

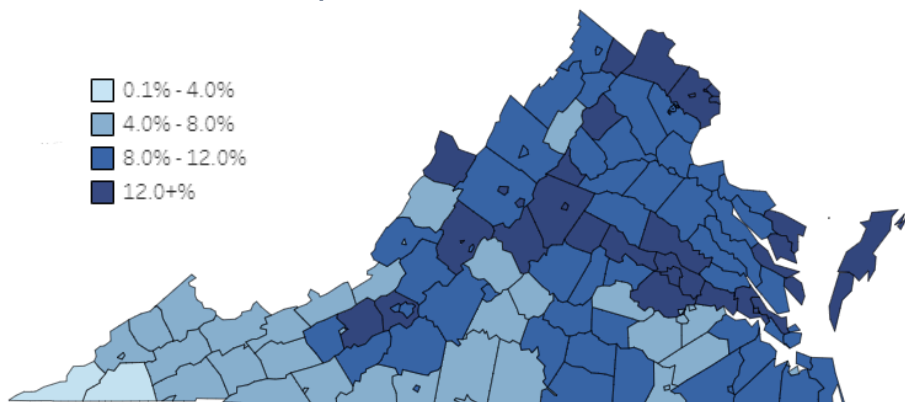
July 26, 2024

Key Takeaways

- Colorado reports two more human cases of HPAI A(H5N1). The cases were found among workers of commercial egg laying facilities. This brings the total number of national human cases to eleven.
- CDC study finds no evidence of asymptomatic HPAI A(H5N1) carriers in humans.
- HPAI A(H5N1) testing efforts remain inconsistent across affected states.
- COVID-19 rates continue to grow nationally and locally. Rates in Virginia are now comparable to those in mid-February.
- A shortage of blood culture bottles causing facilities to conserve supplies may ease in September.
- A train derailment damaged a wall and four garages in Fredericksburg.
- Though cooler weather has moved into Virginia, heat records continue to fall globally. Northwest Virginia is experiencing extreme drought.

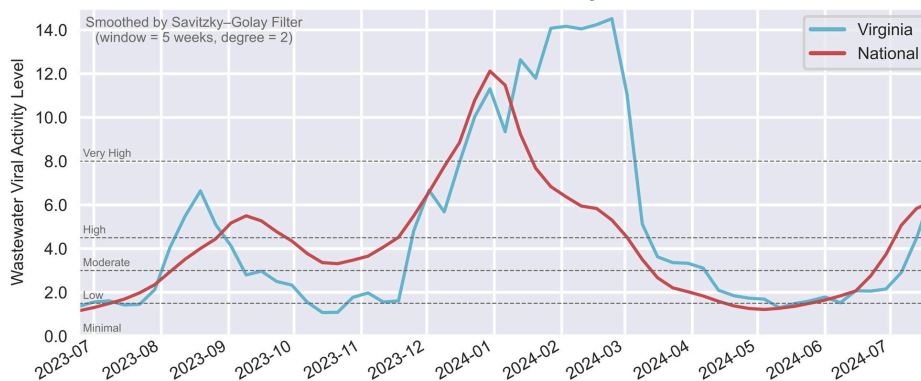
Key Figures

Percent of the Population with 2023-2024 COVID-19 Vaccination



Approximately 13.4% of Virginians have received the 2023-2024 COVID-19 vaccine. Coverage is lower in Southside and the Far Southwest. Data Source: [VDH](#).

COVID-19 Wastewater Viral Activity Over Time



Wastewater surveillance suggests continued growth of COVID-19 nationally and in the Commonwealth. Viral activity is now considered 'high' for both. Data Source: [CDC](#).

COVID-19

99.7%

The likelihood that COVID-19 is growing in Virginia, according to CDC models as of July 23.

13.4%

The share of Virginians with a 2023-2024 COVID-19 vaccination as of June 30.

Measles

190

The number of new measles cases in the US detected since the start of 2024, as of July 26.

HPAI A(H5N1)

171

HPAI A(H5N1) detections in dairy cattle herds in the United States as of July 26.

Heat

62.87° F

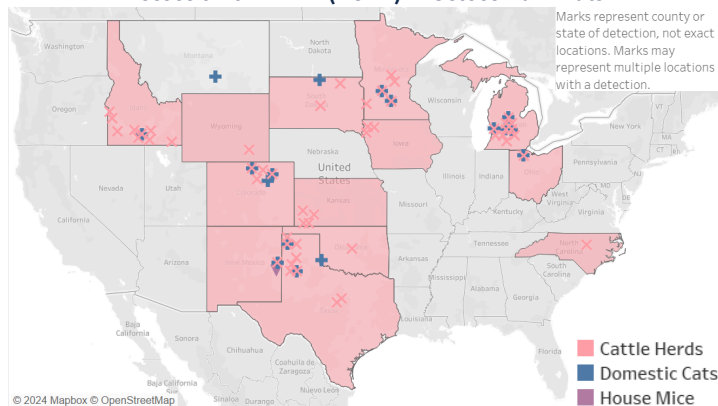
The daily global average temperature on July 22, 2024, the highest on record.

Ongoing Monitored Situations

Avian Influenza A(H5N1)

- **Colorado reports two more human cases of HPAI A(H5N1).** Nationally, this brings the number to eleven. The latest cases are associated with a second poultry farm in Weld County, CO undergoing culling operations.
- **CDC finds no evidence of asymptomatic carriers in humans.** A study of healthy Michigan dairy workers who were exposed to infected cattle found no HPAI A(H5N1) specific antibodies were found in blood samples, suggesting asymptomatic carriers are rare. The study found no evidence of antiviral resistance.
- **Testing workers remains a challenge nationally.** CDC officials note that despite 150,000 available test kits, HPAI A(H5N1) testing of workers and livestock is limited and varies among states.
- **Study highlights ability to cross species barriers.** A Nature preprint highlights the unique ability for HPAI A(H5N1) to target cells found in mammalian alveoli, making it efficient at inter-species transmission and allowing sustained transmission between cows.

Detection of HPAI A(H5N1) in Select Mammals



New cases of HPAI A(H5N1) were detected in dairy cattle in Colorado and Minnesota, as well as a domestic cat in Colorado. Data Source: [USDA](#).

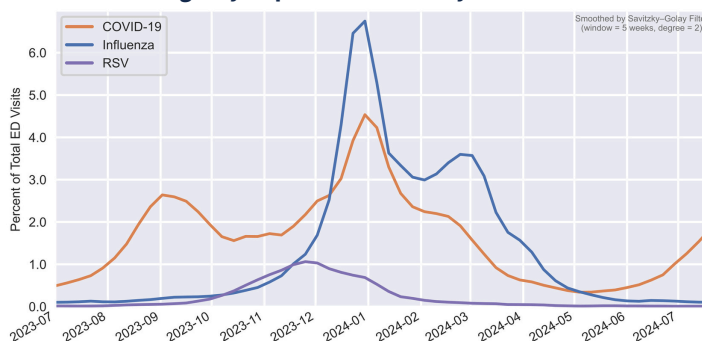
Mpox

- **Cases continue to grow in DR Congo.** The nation is contending with an outbreak of highly virulent clade I mpox. The ongoing outbreak has caused 130 cases in a camp for displaced people near Goma. About half of these cases were among children under five. Thus far, funding has been limited for immunizations.

Seasonal Respiratory Illness

- **Sustained growth of COVID-19 activity continues.** In Virginia, emergency department (ED) diagnoses of the disease have increased by nearly 17% in the last week. Wastewater viral activity is now 'high' in the Commonwealth and models forecast continued growth. Nationally, viral activity is following a similar trajectory, with a 14% increase in ED diagnoses and 'high' wastewater activity levels.
- **KP.3 continues to out-compete other variants.** The variant, along with KP.3.1.1, now accounts for about half of all new COVID-19 cases in the United States.

Emergency Department Visits by Viral Illness

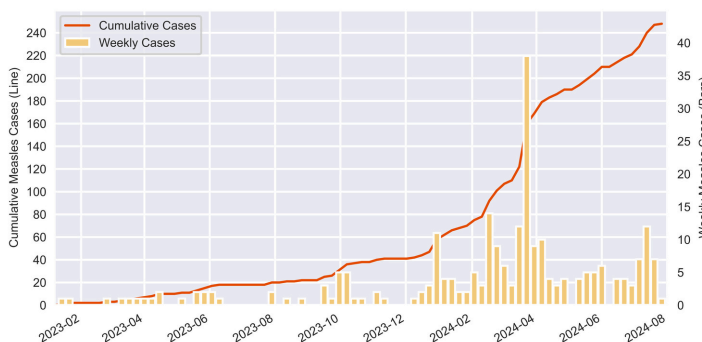


The ED diagnosis rate of COVID-19 in Virginia continues to increase steadily. Rates are now similar to those of February. Data Source: [CDC](#).

Measles

- **Sporadic measles outbreaks continue nationally.** This week cases were detected in South Dakota, and Massachusetts. Both outbreaks are thought to be related to international travel. This brings the total number of cases in 2024 to 190, with 27 cases reported in the month of July.

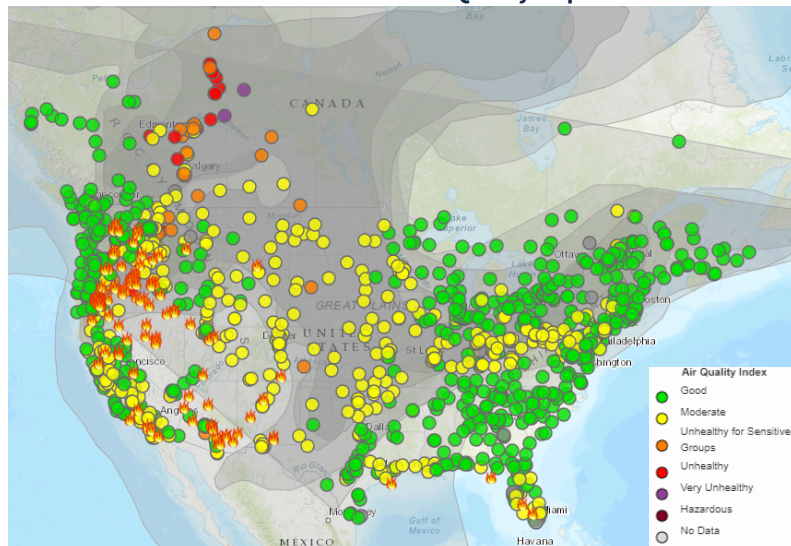
National Measles Cases Since the Start of 2023



Measles cases continue to grow nationally. Data Source: [CDC](#).

Other News

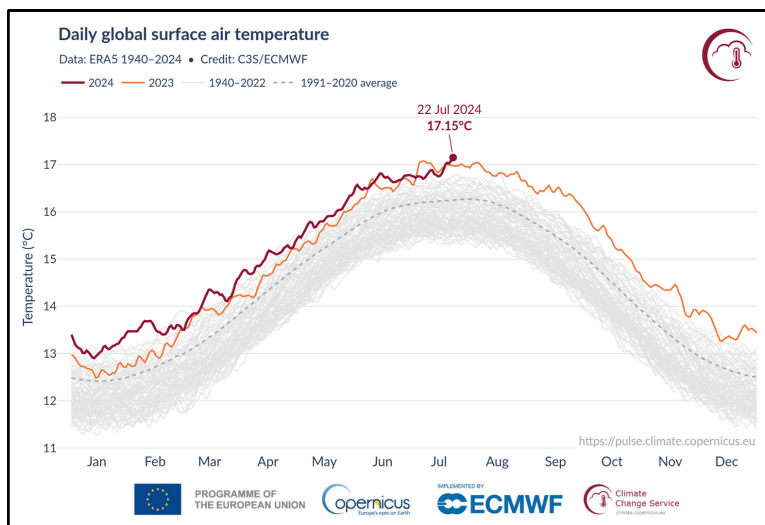
Smoke Plume and Air Quality Map



Wildfires in the Western US and Canada are blanketing much of the US in smoke affecting air quality in much of the Midwest, along with parts of Appalachia and the East Coast. Impacts in Virginia have so far been limited. Wildfire risk is expected to remain high in the Western U.S. through the end of July. Image Source: [AirNow](#).

- A global IT outage had widespread but mostly limited impact on critical systems. Health systems reported mostly administrative issues, with some delays or short-term closings. The incident highlights the risks associated with integrated software supply chains.
- Protests related to the Israeli Prime Minister's address to Congress led to at least 23 arrests and the use of pepper spray. Insects were also released in the Prime Minister's hotel. Meanwhile, polio has been detected at multiple wastewater sites in Gaza, suggesting local transmission in a challenging environment for containment.
- Recreational water and fish consumption advisories stemming from the South Hill warehouse fire were lifted after nearly three weeks. Multiple state and federal agencies, along with counterparts in North Carolina, were involved in monitoring water quality impacts from runoff. Drinking water was not impacted.

- Five freight train cars derailed and struck a wall, causing the collapse of four garage buildings in Fredericksburg. While no hazardous material was leaked and no injuries were reported, the cause of the derailment is still under investigation.
- Following heavy rains and subsequent flash flooding, the city of Portsmouth declared a local area emergency on Tuesday evening. Flooding was also reported in other areas including Hampton Roads and the Outer Banks.
- The CDC issued a HAN Alert this week regarding a critical shortage of blood culture bottles. Supply constraints are expected to ease in September. Facilities are preserving supply by limiting testing or using expired bottles when safe to do so.
- Arizona public health officials report a rise in cases of hantavirus, a virus spread to humans by rodents that can result in fatal respiratory illness. Statewide, there have been seven confirmed cases, including three deaths, within the past six months.



Unprecedented high global temperatures have been recorded consistently over the past 13 months. The two hottest days on record occurred consecutively on Sunday and Monday this week. Average global temperatures have surpassed the record previously set in August 2016 on 58 days in the past year alone. Experts suggest that 2024 will likely set a new annual heat record. Image Source: [Copernicus Climate Change Service \(C3S\)](#).