

March 17, 2023

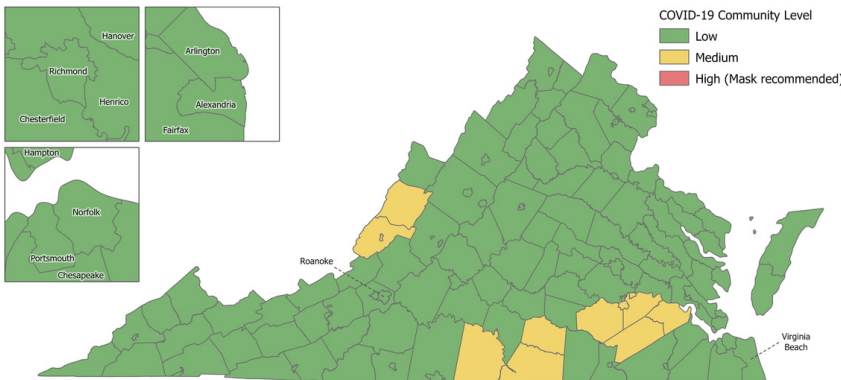
## Key Takeaways

- More than 97% of Virginians reside in localities at low COVID-19 community levels. Virginia is now at "Low" influenza intensity levels. Nationally influenza activity has plateaued just below the national baseline at 2.4% while Virginia is at 3%.
- COVID-19 and influenza hospital admissions continue to decrease. Nevertheless, there were 355 COVID-19 admissions in Virginia last week.
- Norovirus test positivity remains high despite a dip in the Southern Region last week. The national 3-week test positivity rate is at 16.5% compared to the Southern region's 15.6%.
- Thirteen cases of invasive meningococcal disease type Y have been reported since June 2022 in the Virginia Eastern Region.
- Norfolk has the highest rate of sea level rise on the East Coast according to VIMS' Sea Level Report Card.

## Key Figures

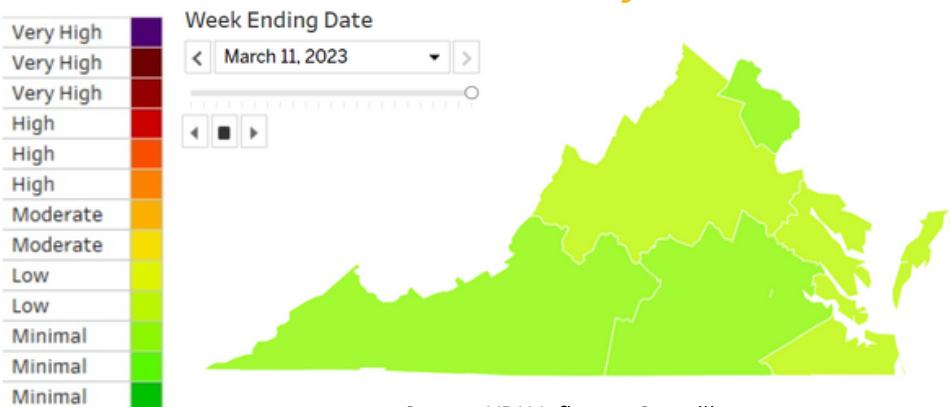
### CDC COVID-19 Community Levels

As of March 16, 2023



Source: [CDC COVID Data Tracker](#)

### Influenza Intensity Levels



Source: [VDH Influenza Surveillance](#)

## COVID-19

0 / 10

Virginia Localities at High / Medium COVID-19 Community Levels as of March 9, 2023

18%

Chance that Virginia will experience a COVID-19 case surge before July 2023. (*Metaculus forecast*)

355

COVID-19 hospital admissions in Virginia during the week ending March 11, 2023

## Influenza

0

Regions at Moderate, High or Very High Intensity Levels

## Mpox

7

*Metaculus forecast* of the number of mpox cases Virginia will register in the 2nd Quarter of 2023

## Avian Flu

490,000

*Metaculus forecast* of the number of Virginia poultry that will be "affected" (culled) in 2023 due to Avian flu

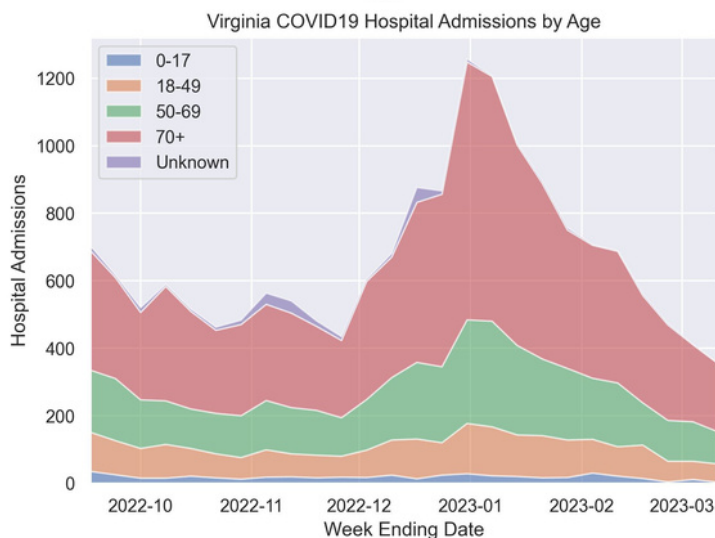
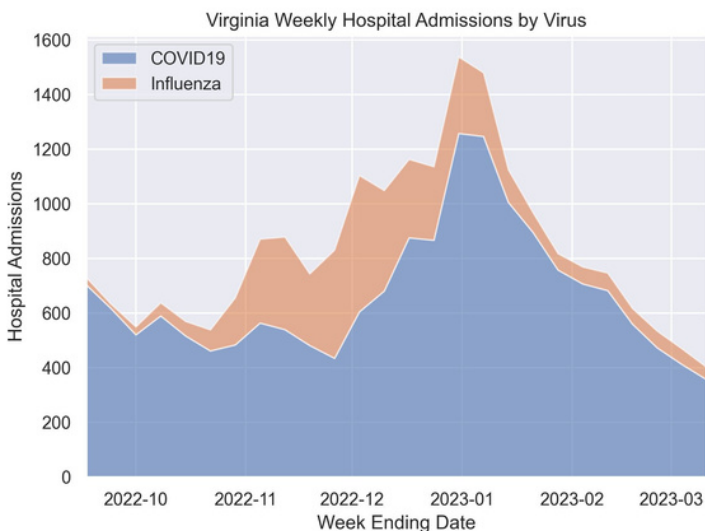
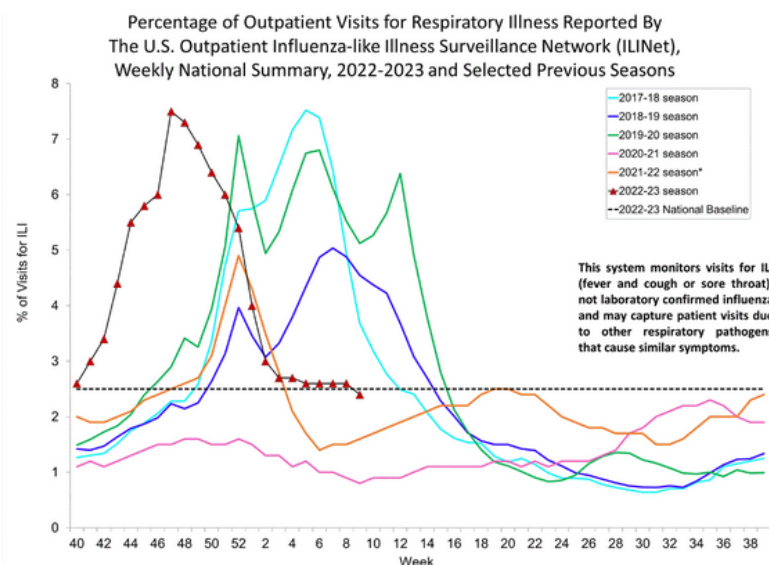
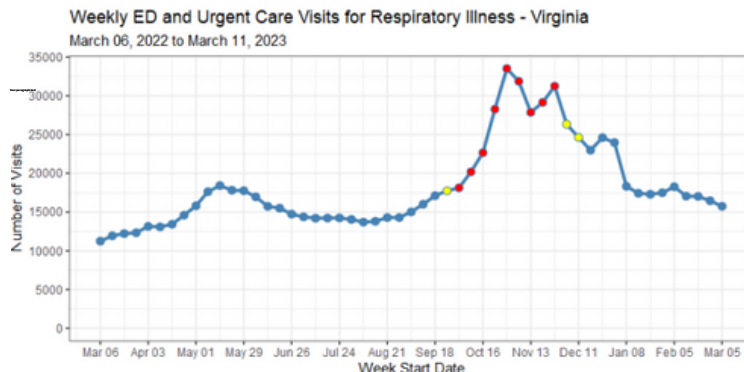
*Spotlight:*  
*Gastrointestinal*  
*Diseases*

## Respiratory Illness

### Takeaways

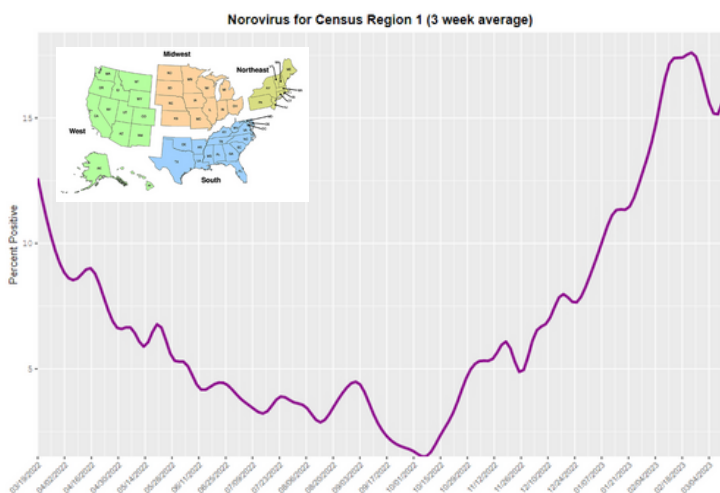
- **COVID-19 community levels.** For the fourth week in a row, no Virginia localities are at high [CDC COVID-19 community levels](#). Over 97% of Virginians reside in localities at low community levels. twelve localities with 218,000 residents are at medium community levels.
- **COVID-19 Hospital admissions.** [Hospital admissions](#) are declining and have dropped 13% week-over-week. Yet, Virginia is still experiencing close to 400 hospital admissions per week.
- **COVID-19 Community level.** Only 12 counties or cities (240,000 residents) are at Medium community level. High risk individuals in these areas should continue masking when in indoor public places.
- **Influenza continues to be low in Virginia.** Virginia is [now at "Low"](#) intensity levels, with all five regions at "Low" or "Minimal" intensity.
- **National Influenza-Like-Illness (ILI) levels have dropped below baseline for the first time in 2023.** ILI levels have also [dropped](#) below baseline in [HHS Region 3](#), which includes Virginia. 8 out of 10 HHS regions are below baseline.
- **CDC rescinded the COVID-19 test requirement for air passengers from China.** The requirement was put in place during the COVID-19 wave that followed the end of China's "[Zero Covid](#)" policy

### Respiratory Disease Activity



*Hospitalizations for influenza and COVID-19 continue to decrease. The largest age group experiencing COVID-19 hospitalizations is 70+. However, their rates of hospitalizations are also decreasing.*

## Spotlight



Percent positive PCR tests for norovirus in the Southern region. Source: [CDC](#).

## Gastrointestinal Diseases

- **Norovirus virus test positivity dipped to 15.6% in US Southern Region.** Though still at high levels, 3-week average test positivity dipped for the first time since Christmas in the region. Test positivity dropped nationally as well and has dipped or plateaued in all regions.
- **Norovirus in Virginia.** In the 2022-2023 season, Virginia observed a peak in the number of reported Norovirus outbreaks in the third week of February followed by 3 weeks of decreased activity. Last year's peak occurred in the first week of March and contained 15 outbreaks.
- **In addition to the US, Norovirus has been high in Canada and the United Kingdom.** In the UK, laboratory reports were 77% higher than the pre-pandemic 5-year average for the same period (week ending Feb 26). Seniors in the UK have been particularly hard hit, including many outbreaks in care homes.
- **Gastrointestinal diseases are affecting Virginia students.** Two Petersburg elementary schools closed due to gastrointestinal illness in mid-February, while the Chesterfield Health Department urged parents to keep children home longer following illnesses in county schools.

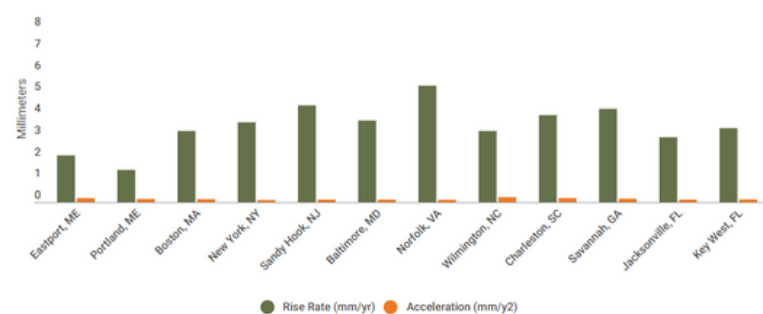
## Other News of Note

- **Community outbreak of meningococcal disease in VA Eastern Region.** Thirteen cases of invasive meningococcal disease type Y have been reported since June 2022. Three case-patients have died from complications associated with the disease, indicating this strain may have a higher case fatality rate than is commonly observed in serogroup Y cases.
- **Unsheltered individuals in Richmond more than doubles from 2022.** Homeward's Point-in-Time Count found that the people who were staying in unsheltered conditions doubled January 2022 to January 2023 and rose to the largest numbers in 15 years.
- **Mexico is reporting a surge of mpox, but country has not authorized vaccine.** While cases stagnate in the United States, Mexico has reported 51 new confirmed (74 probable) cases in the last two weeks. Despite this, the Mexican Ministry of Health has not authorized the use of the JYNNEOS vaccine in the country.

## U.S. East Coast Sea Level

Annual Values & Processes

Trend Values for 2022



The VIMS Sea-Level Report Card indicates that Norfolk has the highest rates of sea level rise on the east coast and the trend is accelerating. According to VIMS researchers, Norfolk will see impacts from climate change earlier, including increases in the depth and frequency of flooding. Source: [VIMS](#)