

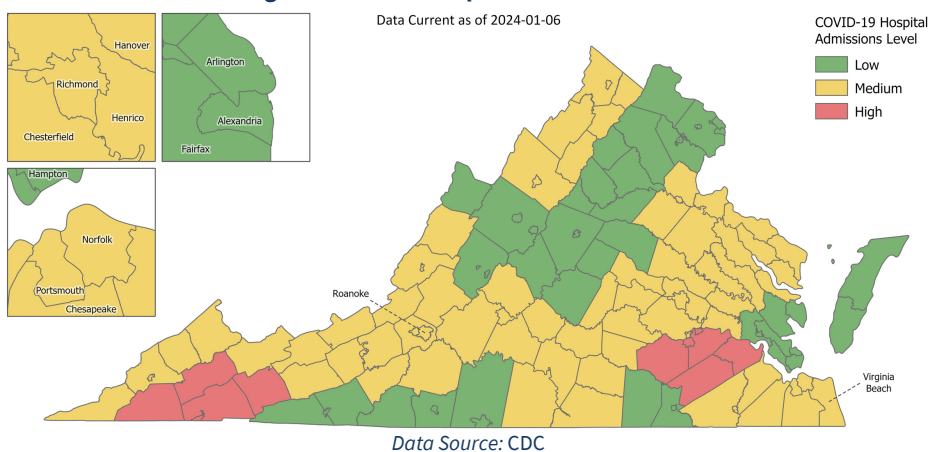
January 12, 2024

## Key Takeaways

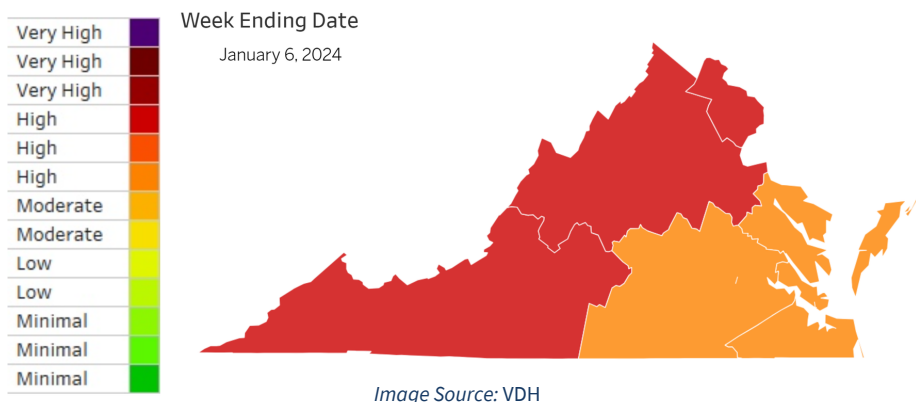
- Growth of flu and COVID-19 in Virginia may have stabilized. Multiple indicators for both viruses have decreased this week. Yet, overall rates of COVID-19 and flu remain high statewide. RSV diagnoses at emergency departments are also decreasing.
- COVID-19 and flu hospital admissions decreased slightly. 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

**Virginia COVID-19 Hospital Admissions Level**



**Virginia Influenza Intensity Level**



## COVID-19

### Medium

Characterization of statewide COVID-19 hospital admissions as of Jan 6.

### Moderate

Characterization of statewide COVID-19 hospital occupancy as of January 6.

### 3% / 50%

Population in localities with “High” / “Medium” COVID-19 hospital admissions levels as of Jan 6.

## Influenza

### High

Statewide influenza activity levels in Virginia, as of Jan 6.

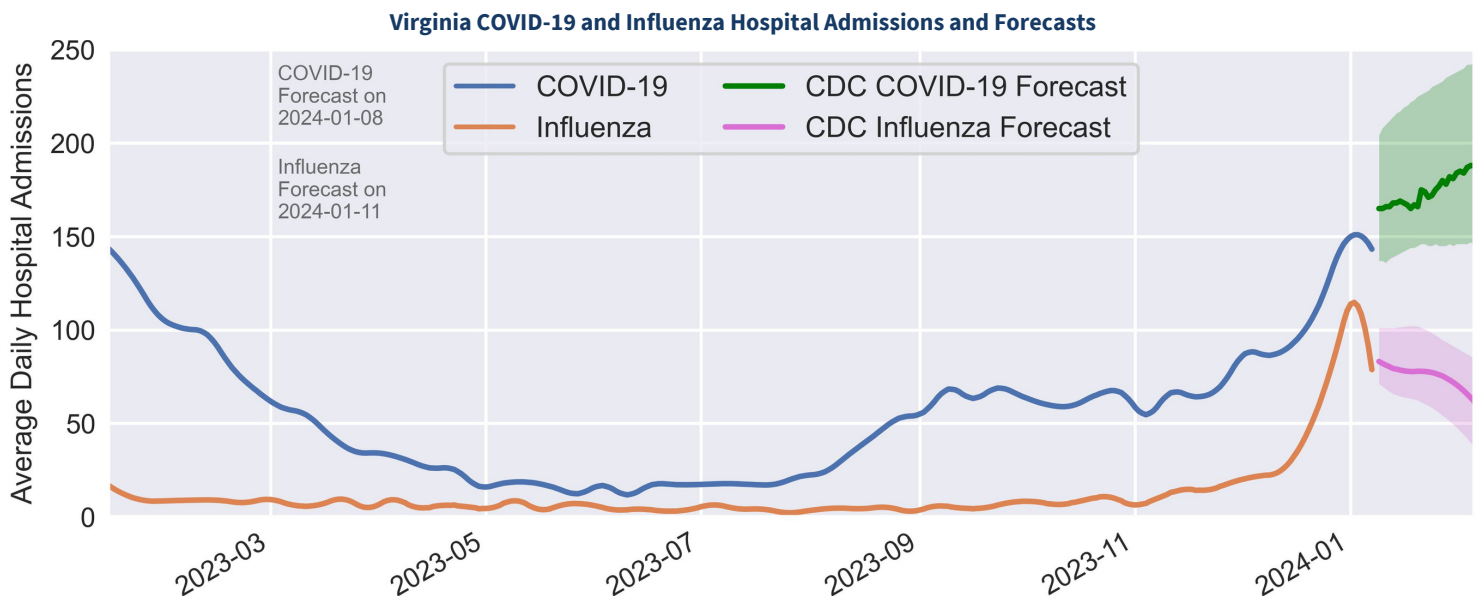
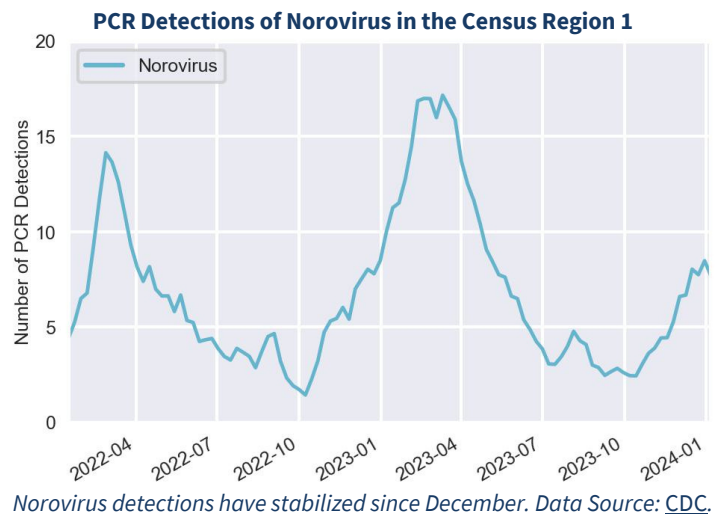
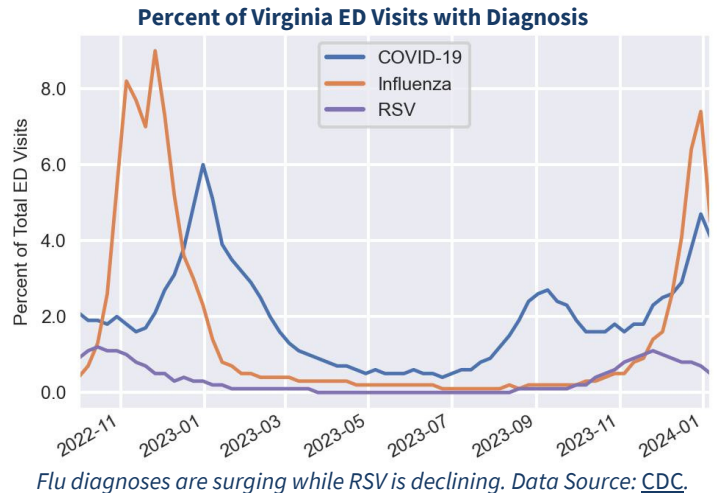
### 5 of 5

Virginia regions with High influenza intensity levels, as of Jan 6.

## Spotlight: Severe Weather

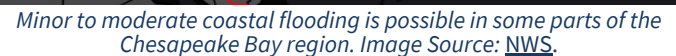
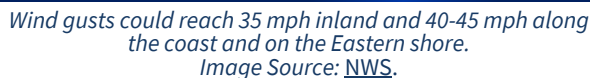
## Seasonal Illness

- **COVID-19 and flu growth may be stabilizing.** After weeks of sustained increases, COVID-19 diagnoses in the ED decreased this week. Statewide wastewater viral loads 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 flu intensity level 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 Italy, Spain, 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.



## 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.



- **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 guidance 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 Philadelphia Health Department**, for a total of 8 cases. One of the newly confirmed cases was an unvaccinated individual who sought care at a Delaware health care facility, potentially exposing the patients there.