

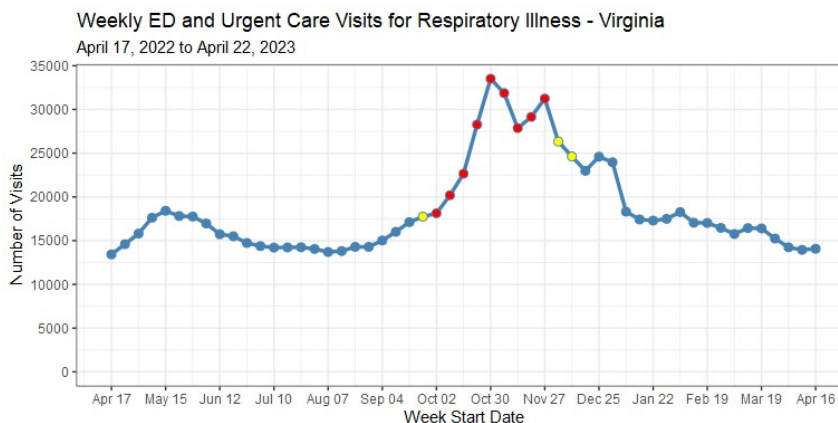
April 28, 2023

## Key Takeaways

- All Virginian counties and cities are at low COVID-19 community levels. All regions are at minimal influenza levels. Statewide influenza levels are also at minimal for the first time this year.
- The COVID-19 public health emergency is set to end May 11th, changing access to free at-home COVID tests and public health data.
- One confirmed and 31 suspected cases of measles in American Samoa, which has been declared as a public health emergency. Schools there are closed through May 12th.
- European researchers identified a cryptic COVID-19 lineage in two Polish mink farms. Researchers suspect the virus is from an unknown animal reservoir.

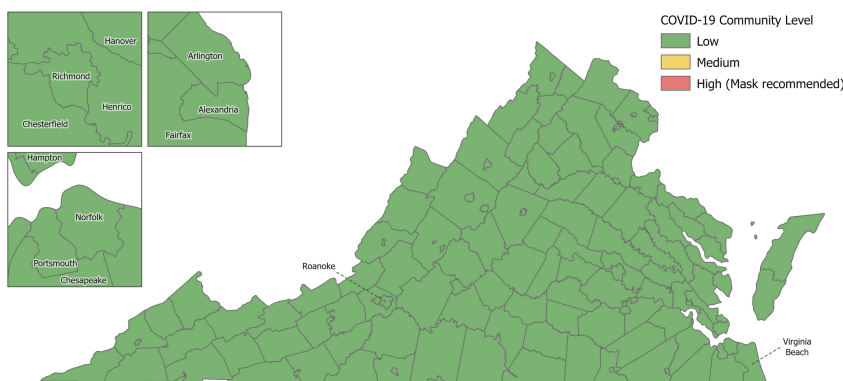
## Key Figures

### Respiratory Disease Activity



### CDC COVID-19 Community Levels

As of April 27, 2023



Source: [CDC COVID Data Tracker](#)

## COVID-19

28%

Chance that the WHO will identify a new COVID-19 Variant of Concern in 2023. (Metaculus forecast)

10%

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

185

New COVID-19 hospital admissions in Virginia for the week ending April 22.

## Mpox

3

The total number of mpox cases expected in Virginia in Q2 (April - June) 2023. (Metaculus forecast)

## Marburg

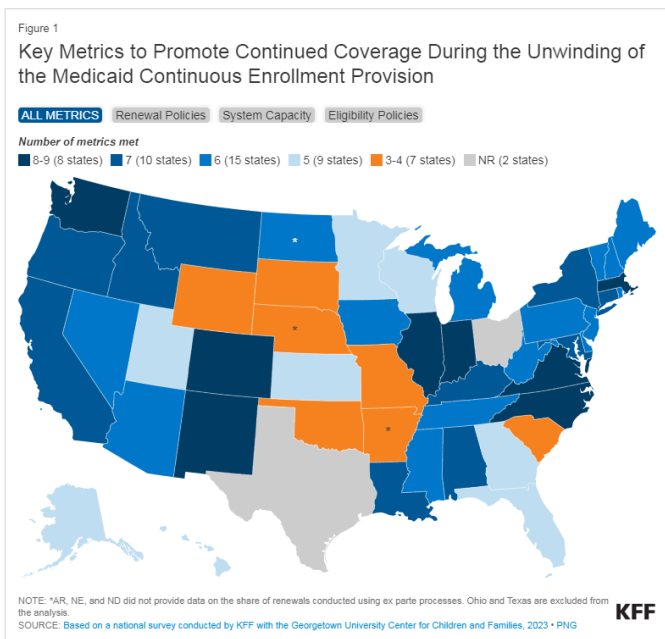
40

Confirmed and probable cases in Equatorial Guinea thus far. There have been 34 deaths.

**Spotlight:**  
 COVID-19 PHE  
 Expiration

## Spotlight

## COVID-19 PHE Expiration



Many states have enacted policies to support continued Medicaid coverage following the end of the PHE. Virginia has enacted 8 of 9 policies tracked by the Kaiser Family Foundation. Image Source: [KFF](#).

- **Nearly 1 in 3 U.S. households used free at-home COVID-19 tests**, according to a [new report](#) from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). However, after the public health emergency ends on May 11th, [access](#) to the tests for free may change. Those enrolled in Medicaid will continue to receive free tests until September 2024.
- **The Virginia Department of Health will continue to distribute free COVID-19 test kits** to [Local Health Departments](#), community clinics, [libraries](#), homeless services providers, food banks, confinement facilities, [child care facilities](#), [K-12 schools](#), and summer camps serving K-12 school-aged children. Residents can use [VDH's testing locator](#) to find testing sites, including those with free testing available.
- **CMS has released fact sheets to assist with the end of the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency Declaration.** CMS released a general [fact sheet](#), and one specific to [long term care facilities](#). CDC has also released [talking points](#) regarding the end of the PHE.

## Other News

- **Measles outbreak in American Samoa declared public health emergency.** There has been one laboratory-confirmed case and 31 suspected or probable cases. Cases are all in children between ages 2 months old and 13 years old, and schools in the U.S. territory are closed through May 12.
- **European researchers identified a cryptic COVID-19 lineage in two mink farms in Poland.** Cases were detected in late 2022 and early 2023. Based on genomic changes and epi investigations, researchers believe this lineage was introduced to the farms from an unknown animal reservoir.
- **Spain is battling sporadic cases of tick-borne Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever (CCHF) as ticks which spread the disease move north.** The disease is widespread in Eurasia and Africa, but has not been previously identified in Western Europe. Although there have only been a few cases identified beginning in 2016, Europe is ramping up surveillance, particularly among health workers unfamiliar with the disease.
- **Equatorial Guinea has reported a new Marburg virus case.** The patient died, bringing the total number of confirmed cases to 17, including 12 deaths among confirmed cases. All told, there have been 40 confirmed/probable cases and 34 deaths.