

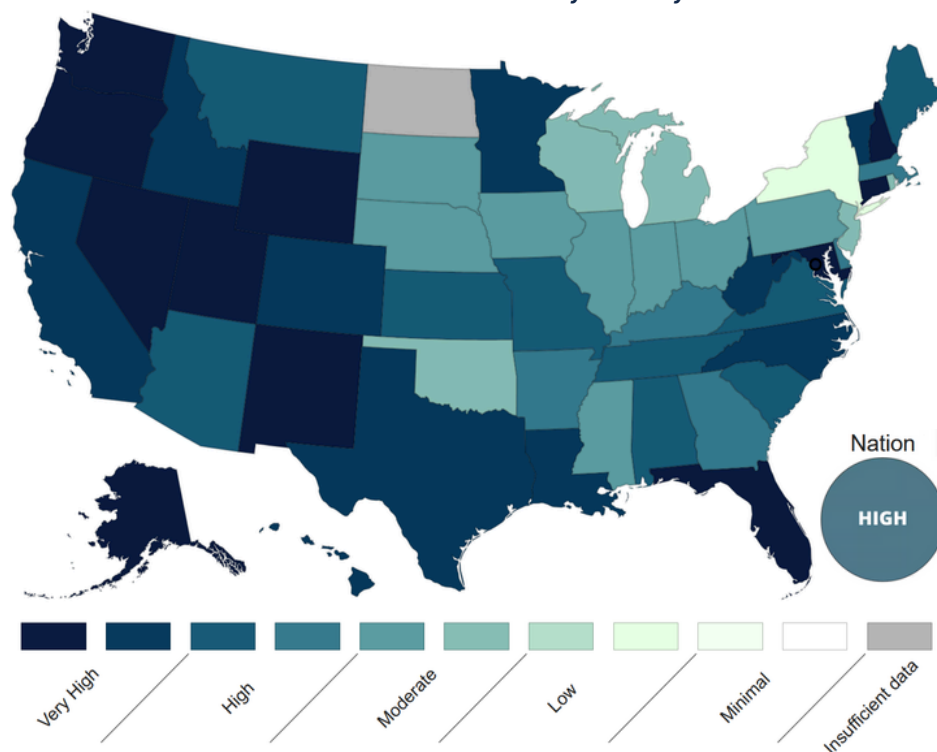
July 19, 2024

Key Takeaways

- A global IT outage is affecting numerous systems, including in Virginia. This situation is ongoing.
- Avian influenza was detected among Colorado poultry workers. The patients reported mild respiratory symptoms and conjunctivitis. CDC considers the threat to the general public 'low'.
- HPAI A(H5N1) was detected in an Oklahoma dairy herd. The virus has now been found infecting cattle in 13 states.
- COVID-19 activity continues to grow nationally. Virginia is now reporting a 'high' wastewater viral activity level.
- Arlington authorities report a possible exposure event at a local grocery store from an out-of-state measles case.
- Richmond experiences over four more heat waves annually compared to the 1960s, while Norfolk experiences almost six additional heat waves.
- A shooting at a major-party presidential campaign event last week, and a speech by the prime minister of Israel next week, highlight the ongoing threat of political violence.

Key Figures

COVID-19 Wastewater Viral Activity Levels by State



Wastewater activity levels have been increasing across the nation since May. Virginia now reports a 'high' activity level, matching the overall national level. Maryland, North Carolina, and Washington, D.C. report 'very high' levels. Data Source: [CDC](#).

COVID-19

97%

The likelihood that COVID-19 is growing in Virginia, according to CDC models as of July 16.

Measles

167

The number of new measles cases in the US detected since the start of 2024, as of July 11.

HPAI A(H5N1)

162

HPAI A(H5N1) detections in dairy cattle herds in the United States as of July 17.

Heat Illness

2,279

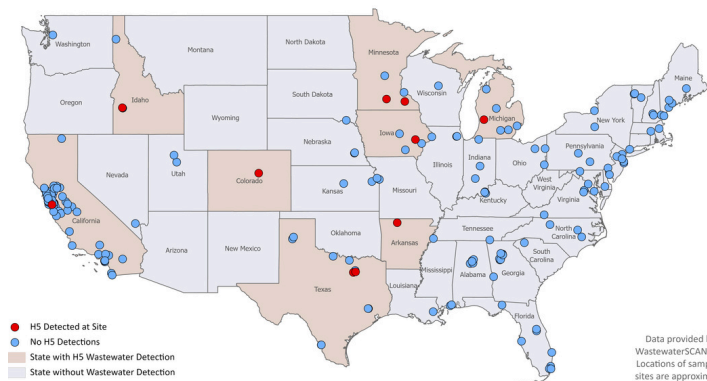
The number of heat-related illness visits to Virginia Emergency Departments from May 1 to July 17.

Ongoing Monitored Situations

Avian Influenza A(H5N1)

- **H5N1 detected in Oklahoma dairy herd.** Officials note that the sample was collected in April. This makes the thirteenth state to detect the virus among dairy cattle and brings the total number of infected herds to 162.
- **Colorado poultry workers infected; heat may be to blame.** The CDC reports four confirmed cases of avian influenza among workers of a commercial egg facility. Early analyses suggest that the cases may have been caused by the same genotype of HPAI A(H5N1) that is currently infecting dairy cattle. Symptoms appeared similar to those of infected dairy workers. USDA inspectors note that temperatures exceeded 100° F in poultry barns during a recent heatwave. This may have led to lapses in PPE compliance.
- **PAHO releases H5N1 risk assessment.** With ‘moderate’ confidence they report a ‘low’ overall risk to the general population. However, they note a ‘moderate’ risk of the virus spreading geographically.

Wastewater Detections of H5 in the Last Two Weeks



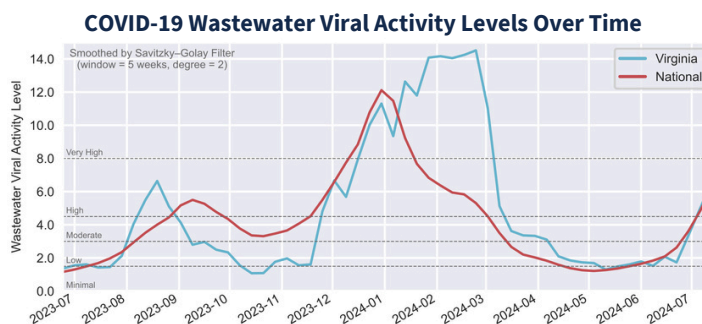
Between July 2 and July 16, H5 subtype viruses were detected at 10 of 194 national wastewater sampling sites. Data Source: [WastewaterSCAN](#).

Mpox

- **Outbreaks continue in DR Congo and South Africa.** Officials in South Africa have confirmed 22 mpox cases and three deaths since the start of May. DR Congo reports 25 new cases in Goma, mostly found among migrants in camp housing. These cases were caused by clade I mpox, which is more virulent than the globally circulating clade IIb mpox. Virginia has not reported a new mpox case since late June.

Seasonal Respiratory Illness

- **COVID-19 activity is ‘high’ nationally and locally.** Emergency department diagnoses of COVID-19 in Virginia have increased by 160% in the last month. Wastewater viral activity levels have also increased in that time. Though wastewater levels were considered ‘low’ as recently as June 15, Virginia is now reporting ‘high’ activity levels. National trends have followed a similar trajectory, and total national activity is also considered ‘high’. Models forecast continued growth in the Commonwealth.



COVID-19 wastewater viral activity has increased steadily since mid-May and is now considered ‘high’ in the Commonwealth. Data Source: [CDC](#).

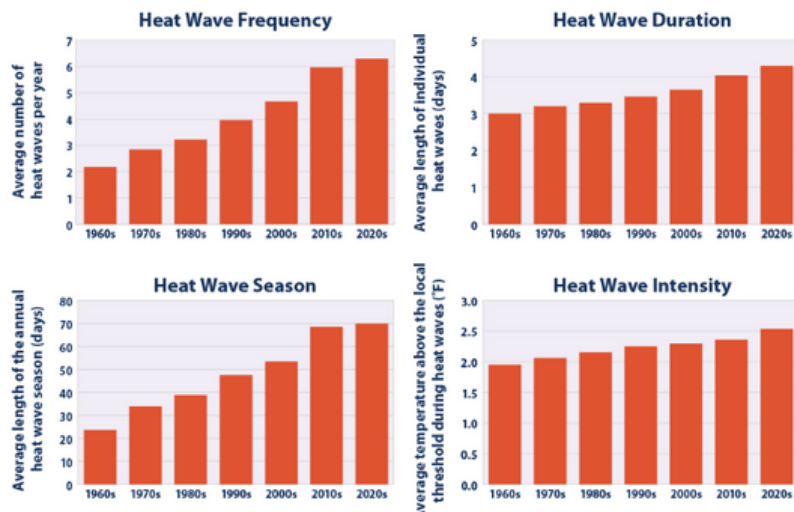
- **COVID-19 disproportionately affects migrants.** A recent meta-analysis combining the data from 65 published studies found that migrants have an 84% increased risk of infection, and 46% increased risk of death, when compared to non-migrants. The authors note that migrants and refugees often suffer lower immunization rates than the general public.

Measles

- **Outbreak in migrant shelter prompts quarantine.** Two cases of measles were found among residents of a shelter in Brooklyn. The two are being isolated, and dozens more will be quarantined for 21 days.
- **Measles exposure event in Arlington.** An out-of-state resident with measles visited a grocery store in Arlington while infectious.
- **Global measles immunizations stalled in 2023.** Data from the WHO suggest that that delays in routine childhood vaccinations have left an additional 2.7 million children unvaccinated or under-vaccinated when compared to pre-pandemic norms.

Other News

Heat Wave Characteristics in the United States by Decade, 1961–2023

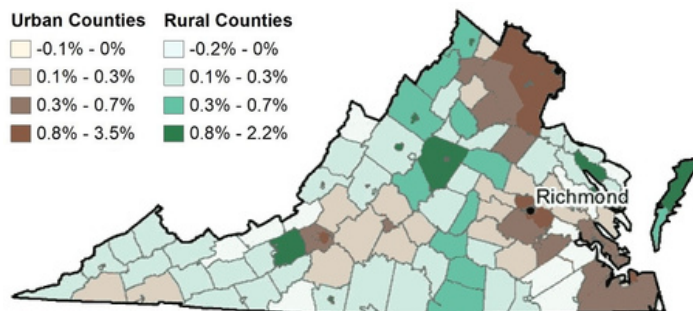


The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency released updated Heat Wave statistics showing steadily increasing heat wave frequency duration and intensity over the past 6 decades, along with a longer heat wave season. Nationally, the average number of heat waves has increased from two to six, while their length has increased by a day, to four days. These heat waves are hotter and distributed over a larger portion of the year. Image Source: [EPA](#).

- A **mass shooting** at a campaign event in Pennsylvania left one dead and three injured, including the candidate hosting the event. Though the motive is unclear, it is being treated as an assassination attempt targeting a major party presidential candidate. The shooting highlights the threat of political violence during the 2024 election season.
- The Prime Minister of Israel is **scheduled to address Congress on July 24**. The ongoing conflict in Israel and Palestine has sparked a series of confrontational, sometimes violent, protests and counter-protests.
- **Statewide, emergency department (ED) visits for all drug, heroin, and stimulant overdoses increased during the second quarter of the year.** ED visits for heroin overdoses increased by 46% in the Southwest region, while ED visits for stimulant overdoses increased by 48% in the Central region.
- A major party vice presidential candidate is **scheduled to appear at Radford University on Monday**.

- **Houston area hospitals were stressed in the aftermath of Hurricane Beryl.** Given that power has yet to be restored in some areas, patients cannot be safely discharged, and some residents are simply seeking shelter, power, and air conditioning in hospital emergency rooms and waiting areas.
- **Hospital-onset infections caused by anti-microbial resistant (AR) pathogens increased by 20% during the pandemic,** with the rates for many of these infections remaining above pre-pandemic levels in the following years, according to new CDC data.
- **Following sewage release from a Richmond Department of Public Utilities sewer pipe, VDH has issued a recreational water advisory** for a 12-mile stretch of the James River. Currently, there is no indication that drinking water has been impacted.

International Migration (2020-2023) as a Percentage of Total Pre-Pandemic Population (2019)



An analysis from the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond (Fed) found that international migration contributed 1% to Virginia's population growth over the past four years, compared to 0.5% for natural growth, and a 0.4% loss from domestic U.S. migration. Within the Fed's Fifth District, counties in Virginia accounted for eight and six of the top 10 urban and rural counties, respectively, for this metric. Image Source (modified by VDH): [Richmond Fed](#).