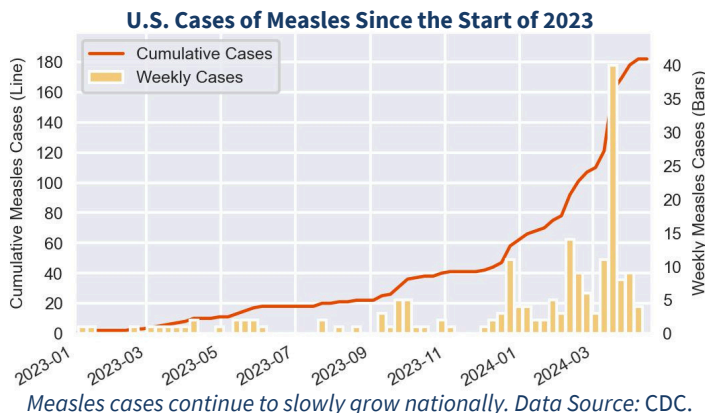


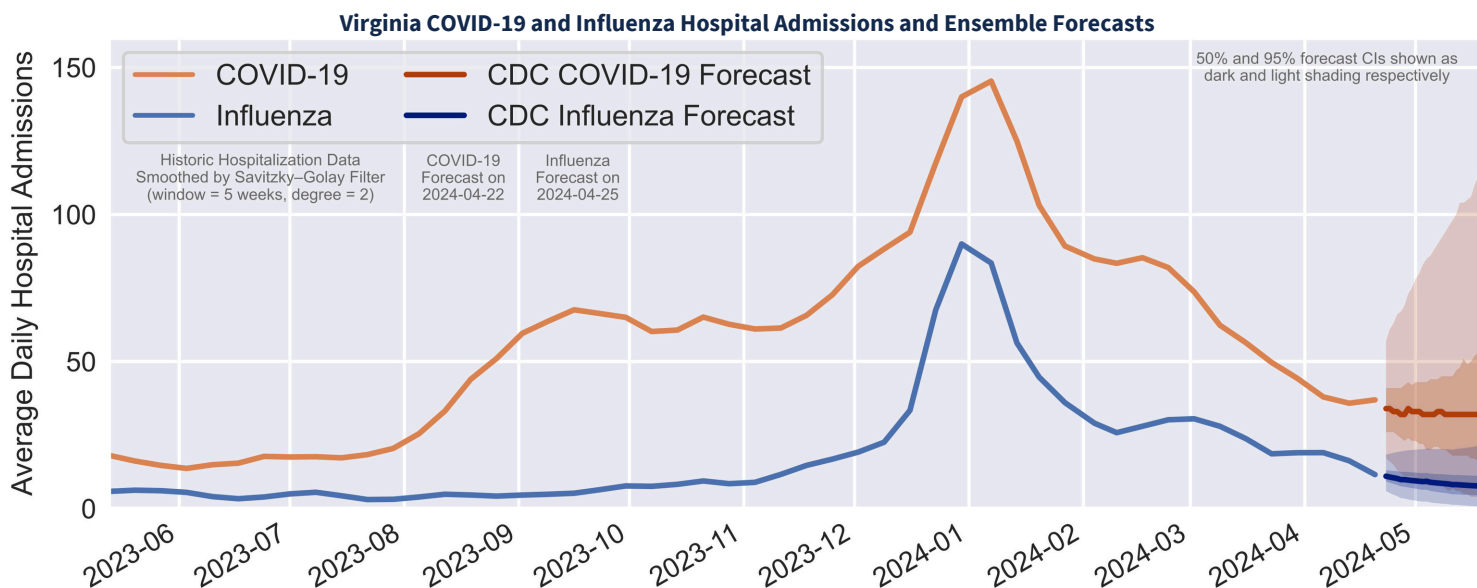


## Ongoing Monitored Situations

- **Mpox cases continue to grow in Virginia.** Since the start of the year, the Commonwealth has recorded 19 new mpox cases, including three since the start of April at a rate of one per week.
- **Concern grows regarding clade 1 mpox in Africa.** The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) is facing a significant outbreak of clade 1 mpox. Clade 1 is considered more virulent than clade 2 mpox that was responsible for the global mpox outbreak of 2022. Historically, clade 1 was considered less transmissible than clade 2, but new evidence suggests that DRC is experiencing ongoing sexual transmission of clade 1.
- **COVID-19 activity still decreasing, hospital bed use has stabilized.** COVID-19 diagnoses in Virginia emergency departments (ED) decreased by 18% this week, continuing a trend that started in February. COVID-19 wastewater activity is at the lowest level seen since November 2023. Despite this, COVID-19 hospital beds in use seem to have stabilized in the last two weeks. Models suggest that related hospital admissions may stabilize in the coming weeks.
- **CDC updates COVID-19 vaccine recommendations.** The CDC now recommends one additional 2023- 2024 COVID-19 vaccine dose for adults over 65. The vaccine is expected to protect against the dominant JN.1 variant and derivatives like JN.1.13, which now accounts for about 9% of new cases nationally.

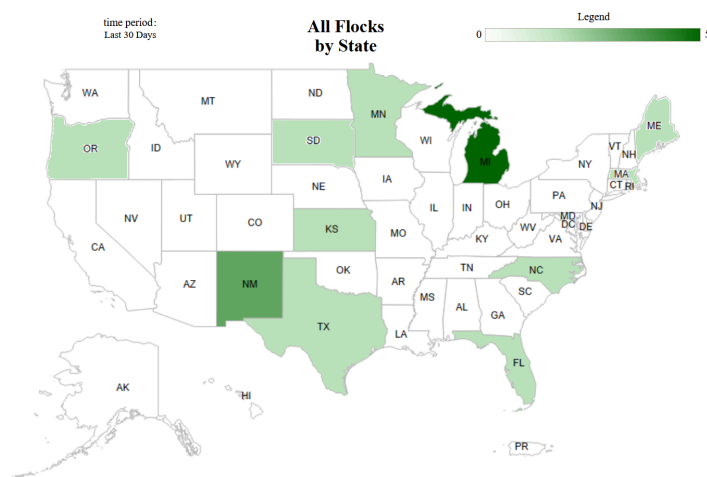


- **Sporadic measles outbreaks continue nationally.** The CDC detected four new cases across the nation since the start of April. This week West Virginia reported its first confirmed case of measles in 15 years. Several peer nations are facing far higher incidence rates. England has reported over 1200 cases since October of 2023.
- **Other seasonal respiratory diseases decreasing.** The overall respiratory virus activity level for Virginia is now 'minimal'. ED and urgent care diagnoses of influenza decreased by 12.5% this week. Hospital admissions for flu fell by 28%. Models suggest hospital admissions will stabilize through June. Human metapneumovirus virus (HMPV) test positivity has decreased for three weeks in a row, while ED diagnoses of RSV are now less than 0.1%.



Epidemic models suggest that COVID-19 and flu associated hospitalizations will stabilize and remain level through the end of May. Historical data source: [HealthData.gov](#), COVID-19 forecast data source: [CDC CFA](#), flu forecast data source: [CDC FluSight](#).

## Spotlight



HPAI has been detected 13 commercial and backyard poultry flocks across 7 states in the past 30 days, including North Carolina. There have been no detections in poultry in Virginia during that time period. HPAI has been detected in 20 wild birds in 2024, including 13 detections from samples collected in March. Image Source: [USDA APHIS](#).

## Other News

- **Chronic wasting disease (CWD)** has been detected in an adult male deer harvested in November 2023 in Tazewell County. Tazewell is the 14th Virginia county with at least one CWD detection. Although CWD could impact some deer populations it has not been shown to pose a risk to humans or domestic animals.
- An outbreak of **pertussis** has been reported among adult residents of Rockbridge County. Nine cases have been identified since the beginning of April. Across the nation, pertussis outbreaks have been detected in Pennsylvania and Hawaii.
- The **National Weather Service** and **CDC** introduced a new color-coded **heat warning system** this week. The new location-specific system was developed using local weather, climate, and health data. Magenta represents the highest threat category and indicates extreme, long-lasting heat conditions.
- Following the ransomware attack earlier this year, **Change Healthcare** has **restored 80% of the functionality** of its claims, payments, and pharmacy services. The company plans to launch additional services within the next several weeks.

## HPAI in Cattle

- **Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI)** has been **detected** in 33 dairy cattle herds in 8 states. Although unconfirmed, early evidence from **milk tests** suggest HPAI in cattle may be more widespread while **genomic surveillance** suggests the outbreak may have begun in Dec.
- **USDA** requires testing prior to **interstate movement of lactating dairy cattle**. The **order** also includes a reporting requirement and describes criteria for reimbursement for HPAI testing in dairy cattle.
- **Pasteurization eliminates live HPAI virus in commercial milk supply**. Remnants of HPAI virus degraded by pasteurization were recently **detected** in commercial milk. Early work indicates an absence of infectious virus in the studies of retail milk, and the FDA and USDA **affirmed** the commercial milk supply is safe. Consumption of raw or unpasteurized milk always poses a **significant health threat**.

**NWS HeatRisk Categories**

Category	Risk of Heat-Related Impacts
Green 0	Little to no risk from expected heat.
Yellow 1	Minor - This level of heat affects primarily those individuals extremely sensitive to heat, especially when outdoors without effective cooling and/or adequate hydration.
Orange 2	Moderate - This level of heat affects most individuals sensitive to heat, especially those without effective cooling and/or adequate hydration. Impacts possible in some health systems and in heat-sensitive industries.
Red 3	Major - This level of heat affects anyone without effective cooling and/or adequate hydration. Impacts likely in some health systems, heat-sensitive industries and infrastructure.
Magenta 4	Extreme - This level of rare and/or long-duration extreme heat with little to no overnight relief affects anyone without effective cooling and/or adequate hydration. Impacts likely in most health systems, heat-sensitive industries and infrastructure.

The newly developed HeatRisk index indicates the level of risk of heat effects over a 24-hour period and the populations most at risk at each level. HeatRisk forecasts are provided up to seven days in advance.  
 Image Source: [National Weather Service](#)