

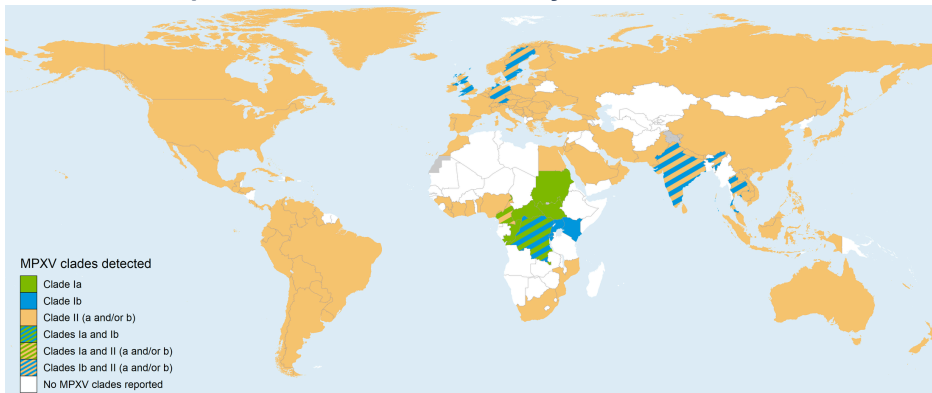
November 01, 2024

Key Takeaways

- Washington state has reported additional human cases of HPAI A(H5N1). California still leads in detections among cattle. A viral sample isolated from a dairy worker proved susceptible to antivirals.
- A pig was found infected with HPAI A(H5N1) in Oregon.
- The CDC recommends a second COVID-19 vaccine for vulnerable adults and pneumococcal vaccines for adults over 50.
- A Lancet study found the RSV vaccine to be highly effective.
- The National Capital Region is increasing security measures as concerns about political violence escalate.
- While drug overdose death rates have decreased among White Americans, people of color are experiencing the opposite trend.

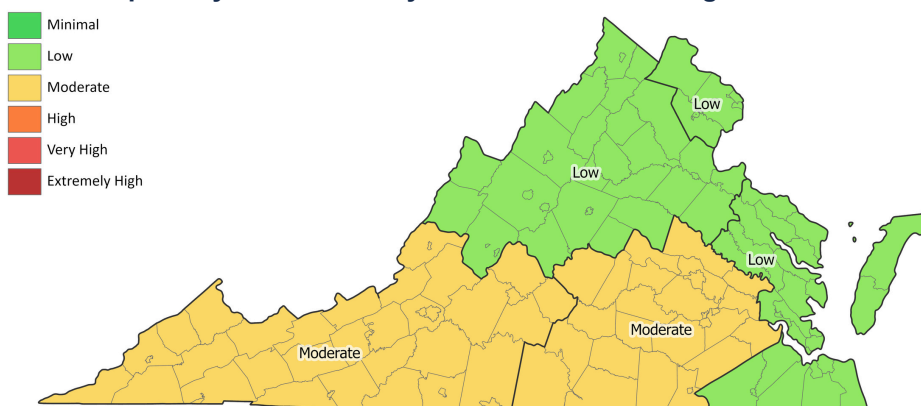
Key Figures

Mpox Clades Detected Globally as of 2024-10-27



Isolated cases of Clade Ib mpox have been detected in Germany, India, Sweden, Thailand, and the UK. All were travel related. The ongoing outbreak remains limited to the Congo Basin. Source: [WHO](#).

Respiratory Illness Activity Levels — Week ending 2024-10-26



Respiratory illness activity is 'moderate' in the Central and Southwest regions. It is 'low' in all other regions and statewide. Source: [VDH](#).

Mpox

5

The number of clade Ib mpox cases reported outside of Africa as of Oct 31, 2024.

Seasonal Illness

2

Number of Virginia's five regions at Moderate or higher respiratory illness activity levels for the week ending Oct 26.

63% / 84%

The likelihood that COVID-19 / flu activity is growing in Virginia, according to CDC models as of Oct 22, 2024.

HPAI A(H5N1)

402

HPAI A(H5N1) detections in dairy cattle herds in the United States as of Oct 31.

39

Human HPAI A(H5N1) cases in the United States as of Oct 31.

Spotlight:
2024 Elections

Ongoing Monitored Situations

Marburg Virus Disease

- **Marburg virus outbreak slowing.** The Rwandan Ministry of Health reported two new cases and no new deaths this week. This brings the total cases and deaths to 66 and 15 respectively (CFR ≈ 22.7%). Only two patients are thought to have active infections; both are in isolation.

Seasonal Illness

- **Virginia respiratory illness activity is low and stable.** After two months of decline, emergency department diagnoses of COVID-19 in Virginia have stabilized around 0.6%. Diagnoses of flu and RSV are stable at 0.2% and 0.1% respectively. National wastewater surveillance finds ‘low’ activity for COVID-19 and ‘minimal’ influenza-A activity.
- **EVD68 is elevated but stable, PIV growing.** Wastewater data suggest that enterovirus D68 (EVD68) in Virginia’s HHS Region has been stable at an elevated level since October. CDC test positivity data suggest that rhinovirus/enterovirus and human parainfluenza virus (PIV) activity is increasing in the region.
- **CDC recommends second COVID-19 vaccine for the vulnerable.** Citing the increased risk COVID-19 poses to the immunocompromised and adults over 65, the agency recommended a second 2024-2025 COVID-19 vaccine for both groups. The new recommendations also allow healthcare providers to offer additional doses to severely immunocompromised individuals.
- **CDC lowers age for pneumococcal vaccine.** Previously suggested for adults over 65, the agency now recommends the vaccine for adults aged 50 and over.
- **Study finds RSV vaccine is highly effective.** The study, published in The Lancet, found an 80% efficacy against hospitalization in adults over 60. Only about 24% of eligible adults received an RSV vaccine last season.
- **Moderna to begin phase III trial of Norovirus vaccine.** After promising preliminary results, the company will begin a year-long trial in the UK. If successful the vaccine could be available by 2026.

Avian Influenza A(H5N1)

- **Washington state reports more human cases.** The statewide total now stands at nine cases, and national total at 39. With the exception of a single case of unknown origin in Missouri, all cases were among workers of poultry or cattle facilities.
- **H5N1 found in a pig in central Oregon.** The USDA reports the pig belonged to a backyard farm and was not associated with any commercial pork facility. The farm had an ongoing outbreak among poultry. Pigs pose an elevated risk as they can be co-infected with bird and human influenza viruses, potentially leading to viral reassortment.
- **Outbreak ongoing in California dairy herds.** The state reported 31 new detections among cattle this week. It is also responsible for 148 of the 150 nationwide detections in the last 30 days. Infected cattle were also found in Utah at eight commercial dairy facilities.
- **Virus found to be susceptible to antivirals.** The NIH released findings after studying a sample of H5N1 isolated from an infected dairy worker. Though the patient experienced only mild conjunctivitis, the virus appeared “transmissible and lethal” to animal models. However, it was also highly susceptible to several common antivirals.
- **USDA to expand bulk milk testing.** The agency will initially test milk at a regional level, then test at individual farms if the virus is detected regionally.

Mpox

- **UK reports case of clade Ib mpox.** The single case was detected in London in a patient with a history of travel to Africa. Health authorities have begun contact tracing and consider the threat to the British public to be low.
- **Clade Ib outbreak continues in Congo Basin.** Once again DR Congo, Burundi, and Uganda represent the majority of new weekly cases of clade Ib mpox. This continues a trend that started in the summer. DR Congo is also dealing with an ongoing outbreak of clade Ia mpox. Initial reports suggest a high level of vaccine uptake in Rwanda and DR Congo.

Spotlight

Political Violence

66% of voters say the threat of political violence is a major problem in the U.S. today

% of registered voters who say the threat of violence against political leaders and their families is a ___ in our country today



An October survey found that 66% of registered voters think political violence is a major problem. Another survey found just over 40% are concerned about violent attempts to influence election results and violence targeting political figures or election officials. Image source: Pew Research Center.

- **Major party presidential candidates rally in Washington, DC and Salem, VA.** A large campaign rally was held in Washington on Tuesday evening for one candidate. The other plans to attend a campaign rally in the Salem Civic Center this coming Saturday (Nov 2).

2024 Elections

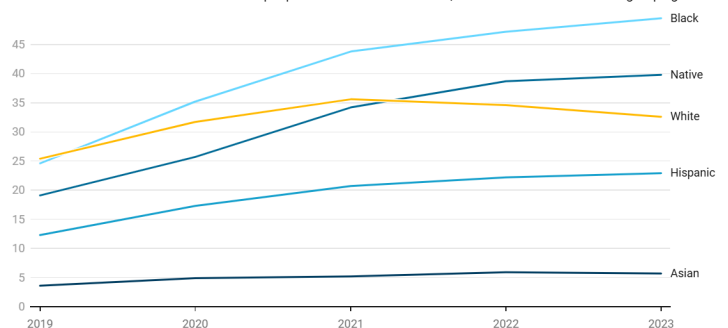
- The Capital Region is ramping up security ahead of elections on Nov 5. Security will remain elevated through inauguration day on Jan 21. Other key dates include Dec 17, when electors gather in the states, and Jan 6, when Congress certifies the election in DC. The Secret Service has designated electoral vote certification and the Inauguration as National Special Security Events.
- **Foreign actors may try to foment unrest around the elections.** The Office of the Director of National Intelligence warned that foreign actors may try to post disinformation to undermine the legitimacy of elections, fan violence or intimidate officials. They may also post officials' personal information to encourage targeted unrest.
- **A single suspect carried out three separate shooting incidents at an Arizona campaign office.** This follows two assassination attempts targeting a presidential candidate earlier this year. A Reuters review identified 300 cases of political violence since Jan 6, 2021.

Other News

- **Repairs are set to begin this month on a 1.5-mile stretch of US-58 in Damascus that was destroyed by Hurricane Helene.** The confined location of the gorge and the need for single-lane track access during repairs presents unique challenges, therefore, repairs are expected to take a year to complete.
- **Black and Native Americans saw the highest rates of overdose deaths in 2023, at about 50 and 40 per 100,000, respectively.** A lack of tailored programming, inadequate funding, and difficulty accessing services have contributed to an increase in overdose death rates in these populations.
- **The Iowa Department of Health has confirmed the death of a middle-aged eastern Iowa resident from Lassa fever.** The patient recently returned from traveling in West Africa, where he was suspected to have contracted the virus through potential contact with rodents. The CDC has emphasized there is extremely low risk to the public at this time.

Overdose death rates fall only for whites

The U.S. overdose death rate fell for white people between 2021 and 2023, but the death rates for other groups grew.



While overdose death rates have decreased among White Americans since 2021, Black and Native Americans have experienced an increase in overdose deaths during the same time. Image Source: Stateline.

- **The FDA has authorized a 12-month extension on the use dates of 50+ IV and irrigation codes to provide a 24-month expiry period on products manufactured by Baxter.** The manufacturer has also transported over 800 truckloads of finished product to its customers and expanded support for peritoneal dialysis (PD) patients.