

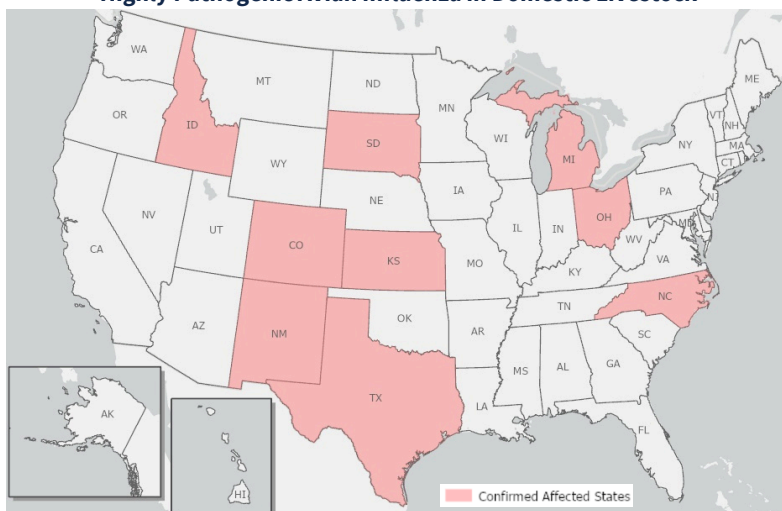
May 3, 2024

Key Takeaways

- H5N1 bird flu has been detected in 36 dairy cattle herds in nine states, but wastewater and retail milk testing suggest the outbreak in dairy cattle may be more widespread.
- Seasonal respiratory illness activity continues to decrease. Seasonal gastrointestinal disease activity remains elevated.
- Sporadic measles outbreaks are being reported across the nation. The WHO has recorded over 100,000 cases globally this year.
- Protests have broken out on college campuses throughout the U.S. Violence, including injuries to protestors and law enforcement, has occurred on some campuses. Arrests related to the protests have occurred on three college campuses in Virginia.

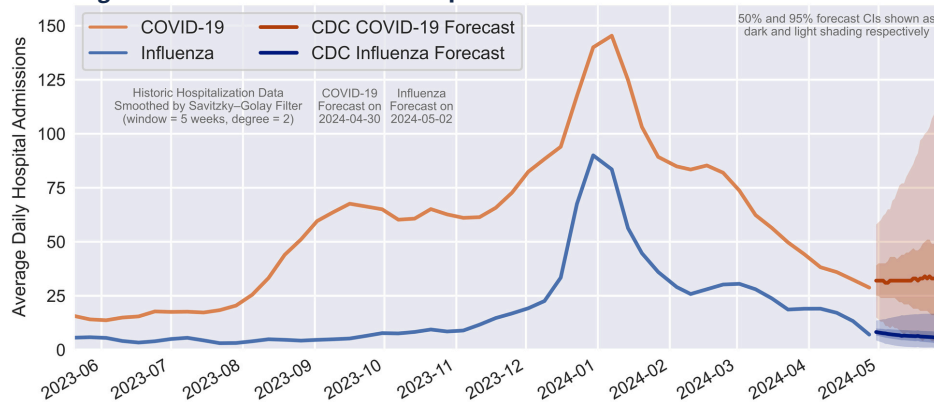
Key Figures

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in Domestic Livestock



HPAI has been found in nine states, now including Colorado. Source: [USDA](#) as of 2024-04-30.

Virginia COVID-19 and Influenza Hospital Admissions and Ensemble Forecasts



Models suggest COVID-19 and flu hospitalizations will remain stable through June. Historical data source: [HealthData.gov](#), COVID-19 forecast data source: [CDC CFA](#), flu forecast data source: [CDC FluSight](#).

Mpox

20

The number of mpox cases reported in Virginia in 2024 as of Apr 30.

Measles

131

The number of new measles cases in the US detected since the start of 2024, as of May 03.

COVID-19

Low / Minimal

Characterization of statewide COVID-19 related hospital admissions / hospital bed occupancy as of Apr 27.

H5N1 Bird Flu

18

The number of states with wastewater displaying a second wave of influenza A in March, after the seasonal wave had abated. Research suggests this may be related to animal waste and raw milk discharges.

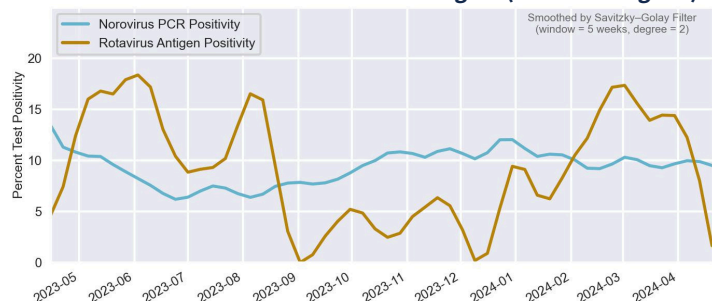
Spotlight: **Campus Protests**

Ongoing Monitored Situations

Seasonal Illnesses

- **Respiratory illness activity levels of COVID-19 and flu continue to decrease** and are now at the lowest level seen since July and November 2023 respectively. RSV rates are near zero.
- **Hospital admissions for COVID-19 and flu reach eight-month low.** Combined admissions are now at a level not seen since August 2023. Models suggest that hospital admissions may stabilize through June.
- **Norovirus unchanged, rotavirus rates decreasing.** Data from the Southern U.S. Census Region, which includes Virginia, show that norovirus activity remains elevated. Rotavirus detections, which peaked at the end of March, have fallen by 85% since then.

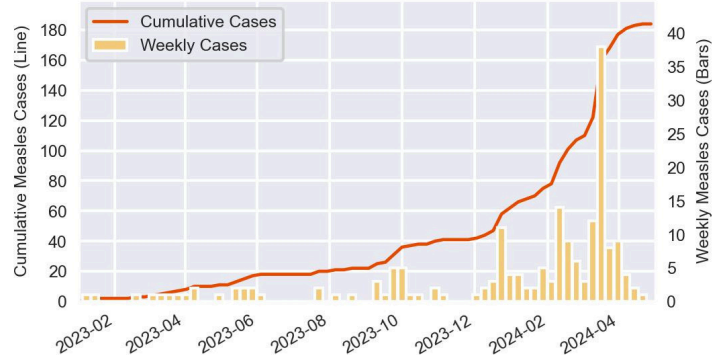
GI Illness in the Southern U.S. Census Region (Includes Virginia)



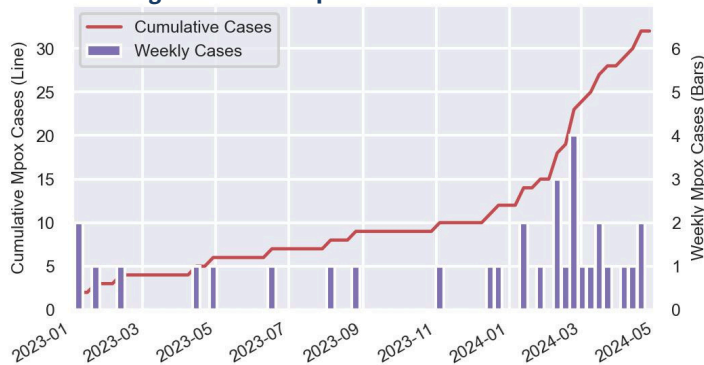
Measles

- **Measles outbreaks continue both nationally and globally.** The CDC reported seven new national cases of measles in April. This is down from 70 in March. The WHO has reported over 100,000 global cases in 2024, with most of these cases found in developing nations.

U.S. Cases of Measles Since the Start of 2023



Virginia Cases of Mpox Since the Start of 2023



Mpox

- **Mpox cases continue in Virginia.** A total of 20 mpox cases have been reported in the Commonwealth since the start of 2024, including four in April.
- **A CDC assessment found that the risk posed by clade I mpox to the general population in the United States is 'very low'.** The same assessment found a 'low to moderate' risk to American men who have sex with men (MSM). An outbreak of the more virulent clade I mpox is presently impacting the Democratic Republic of Congo.

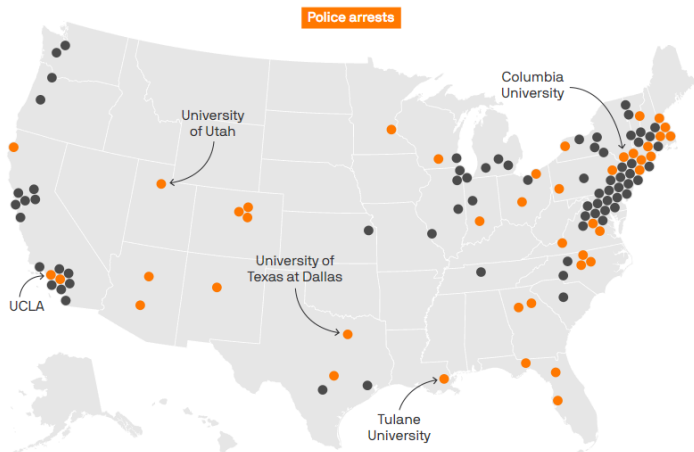
H5N1 (A(H5N1)) Bird Flu

- **Last week H5N1 bird flu was detected in a Colorado dairy herd, bringing the total to 36 herds in nine states.** Wastewater and retail milk testing now suggests that the outbreak could be more widespread in dairy cattle than previously thought.
- **Infected cats were likely exposed by drinking raw milk on dairy farms.** The FDA reaffirmed the safety of pasteurized milk; testing milk and milk-derived products did not detect any 'live' infectious virus. A 2022 survey found that 4.4% of Americans reported consuming raw milk in the past year, including 1% who consumed raw milk at least once per week.
- **The UN Food and Agriculture Organization in Vietnam urged countries to monitor for an H5N1 reassortment.** Reassortment between new and old clades has been detected in parts of Asia. It has been linked to human infections, but at this time there is no evidence of increased severity or infectivity in mammals, including humans.

Spotlight

College campuses with reported encampments or sit-ins related to the war in Gaza

April 12 to May 2, 2024 (as of 10am ET); Includes encampments that have been dismantled



Campus protests are occurring nationally, but not all have resulted in unrest or arrests. Virginia campuses have experienced a number of sit-ins, with arrests occurring at [Virginia Tech](#), [Virginia Commonwealth University](#), and the [University of Mary Washington](#). Image Source: [Axios](#)

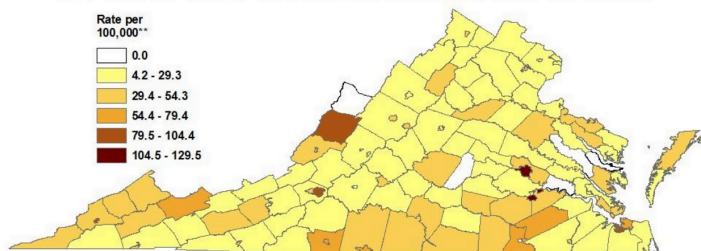
Campus Protests

- **Protests related to the conflict in Israel and Palestine have broken out on campuses across the U.S.** Many of these have involved encampments or sit-ins (see map). Muslim, Jewish, and other students have reported feeling unsafe due to the protests, counter-protests, and other incidents.
- **Response to these protests has been mixed.** Some universities have successfully negotiated with protest leaders, while others have called in police to forcibly remove encampments. In many cases protesters have resisted, sometimes violently, or escalated civil disobedience following dispersal. Injuries among protestors and law enforcement have been reported, but have been limited.
- **Violence between protestors and counter-protesters has been reported in at least two incidents.** At [UCLA](#), a group of similarly dressed and masked individuals initiated an assault on a protest encampment, resulting in at least 15 injuries. Two people were injured during an altercation at the [University of California – Berkeley](#).

Other News

- **National Hurricane Preparedness Week is May 5-11, 2024.** The Atlantic basin is forecast to have 11 hurricanes, including five major hurricanes, this season. Unseasonably high air and record sea-surface temperatures are increasing the chances of an active and potentially severe hurricane season.
- **A recent review found that many physicians feel less obligated to treat infectious disease patients.** Although most physicians felt obligated to offer treatment, some cited that labor rights and worker protections could be reasons to refuse.
- **Nine people died and 65 required treatment in an overdose outbreak in Austin, TX.** Fentanyl was detected among all nine deaths, but the majority had other drugs in their systems as well.
- **Over 80% of national emergency call centers are experiencing staff shortages** according to a recent report. The shortages, exacerbated by outdated technology, have contributed to mandatory overtime and symptoms of burnout.

Rate of All Fatal Drug Overdoses, Any Substance, by Locality of Overdose, 2023*



Preliminary data shows fatal drug overdose continued to be the leading method of unnatural death in Virginia in Q3 2023. Fentanyl is responsible for over 75% of fatal overdoses. Rates vary across the state, with the highest rates in Southern and Western Virginia. Image Source: [VDH](#)

- **The White House signed a memorandum to protect critical infrastructure.** The memorandum empowers the US Dept of Homeland Security to secure critical infrastructure, and directs the US Intelligence Community to share intelligence with Federal, state, local, and private partners. Healthcare and Public Health is one of the 16 critical infrastructure sectors.