Situation Update Office of Emergency Preparedness

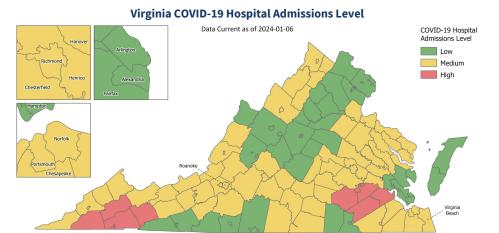


January 12, 2024

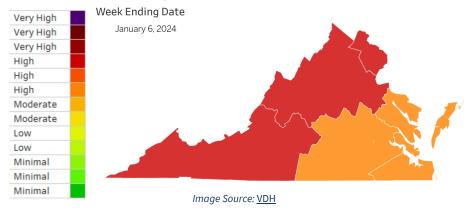
Key Takeaways

- Growth of flu and COVID-19 in Virginia may have stabilized. Multiple indicators for both viruses have decreased this week. Yet, overall rates of COVID-19 and flu remain high statewide. RSV diagnoses at emergency departments are also decreasing.
- COVID-19 and flu hospital admissions decreased slightly. Models suggest January may bring a slight increase in COVID-19 hospital admissions. Flu hospital admissions are expected to decrease slowly. COVID-19 hospital bed occupancy remains "moderate".
- JN.1 is expected to become the dominant COVID-19 variant in Virginia this week. It continues to out-compete HV.1 and peers.
- Norovirus rates may have stabilized in the region.
- Another round of storms is expected tonight, with the potential for strong winds and heavy rains, but risk of floods has passed in most of the state.

Key Figures







COVID-19

Medium

<u>Characterization</u> of statewide COVID-19 hospital admissions as of Jan 6.

Moderate

<u>Characterization</u> of statewide COVID-19 hospital occupancy as of January 6.

3% / 50%

Population in localities with "High" / "Medium" COVID-19 hospital admissions <u>levels</u> as of Jan 6.

<u>Influenza</u>

High

Statewide influenza <u>activity</u> levels in Virginia, as of Jan 6.

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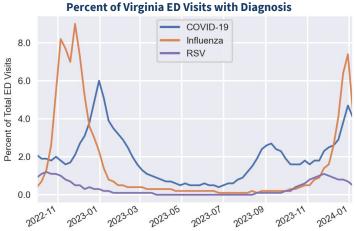
Virginia regions with High influenza <u>intensity</u> levels, as of Jan 6.

Spotlight: Severe Weather

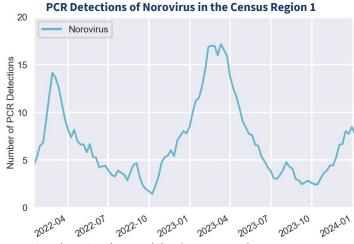


Seasonal Illness

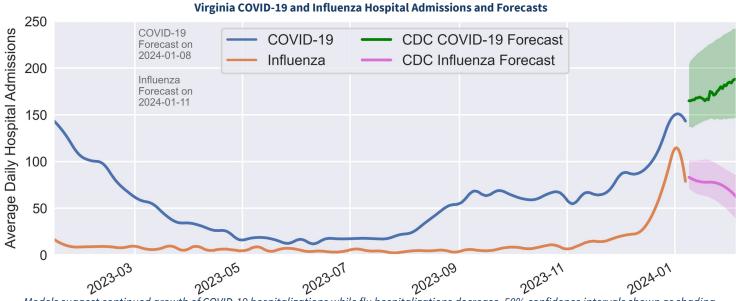
- COVID-19 and flu growth may be stabilizing. After weeks of sustained increases, <u>COVID-19 diagnoses in the ED</u> decreased this week. Statewide <u>wastewater viral loads</u> for COVID-19 also decreased slightly. Flu diagnoses in the ED decreased as well. RSV is also in decline. It is too early to say with certainty, but the current wave of respiratory disease may be peaking.
- **COVID-19 and flu rates remain high.** Despite the recent decrease in diagnosis rates, the statewide <u>flu intensity level</u> remains "High". COVID-19 diagnosis rates are also near their yearly highs across Virginia.
- Flu and COVID-19 hospital admissions decrease. Though still near a 12-month high, hospitalizations caused by flu decreased 24% since last week. Hospital admissions for COVID-19 have also decreased about 13% this week. CDC forecasts now expect slow decrease of flu hospitalizations, and a slow increase of COVID-19 admissions.
- JN.1 becomes dominant in the Commonwealth. CDC Nowcast estimates suggest the COVID-19 variant accounts for about 59% of new cases in Virginia.
- Respiratory illness strains some European health systems. Hospitals in <u>Italy</u>, <u>Spain</u>, and Portugal have experienced long wait times, with some resorting to cancelling non-urgent surgeries.
- **Norovirus growth stabilizes in region.** Rates remain high, but PCR detections of the virus have leveled off.



Flu diagnoses are surging while RSV is declining. Data Source: CDC.



Norovirus detections have stabilized since December. Data Source: CDC.



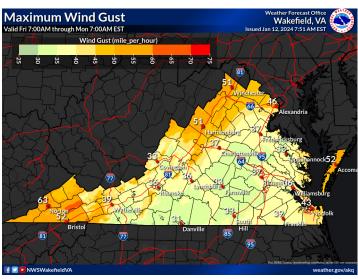
Models suggest continued growth of COVID-19 hospitalizations while flu hospitalizations decrease. 50% confidence intervals shown as shading. Historical data source: HealthData.gov, COVID-19 forecast data source: CDC CFA, flu forecast data source: CDC FluSight.

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Spotlight

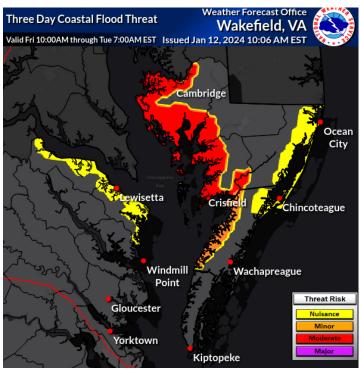
 Rain and damaging wind gusts expected this weekend. Although less than an inch of rainfall is expected across most of the state, flooding may be possible given the saturated ground conditions, particularly along the coast. Damaging wind gusts also pose a possible threat.



Wind gusts could reach 35 mph inland and 40-45 mph along the coast and on the Eastern shore. Image Source: <u>NWS</u>.

Severe Weather

 Another storm is forecasted to develop Monday night into Tuesday. The system may potentially bring the accumulation of light snow to some areas.



Minor to moderate coastal flooding is possible in some parts of the Chesapeake Bay region. Image Source: <u>NWS</u>.

Other News

- Avian flu outbreak <u>reported</u> in vaccinated duck farm in France. Although the ducks were <u>vaccinated</u> in November 2023, the confirmed outbreak necessitated the depopulation 8,700 ducks earlier this month.
- Western Equine Encephalitis continues to spread across Argentina and Uruguay. Since the end of November, 1,258 outbreaks have been confirmed among animals in Argentina and 56 cases have been confirmed among equines in Uruguay. In Argentina, 21 human cases of the virus were confirmed, with one death.
- The Pennsylvania Department of Health is continuing to monitor a pertussis outbreak that occurred among students in Stroudsburg at the end of December. St. Luke's University Health Network released <u>guidance</u> this week urging residents to ensure they are vaccinated and recommending household contacts of confirmed cases to also receive antibiotic treatment to contain the spread.
- Two additional cases of measles confirmed by the <u>Philadelphia Health Department</u>, for a total of 8 cases. One of the newly confirmed cases was an unvaccinated individual who sought care at a <u>Delaware health care facility</u>, potentially exposing the patients there.