

February 14, 2025

Key Takeaways

- Winter weather caused a widespread impact this week. Weekend rains and winds, and another round of snow next week, may cause additional impacts.
- Flash flooding is likely in parts of Southwest Virginia on Sunday.
- Nevada reports a case of H5N1 (D1.1 genotype) in a dairy worker. The D1.1 genotype was first detected in cattle on Jan 31. Ohio also reported a new human case at a poultry farm.
- Respiratory illness activity is high and trending upward in Virginia. Flu is at a 15-year high nationally, prompting school closures.
- New Hampshire and New York report travel-related cases of clade Ib mpox. The outbreak in the Congo Basin is ongoing.
- The Ebola outbreak in Uganda may have stabilized.

Key Figures

7-day Flood Outlook – Feb 14, 2025

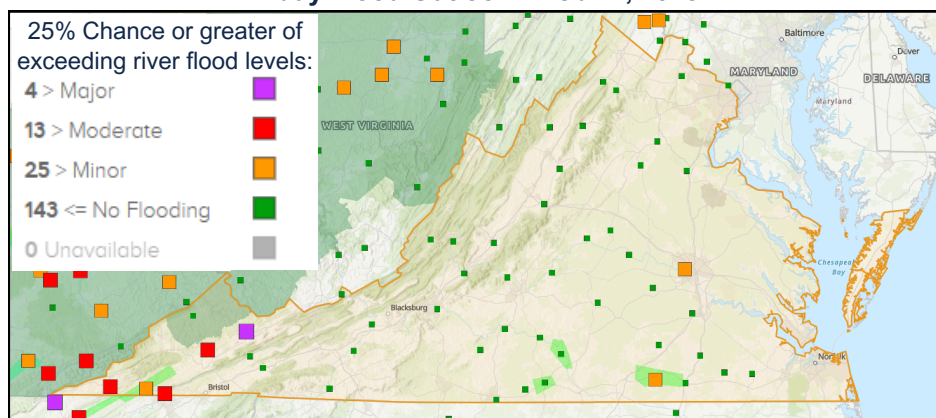
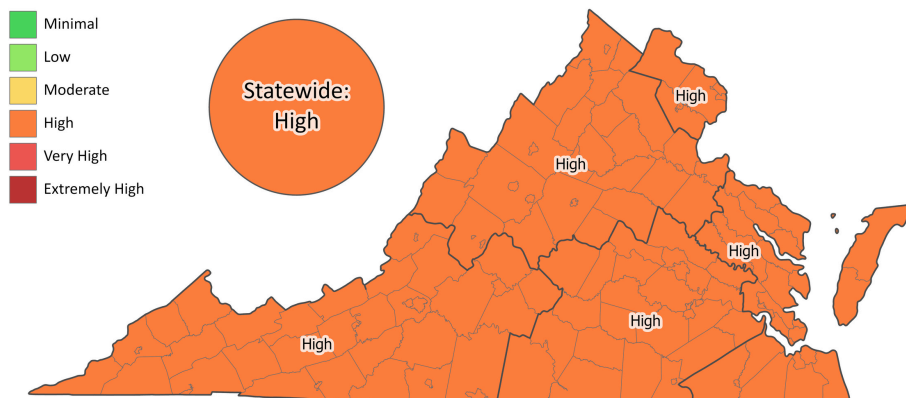


Image Source: [NOAA](#).

Respiratory Illness Activity Levels – Week ending Feb 8, 2025



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

Mpox

40

The number of clade I mpox cases reported outside of Africa as of Feb 13.

Seasonal Illness

5

Number of Virginia's five regions at 'High' or higher respiratory illness activity levels for the week ending Feb 8.

HPAI A(H5N1)

69

Human HPAI A(H5N1) cases in the United States as of Feb 13.

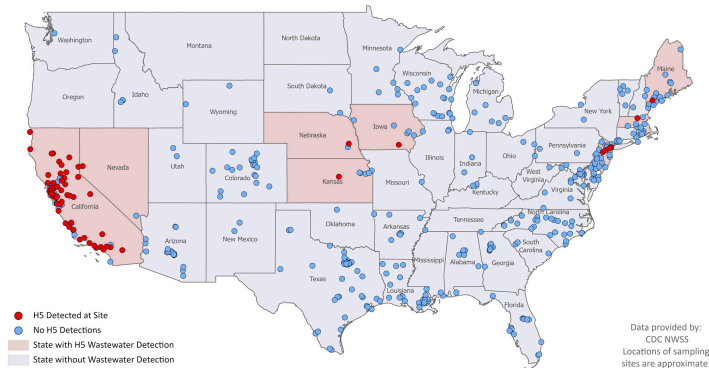
Spotlight: Winter Weather

Ongoing Monitored Situations

Avian Influenza

- **CDC finds evidence of asymptomatic H5N1.** In an [MMWR](#) study the agency reported that 3 of 150 sampled bovine veterinarians had antibodies for H5N1 despite never noticing any symptoms. Two reported no exposures to infected cattle and one practiced in a region without known H5N1 in cattle.
- **Nevada and Ohio report human cases.** The patient in [Nevada](#) worked at a dairy farm with known cattle infections. This is the first recorded case of cattle passing [D1.1](#) genotype H5N1 to humans. The [Ohio](#) case worked at a commercial poultry farm and handled deceased animals.

Wastewater Detections of H5 Viruses – Jan 12 to Feb 8



California leads the nation in detections. Data source: [CDC](#).

Mpox

- **Sporadic clade I mpox cases continue globally.** Travel related cases of clade Ib mpox were detected in [New Hampshire](#) and [New York](#) state this week. [Ireland](#) also detected a travel-related case. The risk to the American public remains low.
- **Clade I spreads to South Sudan as outbreak continues in Congo Basin.** Burundi and Uganda [reported](#) the majority of clade Ib mpox cases this week with 160 and 150 respectively. Initial [reports](#) suggest South Sudan detected its first clade I case. Data from DR Congo remains sparse.

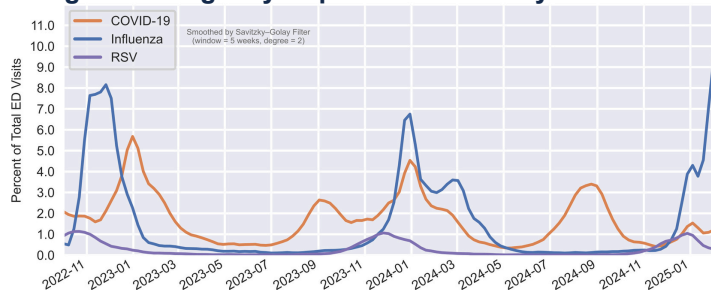
Viral Hemorrhagic Fevers

- **Ebola outbreak in Uganda may have stabilized.** The Ugandan Ministry of Health [reported](#) an additional five cases this week, bringing the total to nine. One patient has died, the remaining eight are stable. Officials from the Africa CDC [described](#) the outbreak as “under control”.

Seasonal Illness

- **Respiratory illness activity remains high in Virginia and is still trending upward.** National activity is ‘very high’. COVID-19 and RSV rates are declining nationally, but flu activity continues to increase and is now near a 15-year high. This has resulted in school closures across ten states. The vast majority of national flu cases were caused by H1N1 or H3N2. A sole variant H1N2v case was found this week, possibly a spillover from swine.
- **Virginia flu activity reaches a new high.** The percent of emergency department (ED) diagnoses for flu has more than doubled in the last month and is now 10.8%. Models estimate an effective reproduction number (R_t) of 0.77 for flu in Virginia, suggesting that activity will start to decline soon.
- **COVID-19 activity remains ‘stable’ in Virginia.** This week saw another mild increase in ED diagnoses of COVID-19. Models now estimate an $R_t = 0.78$ suggesting a decline in activity. Children aged 5-17 are the only age group experiencing a significant increase in COVID-19 activity.

Virginia Emergency Department Visits by Viral Illness

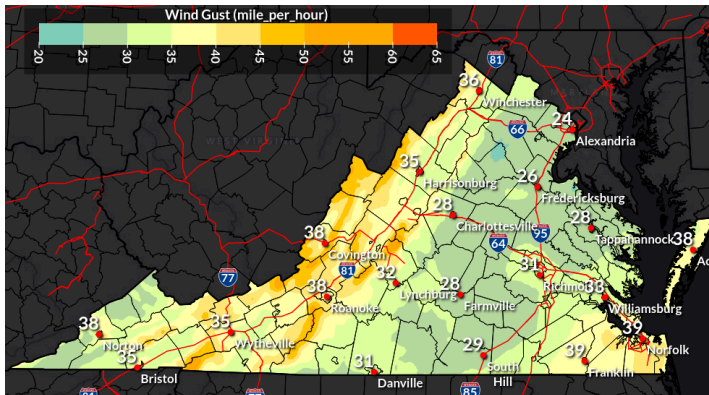


Flu diagnoses have reached a record high. Source: [VDH](#).

- **RSV still declining among young children.** ED diagnoses for RSV in Virginia have been ‘stable’ at 0.3% since late January. Though Children aged 0-4 still represent the majority of RSV-related ED visits, the ED diagnosis rate for this age group has declined from 9.2% to 2.2% in the last six weeks.
- **Norovirus activity is highly elevated but stable.** Wastewater surveillance finds concentrations of norovirus in HHS Region 3 have been stable since early January. Nevertheless, concentrations are highly elevated compared to usual summer lows. In [Virginia](#) ED and urgent care (UC) visits for gastrointestinal illnesses are down to 10.53% this week. Despite this, rates are still above threshold.

Spotlight

Maximum Wind Gust through Mon, Feb 17



Rain and strong winds are expected to affect much of Virginia on Sunday. Gusts are expected to approach 40 mph along the I-81 corridor. In a worst case (10% chance) scenario, gusts could reach 60 mph, and rain may cause flash flooding. Image source: [NWS](#).

- **Flooding is likely in parts of Southwest Virginia over the next week.** Snowmelt, weekend rain, and more snow are likely to cause moderate to major flooding along sections of the Clinch and Powell Rivers, and the North Fork of the Holston. Minor to moderate flooding and flash flooding is expected elsewhere.
- **Pittsylvania county's 911 call center lost power temporarily.** Emergency calls were rerouted to Danville. The cause of the power outage is under investigation but occurred during this week's winter storm.

Other News

- **Henrico and Hanover Counties issued reports about last month's water outage.** The outage impacted about 25% of Henrico's customers. Both reports cited delayed notification and poor communications as exacerbating factors. Both counties may seek to reduce their dependence on Richmond's water supply.
- **Overdoses have decreased statewide recently, but risks remain.** Harm reduction providers noted an increase in overdoses in the New River Valley during January's cold weather. So-called "purple heroin", which is primarily fentanyl, may also be contributing to the increase.
- **China's new AI application 'DeepSeek' may provide dangerous information.** Experts attempting to get past controls were able to trick the AI into providing instructions for modifying bird flu and into promoting self-harm. Other AI products are better at limiting access to dangerous information with varying degrees of success.
- **Texas reported a measles outbreak with 24 cases, including nine hospitalizations.** All cases occurred in Gaines County among unvaccinated individuals, with the majority of cases in youth between the ages 5 and 17.
- **Damage from California's wildfires depleted the state's last-resort insurance fund.** As a result, the state will issue a \$1 Billion fee to all insurance companies, which will pass the cost on to homeowners. Fires, other disasters, and the insurance crisis are exacerbating the existing housing crisis, increasingly driving homelessness.
- **An unidentified illness has impacted over 90 individuals aboard a cruise ship,** including 89 passengers and two crew members. Norovirus is suspected to be causing illness.
- **Virginia's Attorney General Office was struck by a cyberattack Wednesday.** The attack took several systems offline.