

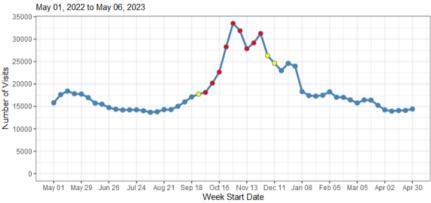
May 12, 2023

## **Key Takeaways**

- The CDC has retired COVID-19 Community Levels. Overall respiratory illness activity is stable near baseline levels.
- Virginia rescinded its COVID-19 PHE effective 12:00 AM May 12, coinciding with the end of the national PHE on May 11 Meanwhile, the WHO's COVID-19 PHEIC ended on May 5, while the mpox PHEIC ended on May 11.
- Drug overdoses in Virginia have been increasing rapidly since 2013 due to fentanyl. The Governor's Office has issued an executive order to deal with the ongoing opioid crisis.
- The San Francisco International Airport in partnership with the CDC has begun wastewater surveillance for incoming international flights for variants of COVID-19.

## **Key Figures**







## COVID-19

#### 8%

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

#### 7%

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

#### 133

New COVID-19 <u>hospital</u> <u>admissions</u> in Virginia for the week ending May 6.

# **Drug Overdose**

## 76%

Proportion of all fatal <u>overdoses</u> caused or contributed by fentanyl (prescription, illicit, and/or analogs) in 2022 (preliminary numbers).

#### 20%

Percent increase in fatal cocaine <u>overdoses</u> from 2021 (preliminary numbers).

**Spotlight:** Overdoses

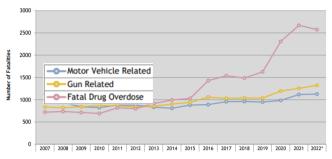
Forecasts are italicized

# Situation Update Office of Emergency Preparedness



# **Spotlight**

Total Number of Motor Vehicle, Gun, and Drug Related Fatalities by Year of Death, 2007-2022\*



Fatal drug overdoses are the leading method of unnatural death in Virginia, exceeding gun and motor vehicle related deaths, the 2nd and 3rd leading causes, combined. Image Source: <u>VDH OCME</u>.

• The Governor's Office issued an Executive Order to respond to the fentanyl crisis. <u>EO Number 26 (2023)</u> included 10 directives to state secretariats and agencies covering prevention and treatment, public safety and drug interdiction, and the organization of government and data collection.

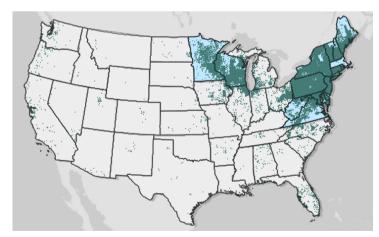
### **Overdoses**

- Illicit fentanyl has been the driving force behind a large increase in fatal overdoses since 2013 in Virginia, making it the leading method of unnatural death, according to a <a href="mailto:new report">new report</a> from the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner. Fentanyl caused or contributed to 76% of fatal overdoses in 2022. Meanwhile, there was a substantial drop in prescription opioid and heroin overdoses in 2022.
- Fatal cocaine <u>overdoses</u> rose 20% from 2021 to 2022 in Virginia, while methamphetamine overdoses rose 3.6%.
   Fatal overdoses for benzodiazepines dipped in 2022 after hitting a 15-year high in 2021.
- Statewide <u>rates per 10,000 ED visits</u> increased or remained stable in Q1 2023 compared to Q4 2022. Compared to the same quarter last year (Q1 2022) statewide overdose rates for all drugs, opioids, heroin and stimulants decreased or remained stable in Q1 2023.

## **Other News**

- San Francisco International Airport has <u>launched</u>
   a COVID-19 waste-water surveillance program
   with the CDC. The wastewater samples will be
   collected automatically from various incoming
   international flights to the airport and sent out to
   laboratories to identify emerging COVID-19
   variants.
- Virginia <u>rescinded</u> its COVID-19 Public Health Emergency effective 12:00 AM May 12, coinciding with <u>end</u> of the national PHE on May 11. Meanwhile, the WHO's COVID-19 PHEIC <u>ended</u> on May 5, while the mpox PHEIC <u>ended</u> on May 11.
- Chicago <u>experienced</u> an increase in <u>mpox</u> cases. Howard Brown Health, a clinic serving the LGBTQ+ community, identified 7 new cases between April 17 and May 5. In the three months prior, HBH had identified just 1.
- Experts <u>suggest</u> a 10-20% chance of a highly mutated COVID-19 variant, akin to Omicron, in the next two years. According to experts consulted by the White House in March, forecasts ranged from 5 to 30%.

New York declared a <u>state of emergency</u> over an anticipated <u>increase in migration</u>. This follows previous declarations by <u>New York City</u> and <u>two</u> of its <u>suburbs</u>. <u>Chicago</u> and the Texas <u>border cities</u> of El Paso, Laredo, and Brownsville also issued new emergency declarations in the past few weeks.



The USDA <u>conditionally licensed</u> an oral vaccine targeting mice to limit the <u>spread</u> of <u>Lyme disease</u>. The vaccine is sprayed on pellets that can be spread in residential and public spaces. The CDC estimates that 476,000 Americans contract Lyme disease annually. Image Source: <u>CDC</u>.