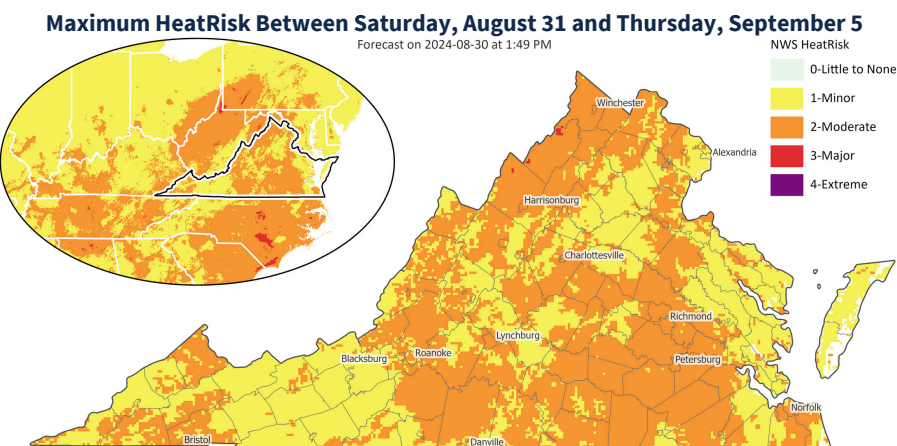


August 30, 2024

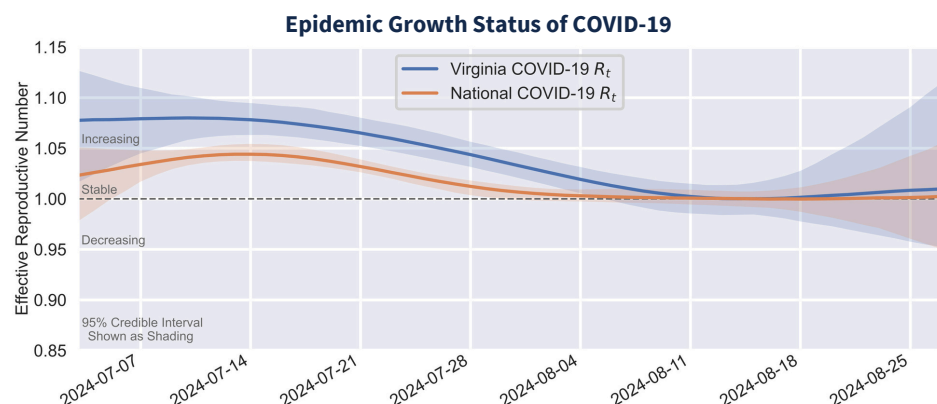
## Key Takeaways

- The State Health Commissioner has released a [communicable disease update](#) for the Commonwealth.
- COVID-19 activity has likely stabilized but remains elevated.
- The 2024-2025 COVID-19 vaccines were approved by the FDA. They are recommended for everyone older than six months of age.
- Clade 1b mpox cases are increasing in Burundi. No new cases were reported outside of Africa this week.
- WHO has launched a preparedness and response plan to combat mpox.
- The measles outbreaks in Oregon and Minnesota continue to grow.
- Dangerous heat is expected to continue over the weekend. Much of Virginia will experience moderate heat risk.
- Anti-microbial resistance was responsible for 255,000 deaths in Africa in 2019. This represents 20% of the global total.

## Key Figures



The next week should be milder in terms of extreme heat. Parts of Virginia may experience 'moderate' HeatRisk, but no regions should experience 'extreme' heat. Source: [NWS](#).



Models suggest COVID-19 activity has stabilized in Virginia and the U.S. Source: [CDC](#).

## Mpox

5

The number of countries with [reported](#) locally acquired clade 1b cases as of Aug 25.

2

The number of clade 1b mpox cases [reported](#) outside of Africa as of Aug 23, 2024.

## COVID-19

62%

The likelihood that COVID-19 activity is growing in Virginia, according to CDC [models](#) as of Aug 27.

## High

The current COVID-19 wastewater viral activity [level](#) in Virginia as of Aug 29.

## H5N1

193

H5N1 [detections](#) in dairy cattle herds in the United States as of Aug 30.

**Spotlight:**  
Antimicrobial  
Resistance

## Ongoing Monitored Situations

- **State Health Commissioner releases communicable disease update.** The [update](#) details control efforts and recommendations for pertussis, HPAI A(H5N1), invasive Group A Streptococcus (iGAS), and clade I mpox.

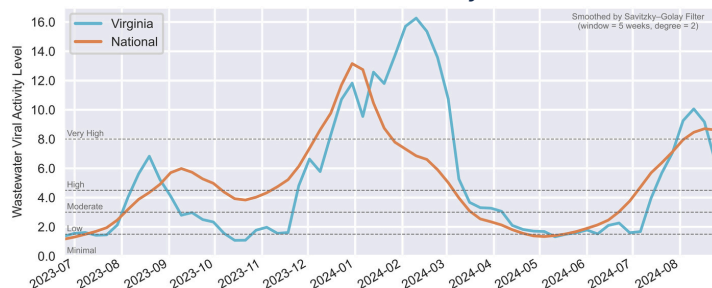
### Avian Influenza A(H5N1)

- **HPAI A(H5N1) outbreak continues.** After a week without any new detections, the virus was [detected](#) in dairy herds in Michigan and New Mexico. Colorado remains the most affected state this month with detections in 13 dairy herds in the last 30 days.
- **Wastewater levels elevated in CO and AR.** Sampling 145 sites for the last two weeks, the CDC [reports](#) that H5 viral proteins were found at two sites, one in Arkansas and one in Colorado. [WastewaterSCAN](#) data paint a similar picture with no H5 detections outside of Colorado or Arkansas in the previous fortnight.

### Seasonal Respiratory Illness

- **COVID-19 activity is stable but elevated.** The COVID-19 [diagnosis](#) rate in Emergency Departments (ED) is down slightly this week, both in [Virginia](#) and nationally. Though viral activity levels are still [‘high’](#) in the Commonwealth, wastewater sampling now also shows a [declining](#) trajectory.
- **HHS to resume mailing free COVID-19 test kits.** Families will be eligible to receive four [free](#) test kits by mail starting in late September.
- **FDA approves 2024-2025 COVID-19 vaccines.** The [vaccines](#) which target the KP.2 subvariant should be available by mid-September. The CDC [recommends](#) vaccines for everyone over six-months of age.
- **CDC releases Southern Hemisphere flu update.** The agency [found](#) that influenza A(H3N2) was dominant in Australia and South America, while A(H1N1) was more common in Africa. Overall, flu activity was similar to that of prior seasons, including 2017-19 and 2022-23.

**Wastewater COVID-19 Viral Activity Level Trends**

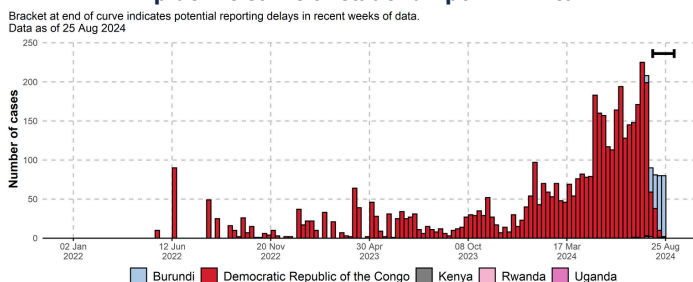


Having declined for two weeks, Virginia’s COVID-19 wastewater activity levels have now fallen into the CDC’s ‘high’ category. Data source: [CDC](#).

### Mpox

- **Clade Ib mpox is growing in Burundi.** Though DR Congo [continues](#) to represent the majority of clade Ib cases, Burundi has [reported](#) significant growth in the last four weeks. The virus has also been detected in Kenya, Rwanda, and Uganda, with limited growth.

**Epidemic Curve of Clade Ib Mpox in Africa**



Having spread from eastern DR Congo, clade Ib mpox cases continue to grow in neighboring nations in the Congo Basin. Image source: [WHO](#).

- **WHO launches strategic global preparedness and response plan.** The [plan](#) is aimed at containing the mpox outbreak in Africa. It calls for the distribution of \$135 million in funding, and [focuses](#) on surveillance, readiness, and vaccination efforts.
- **Clades Ia and Ib may have diverged centuries ago.** Studies have found [evidence](#) of a clade Ib spillover that occurred in eastern DR Congo prior to 2012. There is also limited evidence to support the notion that clade Ib mpox is as virulent as clade Ia mpox, or has a similar case-fatality rate.
- **Sporadic cases of clade II mpox continue globally.** Though Virginia has not [recorded](#) a new case since early June, there were 290 and 345 new [cases](#) of clade II mpox in the Region of the Americas in June and July respectively.

### Measles

- **Outbreaks continue as the K-12 school year begins.** The CDC [reports](#) seven new cases this week, bringing the national total to 236. The outbreaks in [Oregon](#) and [Minnesota](#) have now exceeded 30 cases each. There is concern that the low [uptake](#) of measles vaccinations, combined with the start of the new school year, could [exacerbate](#) the situation.

## Spotlight

- In 2019, antimicrobial resistance (AMR) caused 255,000 deaths in Africa, accounting for over 20% of the global total, according to the African Union Landmark AMR Report, released earlier this month. Over 65% of the antibiotics used in African healthcare settings are concentrated among just four drugs. Frequent shortages, over-reliance on available drugs, limited infection prevention programs, and gaps in surveillance all possibly contribute to antimicrobial resistance.

- The New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene has advised healthcare providers to discontinue the use of ciprofloxacin as post-exposure prophylaxis for close contacts of patients with invasive meningococcal disease due to increasing antimicrobial resistance. In 2023-2024, 20% of *Neisseria meningitidis* isolates in New York State outside New York City (NYC) and 17% in NYC were resistant to ciprofloxacin, approaching the CDC-recommended threshold for discontinuation. This recommendation is also active for healthcare providers in Northern Virginia.

## Antimicrobial Resistance

Threat	Change in Rates or Number of Infections***				
	2020 vs. 2019	2021 vs. 2020	2022 vs. 2021	2022 vs. 2019	
URGENT*	Hospital-onset CRE	Increase ▲	Increase ▲	Stable ▬	Increase ▲
	Hospital-onset Carbapenem-resistant <i>Acinetobacter</i>	Stable ▬	Stable ▬	Stable ▬	Increase** ▲
	Clinical Cases of <i>C. auris</i>	Increase ▲	Increase ▲	Increase ▲	Increase ▲
SERIOUS*	Hospital-onset MRSA	Increase ▲	Stable ▬	Decrease ▼	Stable ▬
	Hospital-onset VRE	Increase ▲	Increase ▲	Stable ▬	Increase ▲
	Hospital-onset ESBL-producing Enterobacterales	Increase ▲	Stable ▬	Stable ▬	Increase ▲
	Hospital-onset MDR <i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i>	Increase ▲	Increase ▲	Stable ▬	Increase ▲

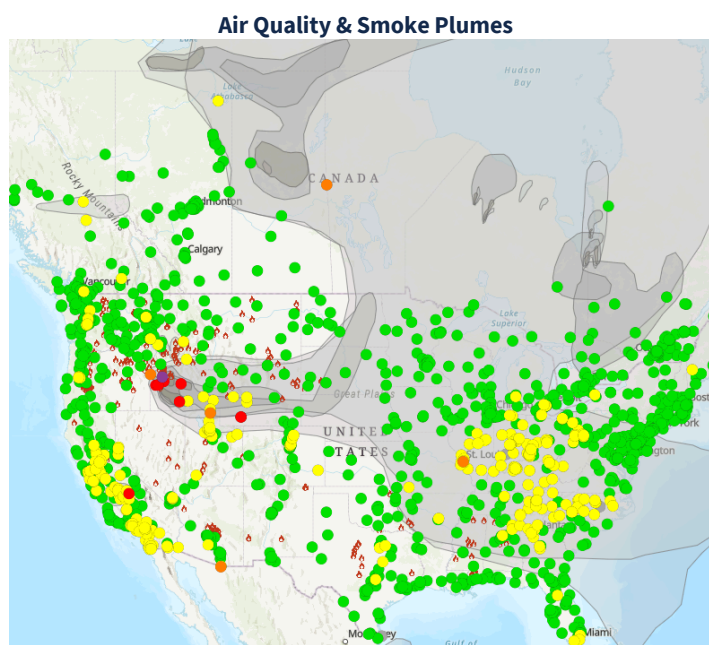
The CDC reported a 20% increase in bacterial antimicrobial-resistant hospital-onset infections during the COVID-19 pandemic compared to pre-pandemic levels, with rates for most pathogens remaining elevated in 2022. Image Source: [CDC](#).

## Other News

- 31 travel-related Oropouche cases have been reported in the U.S. The CDC reported 21 cases as of August 16, all involving travel to Cuba, and Florida reported 10 more August 18-24. Significant outbreaks of Oropouche, dengue, and chikungunya, all arboviral diseases, have impacted South America this year.

- Mosquito-borne viruses detected in Virginia. Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) was detected in a horse and mosquitos in Suffolk. West Nile virus has been detected in multiple areas. A human EEE death was reported in New Hampshire, while parks in several Massachusetts towns closed after dark following a human EEE case near Boston.

- The 'Do Not Use' water advisory for some Orange County residents was lifted Tuesday after six days. Laboratory tests over several days demonstrated that water met all federal and state drinking water standards. Officials have not determined the cause of the unknown petroleum odor which spawned the advisory but the investigation into the source is ongoing.



Wildfires in western states and Canada continue to send smoke plumes across the continental United States. Air quality is expected to be 'moderate' in Virginia over the weekend. Image Source: [AirNow](#).