

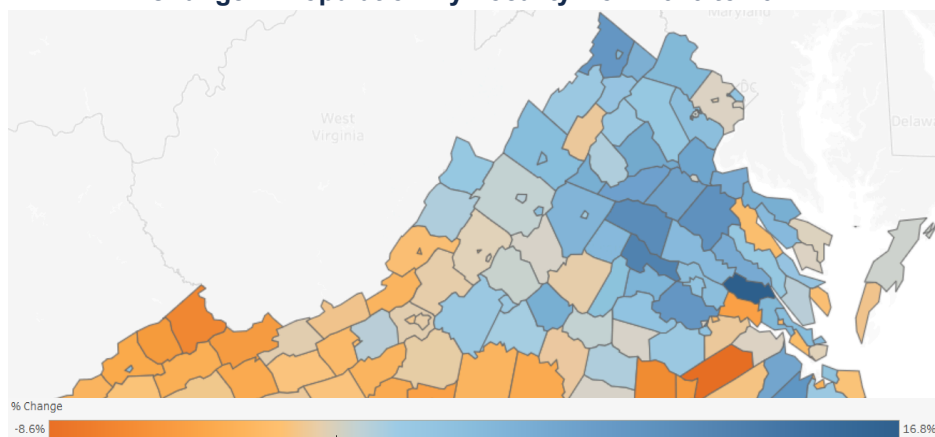
February 7, 2025

## Key Takeaways

- USDA detects second HPAI A(H5N1) genotype in bulk milk, suggesting two separate introductions in dairy cattle.
- Respiratory disease activity in Virginia is high and trending upward. Flu activity is near a five-year high in the Commonwealth.
- The Ebola outbreak in Uganda has grown to four cases. The WHO is testing a new vaccine candidate in the nation's capital.
- Norovirus remains highly elevated in the region.
- North Carolina reports an increase in the number of Tuberculosis cases over the past two years.
- Last week's fatal air crash near the Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport has brought scrutiny of congestion and air safety.

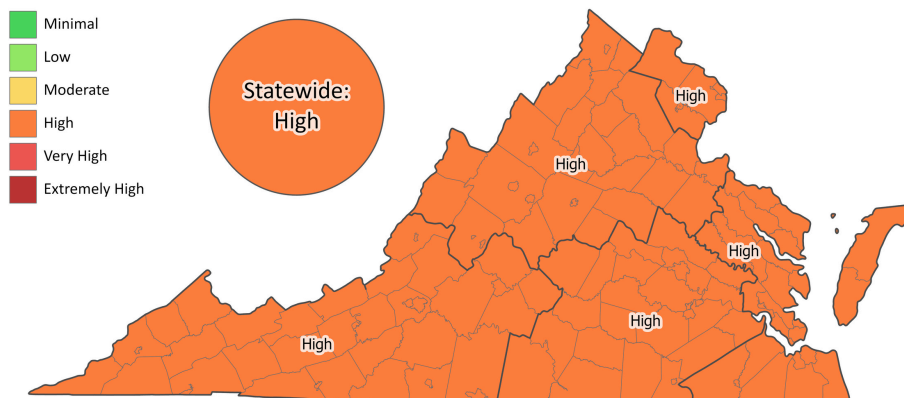
## Key Figures

Change in Population By Locality from 2020 to 2024



Population growth was mainly seen in areas north and east of Lynchburg, while the Southwest, Southside, and areas south of Richmond saw population declines. Image source: [Cooper Center](#).

Respiratory Illness Activity Levels – Week ending Feb 1, 2025



Respiratory illness activity is now 'High' statewide as well as in all five health planning regions of the Commonwealth. Data source: [VDH](#).

## Mpox

35

The number of clade I mpox cases reported outside of Africa as of Feb 6.

## Seasonal Illness

5

Number of Virginia's five regions at 'High' or higher respiratory illness activity levels for the week ending Feb 1.

## HPAI A(H5N1)

67

Human HPAI A(H5N1) cases in the United States as of Jan 17.

## Ongoing Monitored Situations

### Avian Influenza

- **D1.1 genotype HPAI A(H5N1) found in Nevada cattle.** Detected by milk sampling, this marks the first report of D1.1 in cattle, as all earlier cattle cases were caused by the B3.13 genotype. D1.1 is the predominant genotype among wild birds in North America and routinely spills over to poultry. Unlike B3.13 viruses, D1.1 genotype viruses have caused severe disease in humans this year.
- **Ohio outbreaks affect nine million birds.** Over the last 30 days, the state has reported H5N1 infections in about 50 poultry flocks requiring mass depopulation efforts. Despite this, local officials consider the risk to the public to be 'low'.

### Viral Hemorrhagic Fevers

- **WHO responds as Ebola outbreak in Uganda grows.** The WHO has allocated about \$1 million USD to assist with PPE procurement and contact tracing. The index case had an extensive travel history within the nation and visited multiple healthcare facilities. The total case count is now four, with 234 under monitoring.
- **Vaccine trials begin in Kampala.** A candidate vaccine provided by IAVI has been deployed to Uganda. The first doses were given this week. Older vaccines developed for the more common Ebola virus (*Orthoebolavirus zairensis*) are not cross-protective for Sudan virus (*Orthoebolavirus sudanensis*) which is currently affecting Uganda.
- **CDC releases HAN advisory on Ugandan Ebola outbreak.** The health alert notes best practices for providers and health departments faced with potential travel-related Ebola but notes that no cases have been detected outside of Uganda.
- **International aid flows to Tanzania to combat Marburg outbreak.** The Africa CDC and WHO have pledged \$5 million to combat the outbreak which stands at two confirmed cases, 29 probable cases, 10 deaths, and 281 under monitoring.

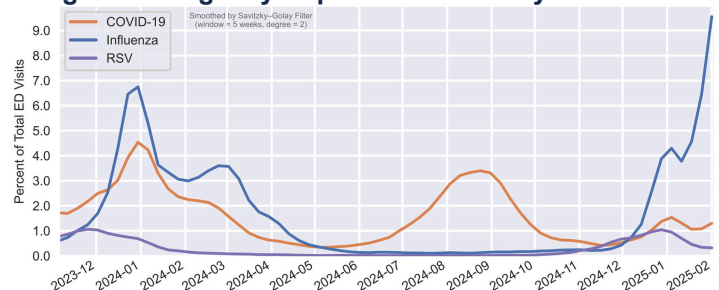
### Mpox

- **Sierra Leone and Uganda both report declines.** Uganda reports 241 cases of clade Ib mpox this week, down from 258 last week. Sierra Leone reported 47 clade II mpox cases, a 50% decrease since last update.

### Seasonal Illness

- **Respiratory illness activity is high in Virginia and trending upward.** National activity is also high. The surge in activity has prompted school closings across the Commonwealth.
- **Flu activity in Virginia reaches record high.** The emergency department (ED) diagnosis rate for flu is now around 9.30%, the highest rate recorded since tracking began in March of 2020. Flu test positivity in HHS Region 3 is also near a 24-month high. Children continue to make up the largest proportion of flu ED visits. The estimated effective reproduction number ( $R_t$ ) for flu is now 1.04 in Virginia, suggesting that growth will level off soon.
- **COVID-19 activity is still 'stable' in Virginia.** ED diagnoses increased slightly this week, from 1.1% to 1.3%. Models estimate an  $R_t = 1.05$  suggesting short-term stability. Children aged 0-4 made up the largest proportion of ED visits this week, but activity remains stable across all age groups.

#### Virginia Emergency Department Visits by Viral Illness

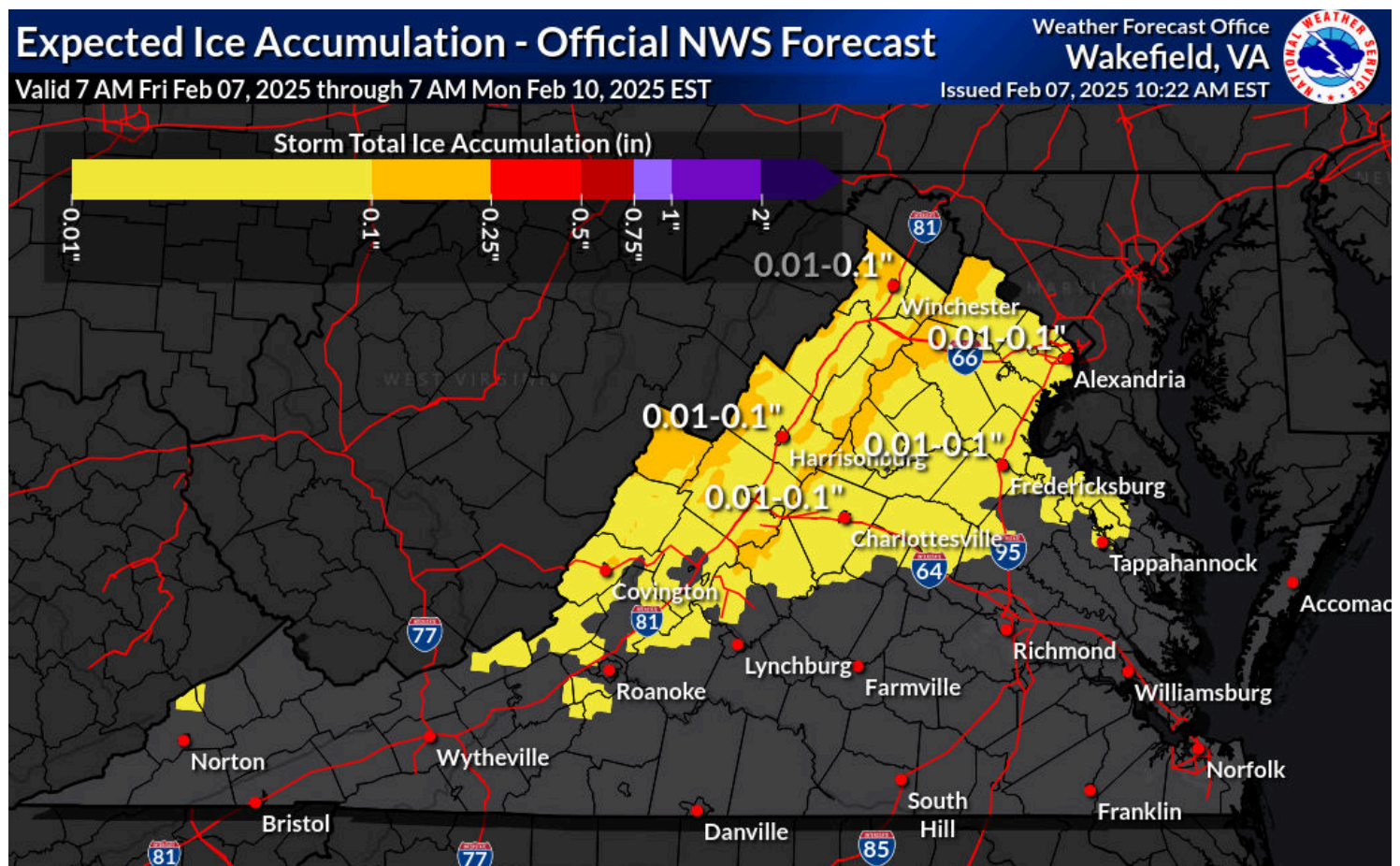


Flu diagnoses are growing steadily. Data source: [VDH](#).

- **RSV activity among children declines.** Overall ED diagnoses for RSV in Virginia have leveled off and are considered 'stable' at 0.3%. Children aged 0-4 continue to represent the majority of ED visits in the Commonwealth, but activity for this age group is down nearly 70% since early January.
- **Norovirus activity highly elevated in region.** Wastewater concentrations of norovirus in HHS Region 3 have been increasing since Jan 13 and are near a 24-month high. Norovirus test positivity in Census Region 3 is also near a 24-month high. Virginia ED and urgent care (UC) visits for gastrointestinal illnesses are up again this week to 12.19%. All five health planning regions of Virginia are 'above threshold', with Southwest reporting the highest rate of ED /UC visits at 14.57%.

## Other News

- Following \$27 billion weather disasters in 2024, January 2025 was the warmest January on record. This year is predicted to be generally cooler than previous years given the shift away from El Niño weather patterns, but a warm start to the year leaves experts uncertain.
- A dozen individuals, including ten children, were treated for minor injuries following a collision between two school buses in **Campbell County**. They have all since been released, and one bus driver has been charged with failing to yield.
- Covington Middle School students and staff were evacuated Friday after the detection of an unidentified odor. It was later determined to be caused by a malfunctioning natural gas stove burner that was releasing carbon monoxide. The school remains closed as of Tuesday this week.
- Rat populations have been increasing in major cities around the world, according to a recent study. Temperature increases over time, denser human populations, and more urbanization were found to be associated with these increases.
- Last week's fatal collision has prompted safety concerns at the **Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport**. While the airport handles 380 domestic flights daily and serves over 23 million passengers annually, it has a shorter runway than most major U.S. airports and operates within a complex 17-mile flight-restricted zone.
- Tuberculosis cases in North Carolina have declined over the last 30 years, but a recent spike puts the state on track for a second consecutive year of increased case numbers. 215 cases were confirmed statewide in 2023, and 2024 numbers are still pending.



*A wintery mix is expected to affect parts of the Commonwealth on Saturday. Areas north of I-64 may see light accumulations of snow and freezing rain. Saturday afternoon temperatures should be above freezing. The next potential winter storm could arrive late on Monday night and into Tuesday morning. Image Source: [NWS](#).*