

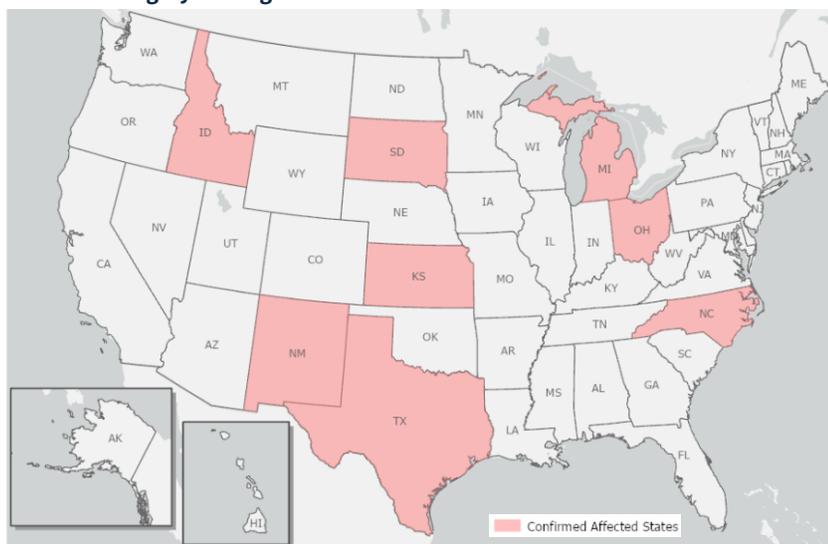
April 19, 2024

## Key Takeaways

- Sporadic measles outbreaks are continuing nationally.
- The detection of new mpox cases in Virginia may have slowed.
- Concerns about avian influenza in dairy cattle have prompted some states to restrict the importation of cattle from affected states.
- Seasonal respiratory diseases continue to decrease. Models expect the rate of new hospitalizations to slowly decline through May.
- The White House has unveiled a new global security strategy to combat future pandemics.
- Pharmacists report the national shortage of a record 323 drugs.

## Key Figures

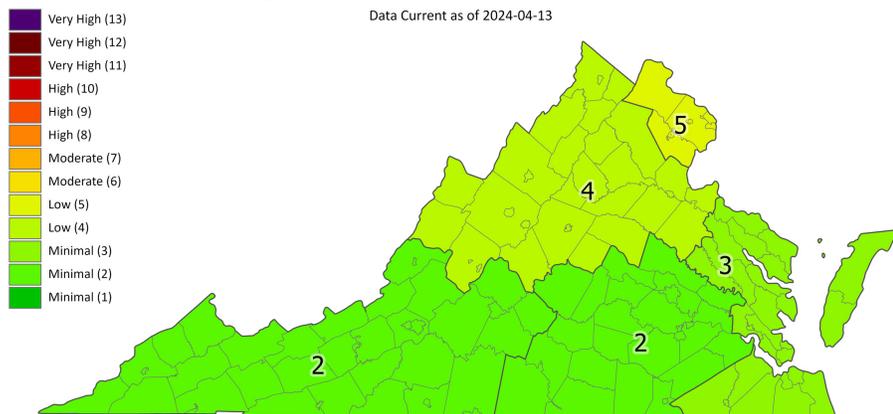
**Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in Domestic Livestock**



HPAI has recently been detected in South Dakota and North Carolina. Image Source: [USDA](#) as of 2024-04-17.

**Virginia Influenza Intensity Level by Region**

Data Current as of 2024-04-13



Influenza activity continues to fall in Virginia. No regions report moderate or high activity. Data Source: [VDH](#).

## COVID-19

### Low / Minimal

Characterization of statewide COVID-19 related hospital admissions / hospital bed occupancy as of Apr 13.

## Influenza

### Minimal

Statewide influenza activity levels in Virginia, as of Apr 13.

0

Virginia region with moderate or high influenza intensity levels, as of Apr 13.

## Mpox

17

The number of mpox cases reported in Virginia in 2024 as of Apr 16.

## Measles

125

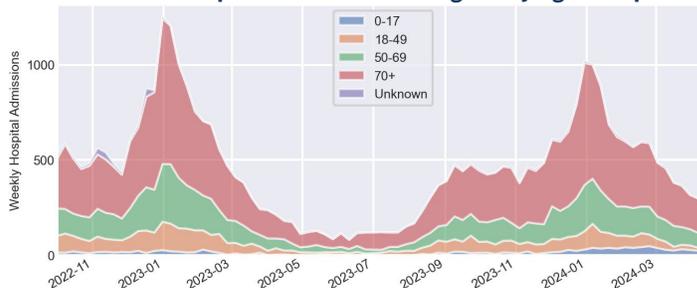
The number of new measles cases in the US detected since the start of 2024, as of Apr 19.

## Spotlight: Pandemic Preparedness

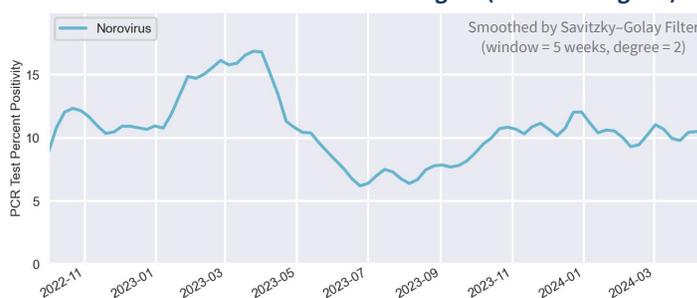
## Ongoing Monitored Situations

- **Measles cases grow slowly.** The CDC detected 71 new cases across the nation in March. Since the start of April only four new cases were detected, with none reported last week. Cases remain geographically sporadic. Los Angeles reports a possible exposure event that includes the Universal Studios theme park.
- **No new mpox cases in Virginia this week.** The Commonwealth reported 17 new mpox cases since the start of the year, but only one of these cases was detected in April. Health officials in neighboring North Carolina report that over 20 individuals were exposed to the virus at an elementary school in Charlotte.
- **Spread of avian influenza in dairy cattle continues.** The virus was recently detected in three new herds in Michigan. Responding to this situation, 17 states have restricted importation of cattle from affected states.
- **Canada reports avian flu in wild mammals.** The H5N5 virus, not to be confused with the H5N1 flu affecting cattle, was found in wild raccoons on Prince Edward Island and in Nova Scotia.
- **Norovirus remains stabilize as rotavirus decreases.** Data from the NREVSS suggest that norovirus activity in the Southern U.S. Census region (which includes Virginia) has likely stabilized. Rotavirus detections in the region peaked in March and are likely on a declining trajectory. Wastewater data suggests that activity for both viruses remains elevated nationwide.

**COVID-19 Hospital Admissions in Virginia by Age Group**



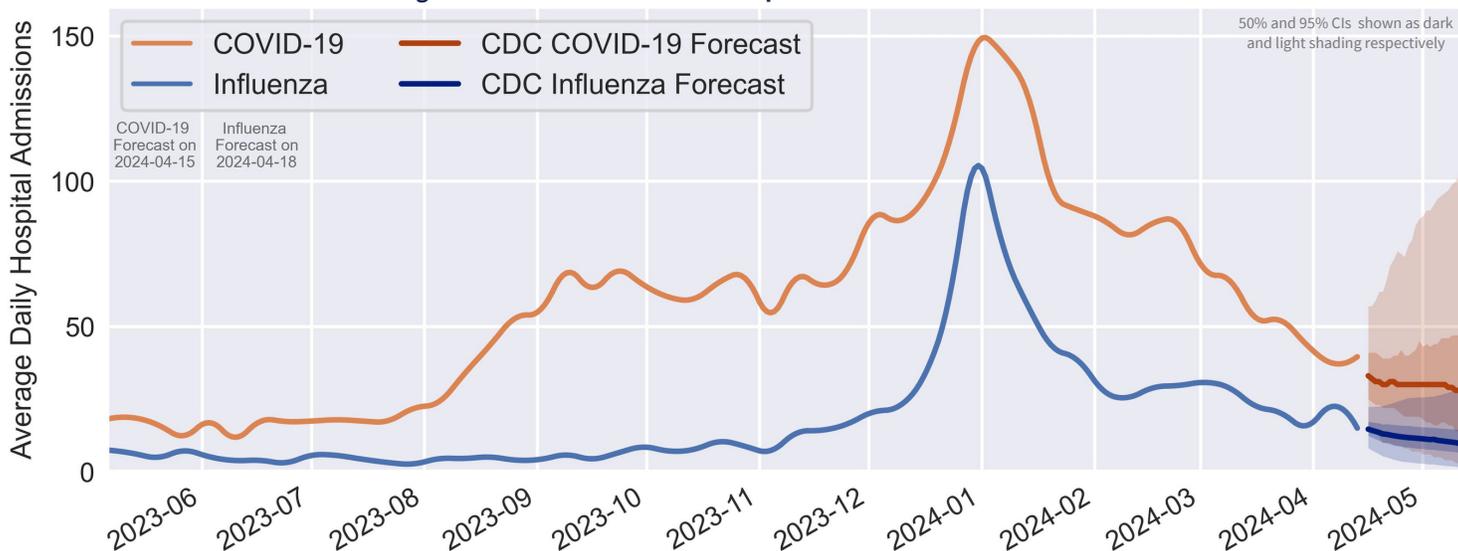
**Norovirus in Southern U.S. Census Region (Includes Virginia)**



Data Sources: Top [HealthData.gov](https://www.healthdata.gov), Bottom [CDC NREVSS](https://www.cdc.gov/nrevss/).

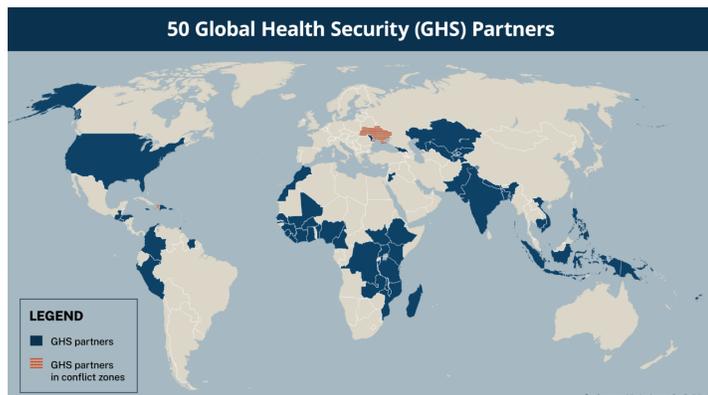
- **Seasonal respiratory diseases slowly decreasing.** For the sixth week in a row, emergency department (ED) and urgent care diagnoses of influenza have fallen in Virginia. COVID-19 diagnoses in the ED have decreased consistently since February. Combined hospitalizations have fallen by 75% since December but remain elevated compared to summer lows. Adults over 70 remain the most impacted. Models suggest that admissions will continue a slow decline.

**Virginia COVID-19 and Influenza Hospital Admissions and Forecasts**



Epidemic models suggest a near-term stabilization of hospital admissions for both COVID-19 and influenza, leading to a very gradual decline for both viruses through early May. Historical data source: [HealthData.gov](https://www.healthdata.gov), COVID-19 forecast data source: [CDC CFA](https://www.cdc.gov/cfa/), flu forecast data source: [CDC FluSight](https://www.cdc.gov/flu/sight/).

## Spotlight



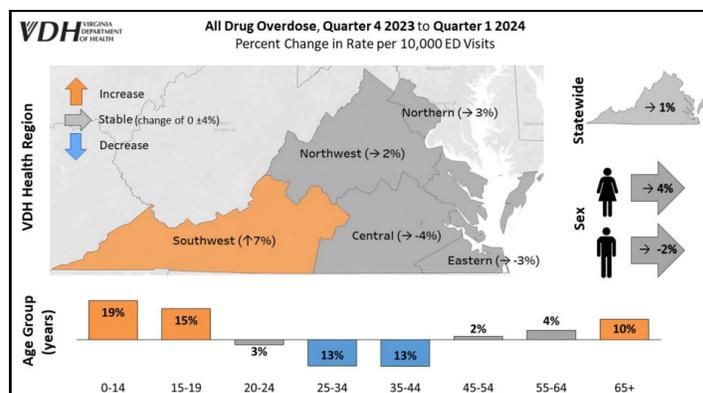
The U.S. has initiated 50 formal Global Health Security partnerships to improve the capacities of developing nations to prevent and respond to health threats. The partnership aims to achieve a level of “Demonstrated Capacity” as measured by relevant health security assessments (e.g., WHO Monitoring and Evaluation Framework). Image Source: [US Department of State](#).

## Pandemic Preparedness

- The 194 member states of the World Health Organization are approaching two years of negotiations on a potential pandemic agreement that aims to help countries “prevent, prepare for and respond to pandemics” through improved international cooperation. Although the final text is expected to be voted on at the May 2024 World Health Assembly, a satisfactory agreement between member nations is unlikely.
- The Biden administration announced the Global Health Security Strategy earlier this week. The initiative focuses on offering US support to 50 countries, primarily in Africa and Asia, to improve their testing, surveillance, and communication capabilities, and increase their preparedness for future disease outbreaks. The administration is prepared to implement the strategy regardless of the outcome of the pandemic agreement negotiations.

## Other News

- **Over 320 drugs are in short supply across the country, the highest shortage recorded since 2001.** According to a 2023 survey conducted by the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists, the record shortage of 323 drugs includes critical chemotherapy and life-saving crash cart drugs. Many manufacturers have not provided an explanation for the shortage.
- **The Virginia Hospital and Healthcare Association launches the new “Help Us, Help You” public awareness campaign** to address the increased risk of workplace violence among healthcare workers. The series of videos emphasize the importance of respectful behavior to ensure the accessibility of safe and high-quality health care.
- **Following a 2020 study on heat islands, Roanoke organizations embarked on the H.O.P.E. for Heat Resilience project**, a collaborative approach to urban planning that prioritizes heat resilience. Several community-based organizations met with consultants from the EPA this week as they prepare to apply for funding for future projects through EPA’s Community Change Grant.



In comparison to Q4 in 2023, overdose-related emergency department visits per 10,000 ED visits decreased in Q1 2024 statewide but have increased regionally in the Southwest. Rates have also increased among the youngest and oldest age groups and decreased among those between the ages of 25 and 44. Image Source: [VDH](#).

- **Seven homicides have been reported in the Richmond area since the beginning of the month.** This comes after a decrease in the number of homicides during the first quarter of 2024. Most recently, a 16-year-old boy was killed, and four others injured in a Fulton Hill shooting earlier this week. The boy is the fourth juvenile to be killed in April.