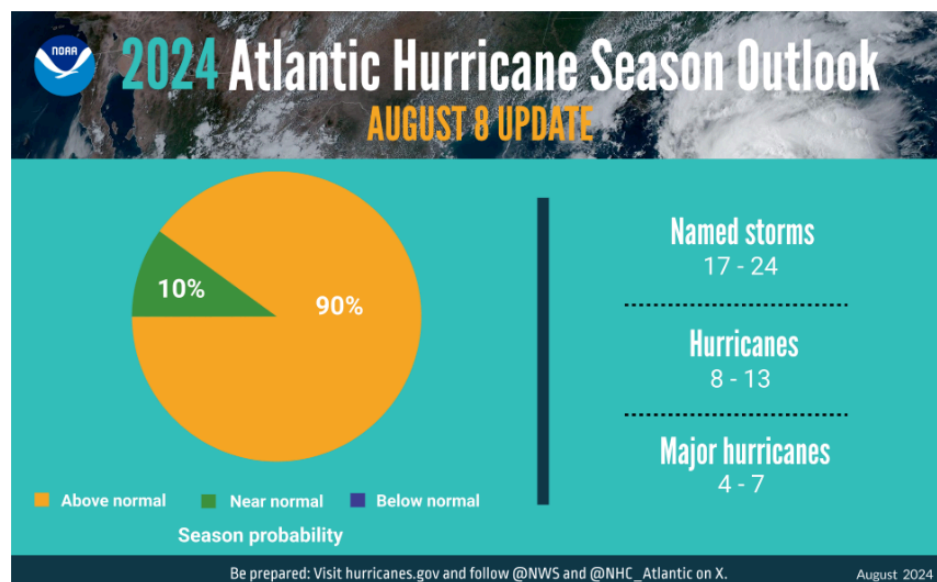


August 9, 2024

Key Takeaways

- Tropical Cyclone Debby continues to impact the Commonwealth and has caused at least six deaths nationally. Another system, with a 40-60% chance of developing into a tropical cyclone over the next seven days, is heading towards the Caribbean.
- The WHO will convene an emergency committee meeting to consider whether the clade Ib mpox outbreak in Africa is a 'PHEIC'. The outbreak has spread from DR Congo to neighboring Kenya, Rwanda, and Uganda.
- HPAI A(H5N1) was found in ten new dairy herds in Colorado and Texas. The herds in Colorado were detected by a new bulk-milk testing system.
- Antibody tests may have found two new human cases of HPAI A(H5N1) in Texas. Not including those cases, the official human case count for 2024 is now 13.
- The World Health Organization updated its priority pathogen list, adding mpox, influenza A, and dengue among other pathogens.
- COVID-19 rates continue to grow. COVID-19 wastewater levels and ED diagnosis rates now rival those of late January.
- Oregon is experiencing a multi-county measles outbreak. The number of measles cases detected in 2024 is already more than three times the number detected in 2023.

Key Figure



NOAA forecasts a 90% chance of an 'above normal' season. Image Source: [NWS](#).

Tropical Outlook

13-20

The number of named storms expected in the remainder of the 2024 Atlantic Hurricane Season, excluding the four named storms that have already occurred.

COVID-19

90%

The likelihood that COVID-19 activity is growing in Virginia, according to CDC models as of Aug 6.

HPAI A(H5N1)

189

HPAI A(H5N1) detections in dairy cattle herds in the United States as of Aug 9.

Overdoses

452

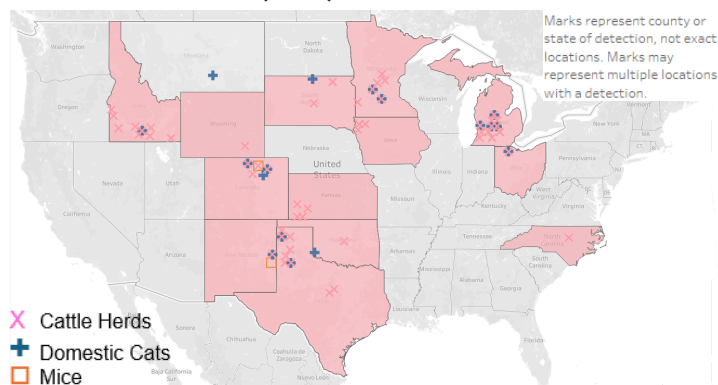
Fatal drug overdoses reported in Virginia in the first quarter of 2024.

Ongoing Monitored Situations

Avian Influenza A(H5N1)

- **HPAI A(H5N1) continues to spread among cattle.** This week the virus was detected in nine new herds in Colorado, and one in Texas. This brings the total affected herds to 189 across 13 states. The Colorado detections used the new mandatory bulk-tank milk testing program implemented in late July.

HPAI A(H5N1) in Select Mammals



HPAI A(H5N1) has been detected 27 different mammalian species including cattle, cats, and mice in 13 states. Source: [USDA](#).

- **A new preprint study found evidence of H5N1 antibodies in two of 14 sampled farmworkers.** Both worked with cattle affected by the HPAI A(H5N1) outbreak, and both reported recent respiratory symptoms. These cases are not included in the official count, which remains at 13 human cases in 2024. Nine of these cases were poultry workers, and four were dairy cattle workers.
- **A Nature study from Japan found that blowflies may be vectors for HPAI A(H5N1).** The prevalence of HPAI viruses in captured *Calliphora nigribarbis* was 2.2%. Though *C. nigribarbis* is primarily found in East Asia, similar species like *Calliphora vomitoria* are found in Virginia.

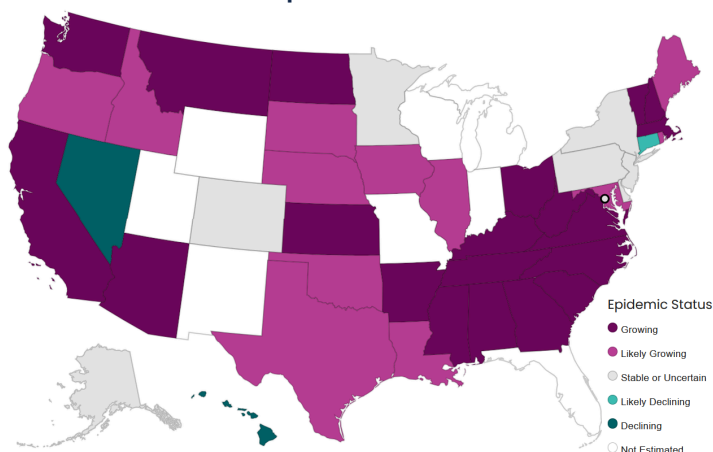
Measles

- **Measles incidence increased significantly in 2024.** The total of 211 cases so far this year are nearly four times the 58 cases reported in 2023. This week, Oregon reported a major outbreak including 23 cases spread across three counties. The Oregon Health Authority is meeting to address the ongoing threat.

Seasonal Respiratory Illness

- **COVID-19 growth continues in the Commonwealth.** The emergency department (ED) diagnosis rate for COVID-19 in Virginia increased by a further 16.5% this week. At 2.68% it is now comparable to the rates seen in late January. Nationally, rates have increased by 4.1% from the previous week, and six states report 'moderate' ED diagnosis rates exceeding 3.0%.
- **Wastewater viral loads of COVID-19 still increasing.** Surveillance data from the CDC shows a 'high' viral load in Virginia and nationally, and a 'very high' load in the American South. Independent data from WastewaterSCAN shows a 'high' concentration and three-week upward trend in the American South.

Current Epidemic Growth Status



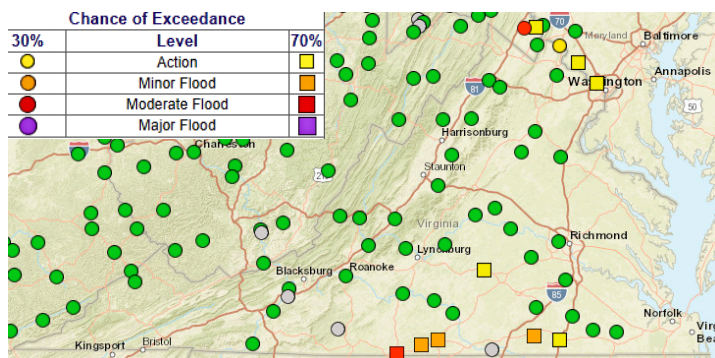
Epidemic models suggest that COVID-19 activity is likely growing in 33 states, mostly in the Southeast and Midwest. The same models find a 90% likelihood that COVID-19 is growing in Virginia. Source: [CFA](#).

Mpox

- **The WHO will convene an emergency committee to consider labeling the mpox outbreak in Africa a PHEIC.** A novel, more virulent clade 1b mpox has caused 511 deaths in DR Congo and has spread to Kenya, Rwanda, and Uganda. The virus may have also spread to Burundi.
- **CDC issues mpox Health Alert Network message.** The agency still considers the risk posed by clade 1 mpox to the United States to be 'very low', but notes that the risk to the American MSM community is 'low to moderate'.

Other News

River Forecasts

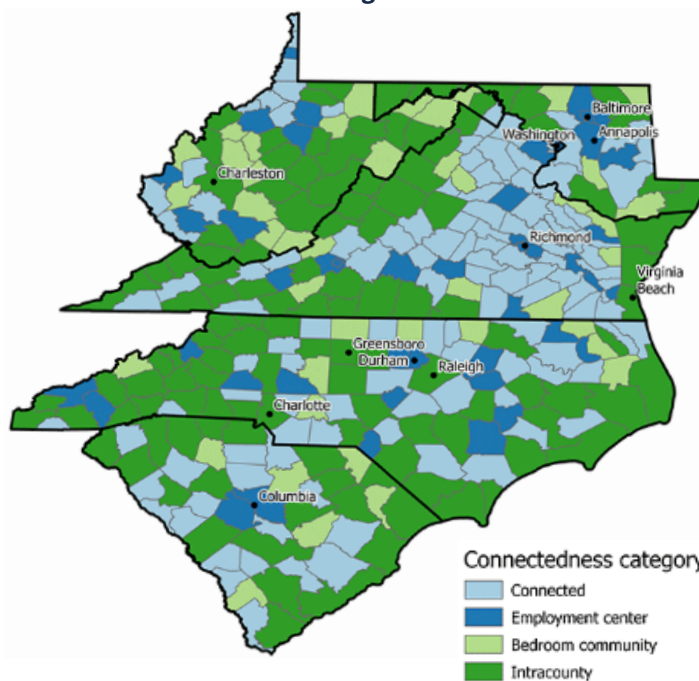


The National Weather Service expects minor flooding in some Virginia river systems over the next two days following rains from Tropical Cyclone Debby. Danville may experience moderate flooding. Image source: NWS.

- **Tropical Cyclone Debby caused widespread impacts along the East Coast**, including at least seven deaths. Multiple states experienced tornados, flooding, and high winds. Virginia’s governor declared a state of emergency in anticipation of Debby’s arrival, while New York’s governor warned of potential flooding. This is an ongoing situation.
- **A blood-donation organization asked clients to activate critical blood shortage protocols following a cyberattack**. The organization, which serves over 250 hospitals in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, and the Carolinas, resumed normal operations after a week operating at significantly reduced capacity.
- **Worker fatigue was linked to safety incidents on the DC Metro system**. The system has not recorded a fatal crash since 2009 but has recorded 11 incidents of trains overrunning red lights so far this year, compared to nine in 2023.

- **At least 400 people were arrested and 100 officers injured during widespread rioting in the United Kingdom**. False information and inflammatory rhetoric, on social media have been tied to the violence, which is targeting immigrants.
- **The World Health Organization updated its Priority Pathogens list, identifying 34 priority pathogens in 16 families**. Notably, mpox, dengue, and influenza A were added to the list. However, the WHO emphasized research and preparedness targeting pathogen families over individual pathogens.
- **The Franklin-Southampton County Fair was cancelled** after strong winds damaged several fairground buildings. Strong storms (which occurred the Sunday prior to Debby’s impact on Virginia) spawned wind speeds of 60 to 70 miles per hour.
- **Virginia recorded 452 fatal drug overdoses in the Q1 2024**, down from 538 the previous quarter, and 679 in Q1 2023. Drug overdoses remain the leading cause of unnatural death in Virginia and illicit fentanyl remains the main driver.
- **Over 130 people were affected by a cyclosporiasis outbreak in North Carolina**. The outbreak was linked to several restaurants but a specific food source has not been identified. The outbreak began in July and “appears to be over” according to state officials.

Commuting Patterns



Virginia counties have higher rates of commuter inflow and outflow compared to other states in the Federal Reserve’s Fifth District, which can have transitory impacts on populations affected by emergencies. Additionally, 43.6 million tourists spent the night in Virginia in 2023. Image source: Richmond Fed.