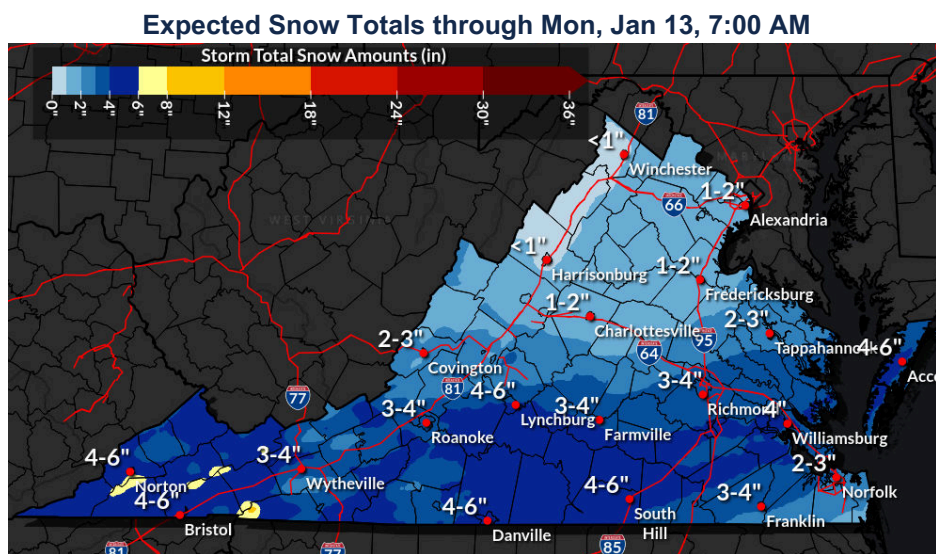


January 10, 2025

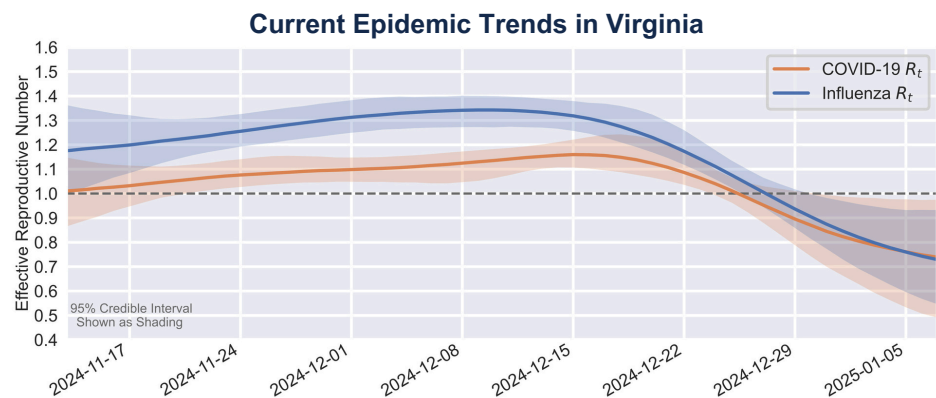
## Key Takeaways

- Winter Storm Blair caused disruptions nationally and across Virginia. Another storm will impact Virginia beginning today.
- Impacted localities in the Greater Richmond region anticipate being able to lift boil water advisories this weekend.
- Louisiana reports nations first HPAI A(H5N1) death. The virus was of a different genotype than the one circulating in dairy cattle.
- Respiratory illness activity in Virginia is 'High' but trending down.
- China, France, Oman, and Pakistan report clade I mpox cases.
- WHO considers Human Metapneumovirus surge in China routine.
- Wildfires in Los Angeles force hundreds of thousands to evacuate.

## Key Figures



Forecasts call for subfreezing temperatures and snow up to 6" in parts of Southwest and Southside Virginia. Image source: [NWS](#).



Though COVID-19 and flu ED diagnoses increased this week, epidemic modeling based on effective reproduction number ( $R_t$ ) suggests declining trajectories for both in the near future. Data source: [CDC](#).

## Mpox

**24**

The number of clade I mpox cases reported outside of Africa as of Jan 9.

## Seasonal Illness

**4**

Number of Virginia's five regions at 'High' or higher respiratory illness activity levels for the week ending Jan 4.

**1% / <1%**

The likelihood that COVID-19 / flu activity is growing in Virginia, according to CDC models as of Jan 7.

## HPAI A(H5N1)

**66**

Human HPAI A(H5N1) cases in the United States as of Jan 10.

**924**

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

**Spotlight:**  
**Winter Storm**  
**Impacts**

## Ongoing Monitored Situations

### Avian Influenza A(H5N1)

- **Louisiana reports nation's first H5N1-death.** The patient was over 65 and had underlying medical conditions. The CDC confirmed the virus was of the D1.1 genotype, and not the B3.13 genotype circulating in dairy cattle. The threat to the general public is still considered 'low'.
- **HHS awards \$306 million for preparedness.** The funds will augment surveillance and training programs, support hospital readiness efforts, and fund the development of countermeasures.
- **Fifteen more states join USDA milk testing efforts.** This brings the total to 28 states, which collectively represent about two-thirds of the nation's dairy production. Virginia is provisionally unaffected and has not yet started surveillance.
- **More raw pet food recalled in California.** A recall has been issued for Monarch Raw Pet Food products sold in local farmer's markets. The food infected five cats, two of which have since died.

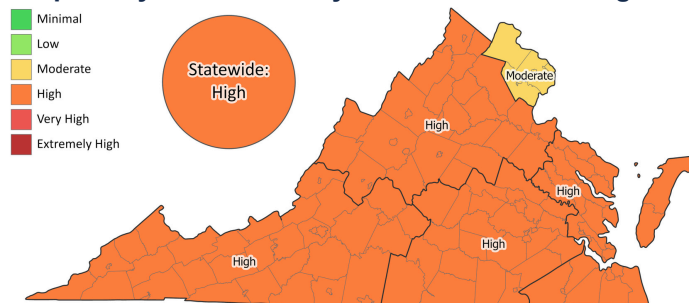
### Mpox

- **Clade Ib mpox detected in China and France.** Both had a history of travel to Africa, though the French case did not report close contact with persons from the region. Four close contacts of the Hong Kong case were also diagnosed with mpox.
- **Clade I cases detected in Pakistan and Oman.** Neither case had traveled to Africa, but both had traveled through the United Arab Emirates. The UAE itself has not reported clade I mpox cases, but India reported a case with a similar travel history in September.

### Seasonal Illness

- **Flu activity is elevated but stable in Virginia.** About 4.3% of emergency department (ED) visits resulted in a diagnosis of flu this week. Though still highly elevated, diagnoses may have plateaued and are up only 0.1 points from last week. Children continue to make up the highest proportion of flu diagnoses.
- **COVID-19 growth is slowing.** Though the ED diagnosis rate increased to 1.6%, models suggest a decline in activity in the near future. Adults over 65 make up the largest proportion of ED visits.
- **RSV activity is stable in Virginia.** Though RSV test positivity in HHS Region 3 continues to surge, ED diagnoses in Virginia are down slightly this week. Children under five years of age represent the majority of all RSV diagnoses, but overall activity in that age group is down from late Dec.

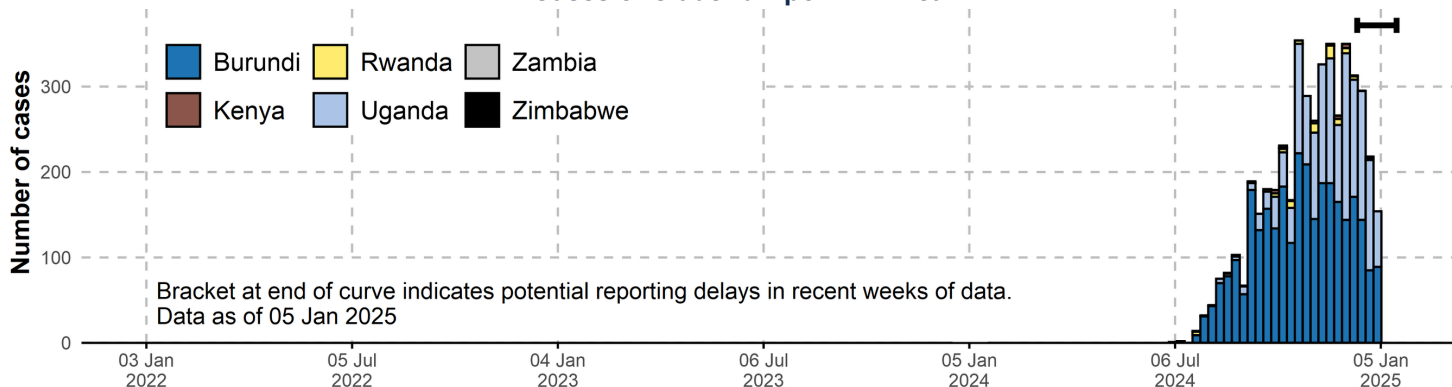
#### Respiratory Illness Activity Levels – Week ending Jan 4



Respiratory illness activity is 'High' statewide as well as in four of Virginia's five regions. Data source: [VDH](#).

- **Mpox outbreak continues in the Congo Basin.** Recent data from DR Congo is limited, but Burundi and Uganda each continue to report approximately 100 new cases of clade Ib mpox per week.

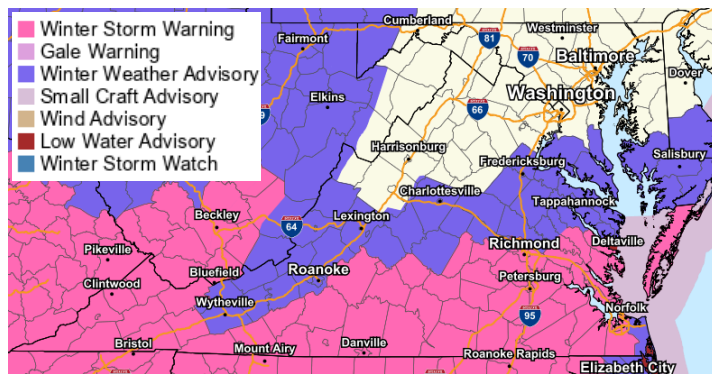
#### Cases of Clade Ib Mpox in Africa



Excluding DR Congo, Burundi and Uganda continue to report the majority of new mpox cases. Source: [WHO](#).

## Spotlight

### Current Watches, Warnings, and Advisories As of Jan 10 at 10:35 AM



Another winter storm is expected to affect Virginia beginning today, bringing more snow, ice, and freezing temperatures. The winter weather-related State of Emergency remains in effect. Source: [NWS](#).

- A storm-related power outage brought Richmond's water treatment plant offline Monday, causing low or no pressure throughout the city. The water shortage cascaded to connected counties, affecting Henrico, Hanover and Goochland, though to a lesser extent. Richmond's system was fully pressurized as of Thursday afternoon, but boil water advisories persist.

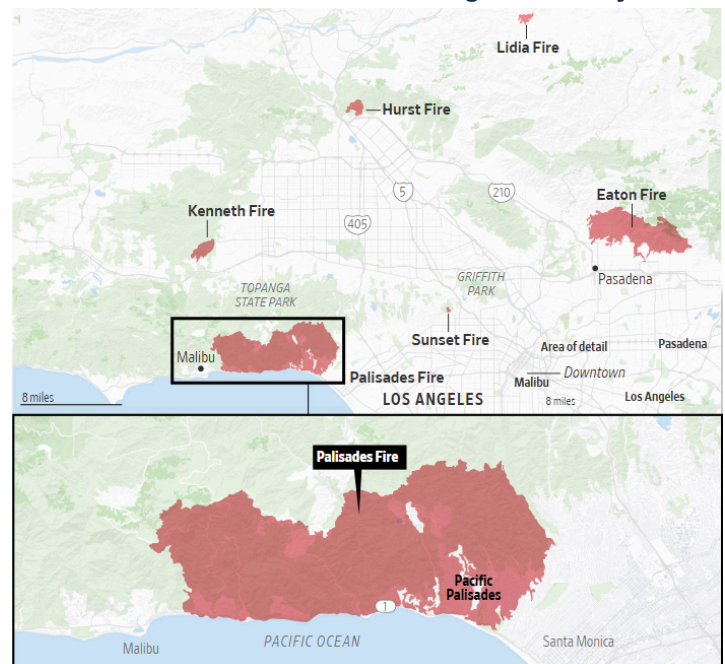
## Other News

- The International Longshoremen's Association came to a tentative agreement with the U.S. Maritime Alliance on a six-year contract. The tentative agreement has avoided a potential strike one week ahead of the January 15 deadline.
- The WHO considers China's hMPV rise routine. Human Metapneumovirus (hMPV) is a well-known respiratory pathogen that usually causes mild illness. Though hMPV activity is increasing in Northern China, WHO considers this rise to be within the "expected range" for the pathogen.
- Wildfires in Los Angeles have forced over 360,000 residents to evacuate and left at least ten dead. While powerful Santa Ana winds coming from the more inland areas of the state are primarily driving the fires, recent drought conditions have made vegetation more flammable.
- A coal train derailed in Fluvanna County on Tuesday morning, leaving multiple loaded coal cars overturned. No injuries were reported and there are no environmental concerns at this time, but the cause of the incident remains under investigation.

## Winter Storm Impacts

- Winter Storm Blair caused national impacts this week, spawning 2025's first tornado in California and closing schools across the mid-Atlantic. In addition to ice and snow, the storm spawned 12 tornados. At least 60 million people were under winter weather alerts.
- The Governor's Office declared a State of Emergency ahead of the storm. The storm dropped heavy snow across much of Virginia, including over 10 inches in parts of Northern Virginia. Over 120,000 customers in Virginia were without power at its peak. Virginia state police responded to over 860 vehicle accidents between Sunday and Tuesday. Reagan International Airport shutdown its runways overnight Monday.

### Wildfire Locations in Los Angeles County



The largest fires, the Palisades Fire and Eaton Fire, are blazing over 33,000 acres combined, and were completely uncontained as of Wednesday evening. Image Source: [WSJ](#)