

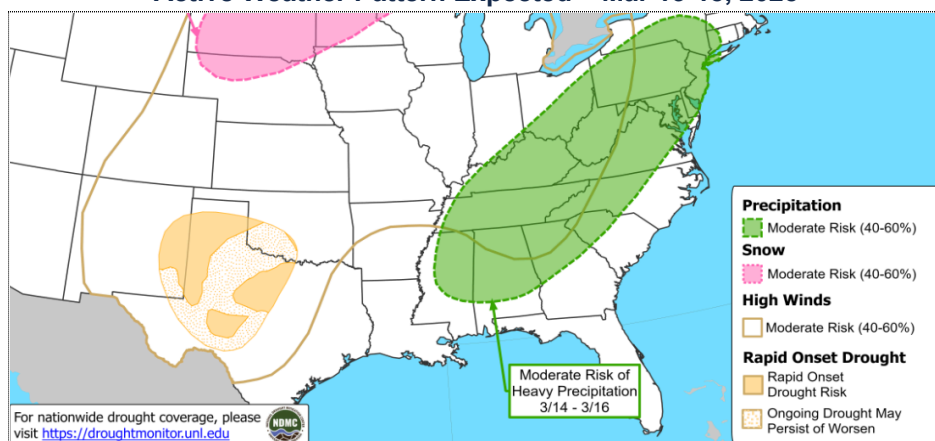
March 7, 2025

Key Takeaways

- The CDC continues to consider the threat posed by H5N1 to the general public to be low.
- Measles cases continue to grow rapidly in Texas. Outbreaks have been reported in another half dozen localities around the nation.
- The WHO has extended the mpox public health emergency. A new variant of clade Ia mpox has been detected in DR Congo.
- Respiratory illness activity in Virginia is moderate and declining.
- A new Ebola cluster has extended the ongoing outbreak in Uganda.
- Fire risk is elevated across Virginia through Thursday. Wildfires are continuing to burn across the Carolinas.
- Dengue cases in the Americas remain elevated but are below last year's levels.

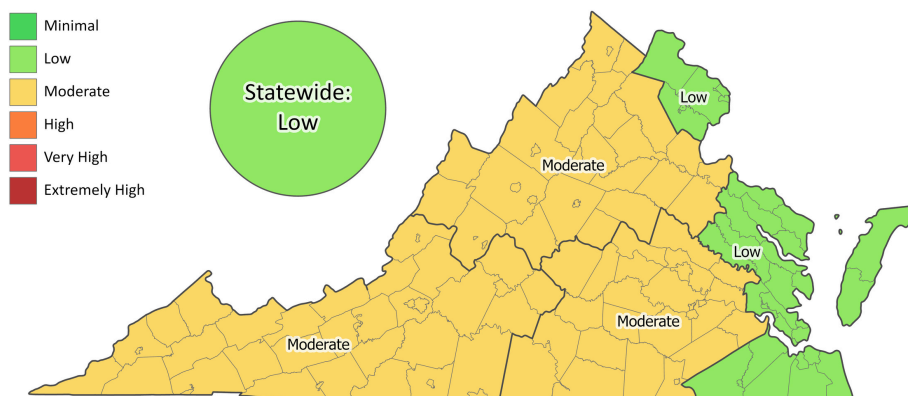
Key Figures

Active Weather Pattern Expected – Mar 13-15, 2025



NOAA's Climate Prediction Center forecasts a moderate risk (40% to 60%) of heavy precipitation across much of Virginia late next week. Image source: [NOAA](#).

Respiratory Illness Activity Levels – Week ending Mar 1, 2025



All five regions experienced a decline in activity this week. Overall statewide respiratory illness activity is now "low". Data source: [VDH](#).

HPAI A(H5N1)

70

Human HPAI A(H5N1) cases in the United States as of Mar 7.

Seasonal Illness

0

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

Measles

222

The number of measles cases reported in the U.S. in 2025, across 11 states, as of Mar 7.

Spotlight: Dengue

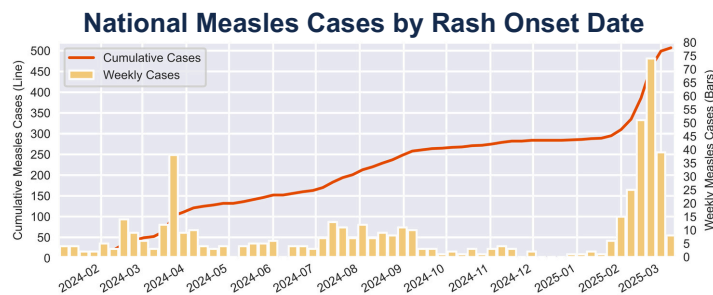
Ongoing Monitored Situations

Avian Influenza

- **CDC updates HPAI A(H5N1) risk assessment.** The agency finds the risk to the general public to be low. Populations in regular contact with infected animals are at moderate to high risk.
- **PAHO reports on H5N1 across the Americas.** The agency found evidence of mammalian H5N1 infections across 19 countries, but 70 of the 71 known human cases of H5N1 since the start of 2024 have occurred in the United States.
- **H5N1 found in feral cat colony in New Jersey.** The USDA confirmed the infection in a cat in Hunterdon County, noting several other cats in the region appeared ill. Further testing is pending.

Measles

- **Outbreaks grow in Texas and nationally.** Case counts have reached 198 and 30 in West Texas and New Mexico, respectively. New cases were also detected in Miami, NYC, and Seattle, as well as in the states of New Jersey and Pennsylvania.



Measles incidence has increased significantly since the start of February. Data source: [CDC](#).

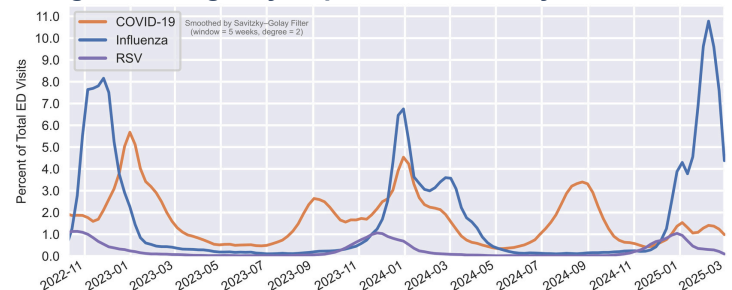
Mpox

- **WHO extends mpox emergency declaration.** Citing continued community transmission across multiple nations, the Director-General also issued recommendations to combat the epidemic. The Africa CDC had recommended the continuation, noting the emergence of a novel clade Ia variant with a mutation that enhances transmissibility.
- **Conflict continues to displace mpox patients.** Fighting in eastern DR Congo has pushed more than 500 patients to flee clinics. Looting and violence has also limited response efforts.

Seasonal Illness

- **Respiratory illness activity is now low in Virginia and trending downward.** Respiratory illness activity has also declined nationally and is now considered “moderate”. COVID-19, flu, and RSV cases are trending down across the U.S.

Virginia Emergency Department Visits by Viral Illness



Flu activity has decreased in the last three weeks. COVID-19 and RSV are stable. Data source: [CDC](#).

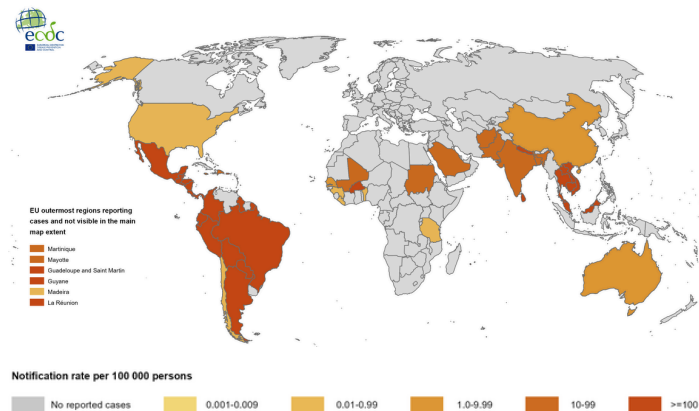
- **Flu remains more prevalent than COVID-19 and RSV in Virginia.** Flu now accounts for 4.8% of all diagnosed emergency department (ED) visits. Though elevated, this rate has declined by about 50% in the last two weeks. COVID-19 and RSV diagnoses are both stable in Virginia, accounting for about 1.0% and 0.1% of ED visits respectively. Epidemic models suggest that Virginia’s effective reproduction numbers (R_t) for flu and COVID-19 are 1.02 and 0.97 respectively. This suggests that activity for both will remain stable.
- **CDC releases estimates of flu vaccine efficacy.** The agency found the 2024-25 vaccine reduced influenza-associated hospitalizations in children, adolescents, and adults.
- **GI illness activity is decreasing in Virginia.** ED and urgent care (UC) visits for gastrointestinal illnesses are down for the fourth week in a row. Despite this, GI illness activity is “above threshold” in four of the five health planning regions.

Viral Hemorrhagic Fevers

- **Ebola outbreak continues in Uganda.** The death of a child and associated new case cluster has foiled plans to declare the outbreak over. Contact tracing has identified 201 new contacts for follow-up. The outbreak now stands at 14 cases in five districts, two confirmed and two probable deaths.

Spotlight

Dengue Reported Cases Rate, Dec 2024 - Feb 2025



The dengue outbreak in Latin America and the Caribbean has led to an increase in travel-related cases across the globe. Onward transmission may occur where host vectors are established. *Aedes aegypti* and *Aedes albopictus*, both dengue hosts, may be present in Virginia.

Image source: [ECDC](#).

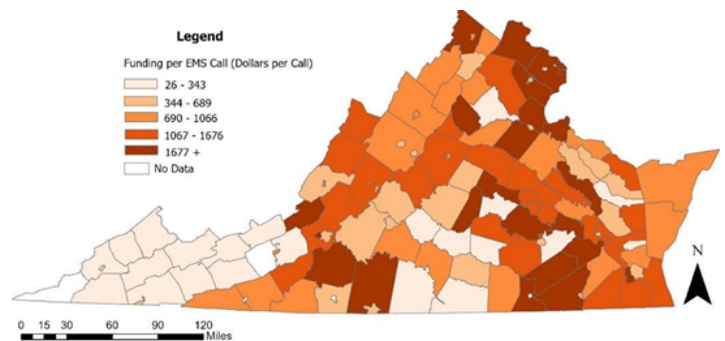
Dengue

- Over 640,000 dengue cases have been reported worldwide in 2025. The greater majority of them have occurred in the Americas. Cases in the Americas are down 56% compared to the first two months of 2024, but remain 20% above the five-year average. Over 12 million cases were reported in the Americas in 2024.
- In the United States, California, Florida and Texas reported local transmission in 2024. Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands declared outbreaks. Puerto Rico had 6,291 cases, and about half required hospitalization. Puerto Rico declared a public health emergency in March of 2024.
- PAHO issued an alert regarding circulation of the DENV-3 serotype. Dengue has four serotypes. Immunity against one serotype does not protect against others. Subsequent infections with other serotypes may be more severe. DENV-3 has not been predominant in Latin America but was the main serotype in the Puerto Rico outbreak.

Other News

- 479 homes were affected in 11 Southwest Virginia counties by the February floods. Eighteen homes were destroyed, and 90 sustained major damage. The Governor's Office expanded its emergency declaration request to cover all affected counties. Three members of Virginia's congressional delegation signed an open letter supporting the request.
- Four chemical containers swept away during Helene flooding are still missing. 13 chemical containers were swept from the Radford Army Ammunition Plant. Of the nine recovered, six still had their contents. Due to the volume of flood water, discharged chemicals did not pose a risk.
- The WHO is investigating a cluster of deaths in a remote area of the DRC. Initial Marburg and Ebola tests are negative. The rapid decline in incidence and geographic clustering suggest the outbreak is not an ongoing threat, but the investigation is ongoing.
- The removal of Helene-related debris from Claytor Lake is complete. In October, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers estimated the lake contained 300 acre-feet of debris.

Fire/EMS Funding per EMS Call, FY21-23



A recent report highlighted challenges maintaining fire and emergency medical services capacity in Virginia. Southwest and Southside Virginia have some of the lowest funding per EMS call, per capita, and per square mile in Virginia. Personnel shortages, along with an increasing number of calls and disasters, also have an impact. Image source: [VCU](#).

- Wildfires broke out across the two Carolinas, prompting evacuations. The wildfires in North Carolina have burned over 1,500 acres but are mostly contained. The largest wildfire in South Carolina, the 2,000+ acre Horry Fire near Myrtle Beach, is only partially contained. Fire weather is expected to persist in the region.