Situation Update
Office of Emergency Preparedness

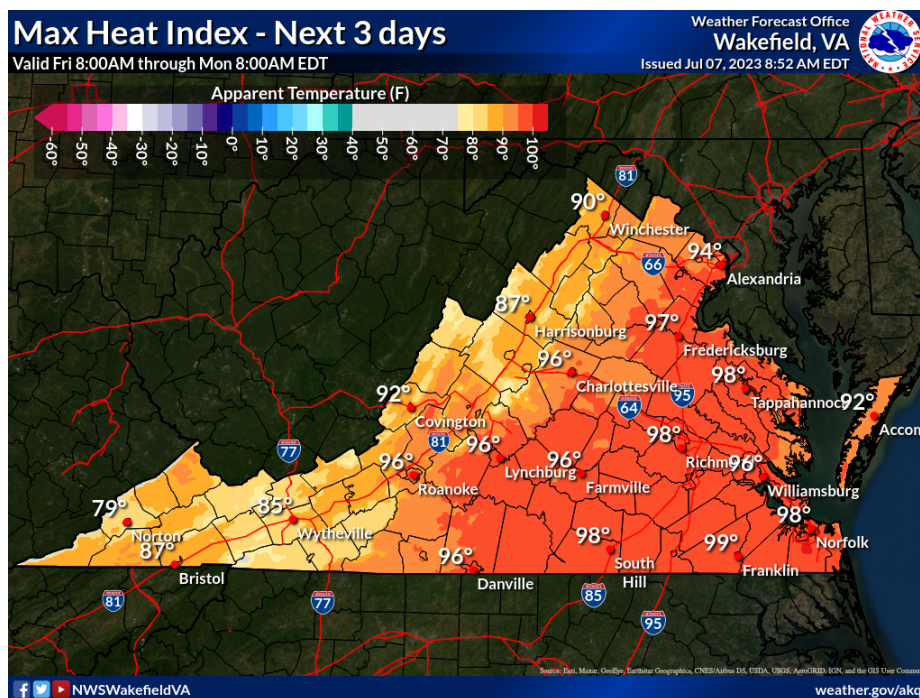**VDH** VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

July 7, 2023

Key Takeaways

- Respiratory disease rates remain low across the Commonwealth. COVID-19 hospital admissions declined in the last week after rising the first three weeks of June.

- Much of the U.S. is expected to experience poor air quality periodically as long as wildfires persist in Canada. The number of wildfires, including uncontrolled wildfires, increased this week.

- The Climate Prediction Center expects higher than average temperatures for much of the U.S. this summer, including along the east coast.

- Heat indexes are expected to be above 90 degrees in most of Virginia this weekend, approaching 100 degrees in some areas. The National Weather Service recommends "extreme caution" with heat indexes in this range.

Key Figures

Source: National Weather Service

COVID-19

13%
Chance that the WHO will identify a new COVID-19 Variant of Concern before 2024. (Metaculus forecast)

126
COVID-19 hospital admissions in Virginia for the week ending July 01.

Wildfires

352 of 651
The number of uncontrolled wildfires in Canada, out of the total number of active fires.
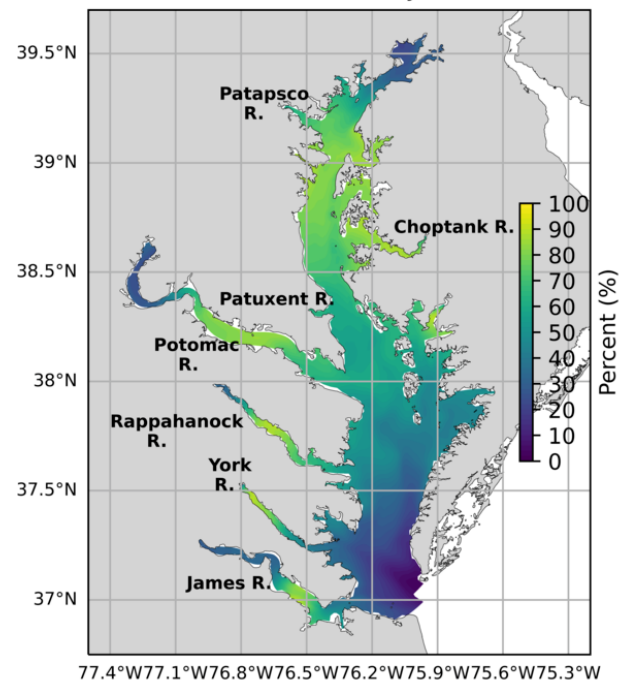
Heat-related Illness

64
Heat-Related Illness visits to Virginia emergency and urgent care facilities on July 4.

Forecasts are italicized

This document includes links to publicly available data and news sources. These items are included for situational awareness only and do not represent an endorsement of the source or information therein.

Other News

- **The number of wildfires in Canada jumped from 495 in last week's report to 651 this week**, including 352 uncontrolled wildfires. Air quality is expected to be a periodic concern in much of the country, as summer weather patterns funnel smoke southward.

- **The Climate Prediction Center expects above average temperatures for most of the U.S. through September**, including on the east coast. Forecasters cite El Nino, decadal trends, and weather models as the basis for the forecast.

- **Polish authorities confirmed 24 cases of avian flu in cats.** Meanwhile, 5 dogs and a cat have reportedly tested positive on a poultry farm in Italy. The farm was experiencing an outbreak. No related human cases have been reported, and the risk to humans remains low.

- **Avian flu detections are low in the United States**. The last U.S. detection of highly pathogenic avian flu (HPAI) in domestic poultry occurred in May. Detections in wild birds continue, including detections in Essex county Virginia in early June, but at reduced levels.

Probability(%) of Vibrio vulnificus in the Chesapeake Bay
CBOFS Model Run:20230707/0000 Daily Forecast for: 202307(

Probability of Vibrio vulnificus presence in the Chesapeake Bay for July 8, 2023. Vibrosis, caused by consuming raw or undercooked seafood, or by exposing a wound to seawater, causes an estimated 80,000 illness and 100 deaths each year. Image source: NCCOS.

Air Quality Forecast

		Today's Forecast						**Tomorrow's Forecast**		
Region	**AQI**	**Class**	**Pollutant**	**Activity Caution**	**Risk Groups**	**AQI**	**Class**	**Pollutant**	**Activity Caution**	**Risk Groups**
HAMPTON ROADS	51	Moderate	OZONE_PPB	Unusually sensitive people should consider reducing prolonged or heavy outdoor exertion.	Children and people with asthma are the groups most at risk.	50	Good	PM25LC	None	People with respiratory or heart disease, the elderly and children are the groups most at risk.
NORTHERN VIRGINIA	84	Moderate	OZONE_PPB	Unusually sensitive people should consider reducing prolonged or heavy outdoor exertion.	Children and people with asthma are the groups most at risk.	84	Moderate	OZONE_PPB	Unusually sensitive people should consider reducing prolonged or heavy outdoor exertion.	Children and people with asthma are the groups most at risk.
RICHMOND	51	Moderate	OZONE_PPB	Unusually sensitive people should consider reducing prolonged or heavy outdoor exertion.	Children and people with asthma are the groups most at risk.	50	Good	PM25LC	None	People with respiratory or heart disease, the elderly and children are the groups most at risk.
ROANOKE	51	Moderate	OZONE_PPB	Unusually sensitive people should consider reducing prolonged or heavy outdoor exertion.	Children and people with asthma are the groups most at risk.	42	Good	PM25LC	None	People with respiratory or heart disease, the elderly and children are the groups most at risk.
WINCHESTER	48	Good	OZONE_PPB	None	Children and people with asthma are the groups most at risk.	45	Good	OZONE_PPB	None	Children and people with asthma are the groups most at risk.

Source: Virginia Department of Environmental Quality