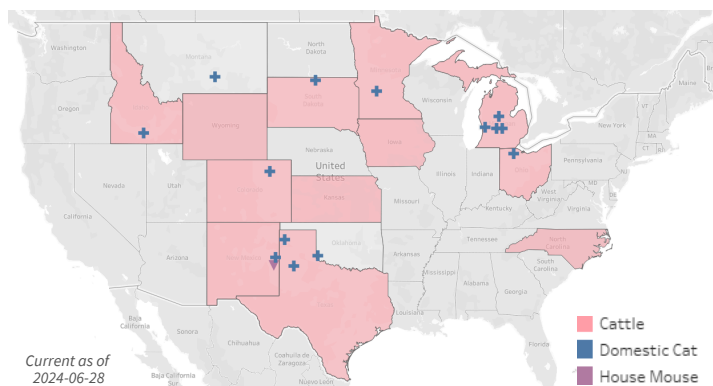
**Spotlight:**  
**Firearm Violence**

## Ongoing Monitored Situations

### Avian Influenza A(H5N1)

- **HHS releases Pandemic Influenza Preparedness and Response Strategy.** The strategy outlines objectives for an organized response to a potential human outbreak of HPAI A(H5N1). Objectives are centered on the creation and deployment of vaccines, therapeutics, and testing supplies.
- **USDA to provide financial assistance to dairy producers.** The agency will begin accepting aid applications on July 1, and will provide financial support to producers who incur milk losses as a result of HPAI A(H5N1) infection.
- **FDA to test commercial milk products for HPAI A(H5N1).** The agency will examine 155 dairy products including milk, cream cheese, butter, and ice cream to determine if they are affected by the virus. The agency will also investigate the efficacy of current and novel pasteurization methods.

#### Detection of H5N1 in Select Mammals



Current as of  
2024-06-28

HPAI A(H5N1) was detected in a dairy herd in Wyoming this week. This brings the total to 132 dairy herds across 12 states. Data Source: [USDA](#).

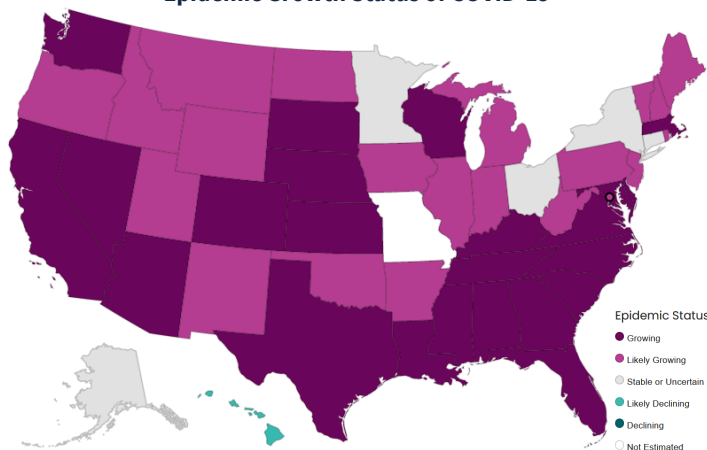
### Mpox

- **Vaccines given emergency authorization in DRC.** In an attempt to slow the ongoing outbreak of clade I mpox, the nation has authorized the use of the Jynneos vaccine as well as a Japanese vaccine called LC16. Since the start of 2023, the nation has reported over 20,000 mpox cases and 1,000 deaths. It has also detected a clade I variant that is considered even more virulent than the typical clade I virus. There is some concern that this new variant could spread to neighboring Rwanda, Burundi, or Uganda.

### Seasonal Respiratory Illness

- **Slow growth of COVID-19 continues.** Emergency department (ED) diagnoses of COVID-19 in Virginia increased by 38% this week. Nationally, they are up by 15%. Wastewater data also suggest an upward trend of viral activity in the American South, including Virginia. Epidemic modeling indicates that COVID-19 activity is likely growing in 44 states and territories including Virginia. Despite this growth, overall viral activity rates remain low both nationally and locally.

#### Epidemic Growth Status of COVID-19



Modeling indicates widespread COVID-19 growth. Data Source: [CDC](#).

- **KP.3 continues to displace other JN.1 descendants.** With a significant growth advantage over its peers, KP.3 is expected to become the dominant COVID-19 variant in the coming weeks. It presently accounts for 33% of new cases in the United States. LB.1 is also growing, and now accounts for 17% of new cases nationally. Both have roughly doubled their variant proportions in the last two weeks. Presently, there is no evidence that either causes more severe illness than other circulating variants.

### Measles

- **Sporadic outbreaks a burden on local resources.** The CDC reports a total of seven national cases since June 1, with Sacramento the latest to report an exposure event. Investigating these events takes a toll on local health departments. Officials in Monongalia County, WV report a cost of \$15,000 and 250 man-hours to investigate a single recent measles case.

## Spotlight

### Firearms are the leading cause of death for children and adolescents

1–19 years of age in the United States, 2002–2022

- Firearm
- Motor Vehicle
- Poisoning (Drug and Non-drug)
- Cancer
- Suffocation
- Congenital Anomalies
- Drowning
- Cardiovascular Disease

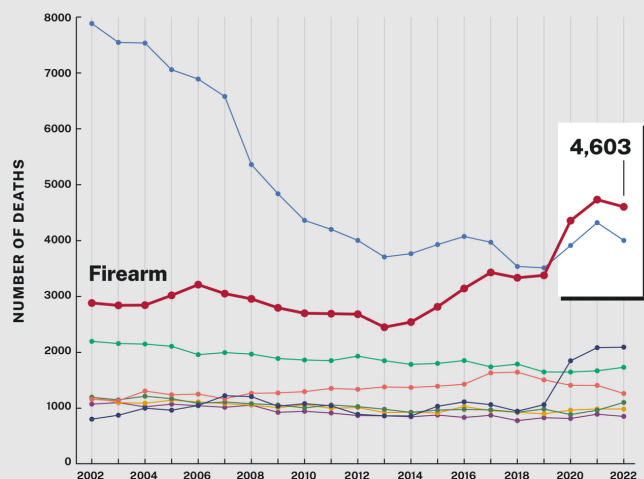


Image Source: [US Surgeon General](#)

## Firearm Violence

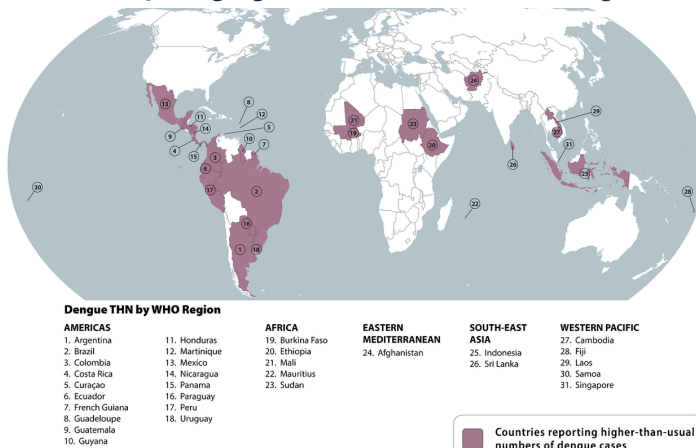
- The US Surgeon General **declared** firearm violence a public health crisis in a new [advisory](#). The advisory noted 48,204 firearms deaths in 2022, an increase of over 16,000 since 2010. In Virginia, [firearm-related deaths](#) increased 27% from 2018 to 2022, from 1,033 to 1,308. The advisory also highlighted the collective impact on communities, children and adolescents, and families.
- Firearm violence tends to increase in [summer months](#), and research has [linked](#) firearm violence to higher temperatures. The last two weekends, marking the [end of spring](#) and the [beginning of summer](#), have both seen a spate of mass shootings across the US.
- Nationally, firearms [became](#) the leading cause of death among children and teenagers (age 1-19) in 2020, surpassing motor vehicle crashes. Firearms have been the second-leading cause of death among this age group for at least 20 years. From 2018 to 2022, Virginia [recorded](#) 578 firearm-related deaths among children and teenagers.

- In 2022, the Governor’s Office [announced](#) Operation Bold Blue Line, which included support for law enforcement and [funding](#) for violence prevention, including the Virginia Hospital Violence Intervention and Prevention Initiative.

## Other News

- As of June 2, Japan has [reported](#) 977 cases of streptococcal toxic shock syndrome (STSS) in 2024, including 77 deaths during the first quarter of the year. STSS is caused by group A *Streptococcus* bacteria, which has caused an [increased number](#) of infections globally since late 2022.
- [Severe flooding](#) across the Midwest has impacted more than 3 million residents between Nebraska and Minnesota, leaving at least two dead. The heavy rains have also caused major structural damage, including the collapse of a railroad bridge connecting Iowa and South Dakota, as well as the partial failure of the [Rapidan Dam](#) in Minnesota.
- The Mountain Valley Pipeline experienced a [rupture](#) during pressure testing, the second to occur in recent weeks. The release may have impacted water quality in the Roanoke River and nearby drinking water. The pipeline began [transporting](#) natural gas on June 14.

### Countries Reporting Higher-than-Usual Numbers of Dengue Cases



Globally, the 9.7 million cases reported in the first half of 2024 is double the number that was reported throughout all of 2023. Source: [CDC](#)

- The CDC issued a [HAN alert](#) this week to highlight the increased risk of dengue virus infections in the U.S. Over 740 cases have been confirmed among travelers this year.