

THE EPI EXCHANGE

News from the Hampton and Peninsula Health Districts Epidemiology Team

Welcome to the first edition of The Epi Exchange!

The Hampton and Peninsula Health Districts' Epidemiology Teams are excited to launch this new way to stay connected with our community partners as we work together to protect the health of our communities. In each issue, we will highlight hot topics, promote upcoming events, and share dependable communication resources you can use in your outreach. We are glad you are here and look forward to strengthening our partnership through timely updates, practical tools, and shared insights.

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 Hot Topic: Measles

Virginia has seen a record number of [measles cases](#) this year with 177 reported cases as of July 30, 2026. All five health planning regions have been affected. However, the most recent cases have been associated with a [measles outbreak in Buckingham County](#) in the Central Region. VDH has issued [outbreak vaccine recommendations](#) for people who live in or visit this area. Among all 2026 cases, 95% were in people who were not vaccinated or had an unknown vaccination status. Measles activity is also high in some other U.S. states and countries. Visit [VDH’s Measles Information for Healthcare Providers website](#) for the latest information about measles in Virginia. Topics include how to rapidly recognize, report, test, and implement infection control measures to protect your patients and staff. On May 21, VDH launched a new [measles dashboard](#). This dashboard shows key information to help Virginians see measles trends, understand the impact, and know their risk of exposure as measles cases increase nationally and across the Commonwealth. Additionally, VDH has developed a [Measles Toolkit](#) that can be used to educate the community about measles and vaccination.

2026 Measles Cases As of 7/30/2026	
Region	Count
Central	155
Eastern	1
Northern	9
Northwest	6
Southwest	6
Total	177

The Hampton and Peninsula Health Districts are here to help with everything measles-related. Our role in a measles response includes:

-  Case investigation and testing
-  Isolation and infection control
-  Contact tracing and notification
-  Post-exposure prophylaxis
-  Public notification
-  Vaccination

When in doubt, contact your local health department immediately to discuss. We are here to help!

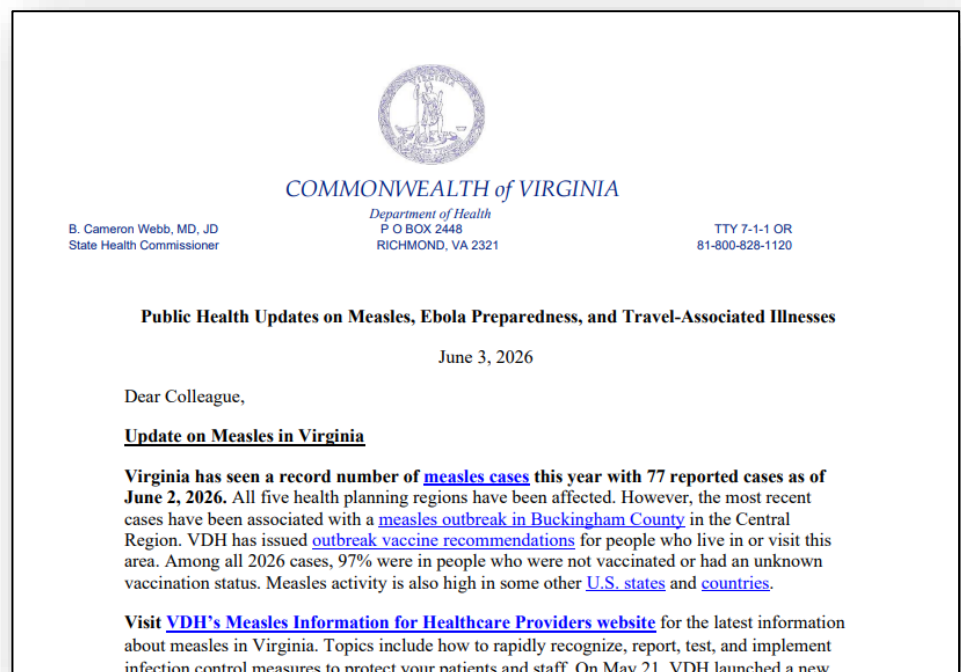


Hot Topic: Ebola

VDH is closely monitoring the large and concerning Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Uganda. Enhanced screening at Washington-Dulles International Airport began on May 21. It is possible that there will be people with potential exposures who return to the United States from the geographic areas of concern. VDH will conduct symptom monitoring for travelers who have been in affected areas within the prior 21 days and have reported potential exposures according to appropriate public health guidance.

The anticipated public health risk to the U.S. is low. However, early identification of Ebola or other Viral Hemorrhagic Fevers (VHFs) is important for providing appropriate and prompt patient care and preventing the spread of infection. This situation is a good reminder to include a travel history when evaluating your patients. Include VHFs in the differential diagnosis for an ill person who has compatible symptoms AND [who has reported epidemiological risk factors](#) within the 21 days before symptom onset. Please contact your local health department immediately if you suspect Ebola disease. Please visit [the VDH Ebola Information for Health Care Professionals webpage](#) for more information pertaining to diagnosis, laboratory testing, and infection prevention and control recommendations.

[VDH Clinician Letter: Public Health Updates on Measles, Ebola Preparedness, and Travel-Associated Illnesses](#)



EPI NEWS BLAST

News from the Hampton and Peninsula Health Districts Epidemiology Programs

The HPHD Epidemiology Team

When it comes to protecting community health, the HPHD Epidemiology Team is always ready to jump in. Friendly, dependable, and quick to respond, our team works every day to track illnesses, support outbreak response, and partner with you to keep our communities safe and informed. We're excited to introduce the people behind this important work, the faces you can count on when it matters most!



Leigh

Clarity

Ben

Jacqueline

Want to meet the people behind the work?
Head to the next page for individual bios and highlights.

Meet the HPHD Epi Teams

Hampton

Leigh Jacques, MPH, CPH, CIC District Epidemiologist Senior

Leigh began her career with the Virginia Department of Health in 2017. She has served as an Environmental Health Specialist and General Epidemiologist. In 2022, she became the Senior Epidemiologist for the Hampton Health District. Leigh received her bachelor's degree from the College of William & Mary, followed by a Master of Public Health degree from Eastern Virginia Medical School.

She holds a certification in public health (CPH) and certification in infection control (CIC). Outside of work, Leigh enjoys traveling, spending time with her family, and choreographing marching band flag routines.

Clarity Cotman Deputy Epidemiologist

Clarity joined VDH in 2018 as a Disease Intervention Specialist, where she worked syphilis and HIV case investigations throughout the Eastern Region. In 2023, she transitioned into her current role as Deputy Epidemiologist for the Hampton Health District. She earned her Bachelor's degree in Environmental Studies from Virginia Wesleyan College. Outside of work, Clarity enjoys exploring new restaurants, going to concerts, reading, traveling, working out, and taking hikes/walks. She is also an avid true crime enthusiasts and loves spending time with her two adorable dogs.

Peninsula

Jacqueline Williams, MPH District Epidemiologist Senior

Jacqueline joined the Virginia Department of Health in 2020, starting her public health career as a COVID-19 Case Investigator and most recently serving as the HAI Epidemiologist in VDH's Central Office. She joined the Peninsula Health District in November 2025 and is looking forward to working for and serving the community she calls home. She holds a Bachelor of Science from Bridgewater College and a Master of Public Health from Old Dominion University. Outside of work, Jacqueline enjoys reading, exploring local restaurants and coffee shops, and spending time with her husband and dog.

Ben Pervier, MPH Deputy Epidemiologist

Benjamin started out as a Public Health Sanitarian with the Erie County Department of Health in New York before joining the Virginia Department of Health in 2025 as the Peninsula Deputy Epidemiologist. He holds a Bachelor of Science in both Biology and Criminal Justice from the Rochester Institute of Technology and a Master of Public Health from Tulane University. In his spare time, Benjamin enjoys playing video games with friends, reading and exploring the area.

EPI NEWS BLAST

News from the Hampton and Peninsula Health Districts Epidemiology Programs

Explore Our New Epidemiology Webpages!

We're excited to introduce two new resources designed to make public health information easier to find and share: the Epidemiology Resources page and the K-12 and Daycare Epidemiology Toolkit!

The [Epidemiology Resources](#) page is your one-stop hub for reportable diseases, infection prevention guidance, clinician letters, fact sheets, and tools like My Meal Detective. Whether you're a healthcare partner, educator, or community organization, you'll find quick links to trusted public health materials right at your fingertips.

The [K-12 and Daycare Epidemiology Toolkit](#) offers practical, ready-to-use guidance to help schools and childcare providers respond confidently to common illnesses and outbreaks.

Bookmark these pages, share them with your networks, and check back often – new resources will be added regularly!

Epidemiology Resources

Welcome to the Hampton and Peninsula Health Districts' Epidemiology Resources Page. This resource hub is designed to support healthcare professionals, educators, and the public in accessing essential information related to reportable diseases, infection prevention, and outbreak response.

Here, you'll find quick access to:

- The [Virginia Reportable Disease List](#) and [Communicable Disease Reference Chart](#).
- Direct links to [VDH and CDC fact sheets](#) for common communicable diseases such as Salmonella, Norovirus, Influenza, COVID-19, and more.
- Tools like the [My Meal Detective](#) portal for reporting foodborne illnesses.
- [Clinician letters](#) and [return-to-work guidance](#) for healthcare providers.

This self-service page is intended to streamline access to up-to-date public health information, promote timely disease reporting, and support effective response efforts across Virginia communities.

Resources

[VDH Reportable Disease List](#)

[Outbreak Reporting](#)

K-12 and Daycare Epidemiology Toolkit

Welcome to the Hampton and Peninsula Health Districts' K-12 and Daycare Epidemiology Toolkit. This toolkit is designed to support K-12 schools and daycares in accessing essential information related to reportable diseases, infection prevention, and outbreak response.

Here, you'll find quick access to:

- The [Virginia Reportable Disease List](#) and [Communicable Disease Reference Chart](#).
- Guidance for [daycares and K-12 schools](#) on [communicable diseases and infection prevention](#).
- [HPHD Training Materials](#) for school educators, health staff, and administrators.
- Direct links to [VDH and CDC fact sheets](#) for common communicable diseases such as Salmonella, Norovirus, Influenza, COVID-19, and more.

This toolkit is intended to streamline access to up-to-date public health information, promote timely disease reporting, and support effective response efforts across Virginia communities.

Resources

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Bring HPHD to Your Next Community Event!



Got an upcoming health fair, community gathering, or outreach event? We'd love to be there! Our HPHD team is ready to provide health education, trainings, resources, and more, all tailored to your community's needs.

Submit a request through the [HPHD Outreach Request Form](#) and let us support your next event with trusted, accessible health information.

VDH Comms Hub

Looking for public health resources? The [VDH Comms Hub](#) is your go-to source to streamline outreach and engagement. It offers:

- Trending topics and ready-made materials
- Multi-topic, multilanguage resources
- Public health toolkits

Equip your team with evidence-based, customizable, and ready-to-share tools, all in one place to support swift, clear, and culturally responsive outreach.

Questions or concerns? Contact us today!

Hampton

Serving the City of Hampton

Leigh Jacques, MPH, CPH, CIC
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Peninsula

*Serving the Cities of Newport News, Poquoson,
Williamsburg, & the Counties of James City and York*

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Want to help shape future editions of this newsletter?
Share your feedback with us [here](#).