

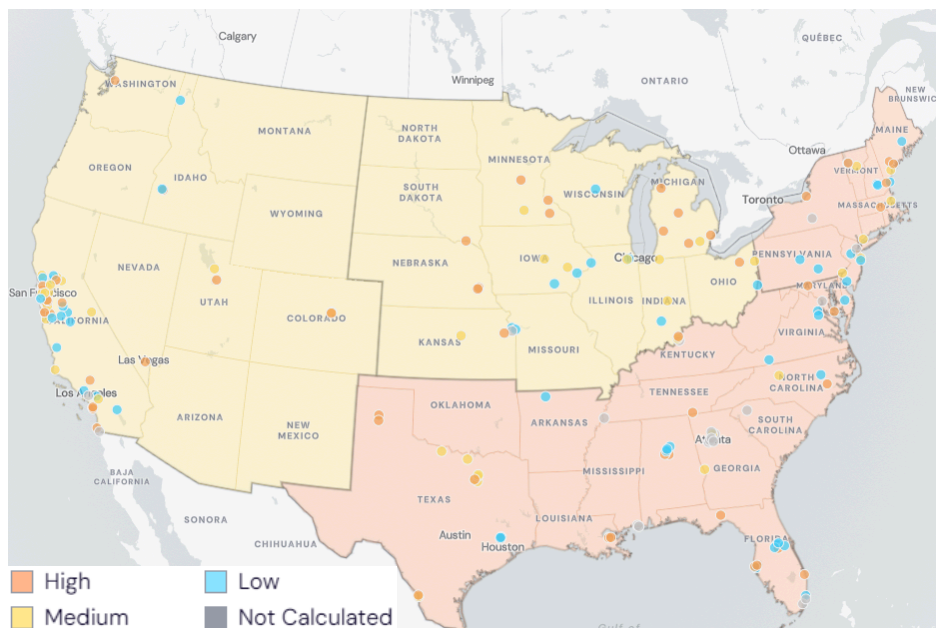
May 17, 2024

## Key Takeaways

- Indicators suggest the possibility of new COVID-19 growth nationally. This has not yet been seen in Virginia, where activity continues to decrease. The new KP.2 variant of COVID-19 may be contributing to this growth.
- HPAI A(H5N1) has been identified in seven additional dairy herds in the past week, in Texas, Michigan, and Idaho, each of which had previous detections. WastewaterSCAN shows high Influenza A markers in the South and Northeast, though the three sites in Virginia remain 'low'.
- Mpox cases are continuing in Virginia at a rate of roughly one per week. An outbreak of the more virulent clade I mpox continues in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). The CDC considers the threat posed to the United States to be 'very low'.
- The Blue Ridge Rock Festival has been cancelled for 2024.
- Tick and mosquito season is beginning in Virginia.

## Key Figures

### Influenza A Markers in Wastewater



Source: [WastewaterSCAN](#) as of 2024-05-16.

## Mpox

### 21

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

## Measles

### 139

The number of new measles cases in the US detected since the start of 2024, as of May 10.

## HPAI A(H5N1)

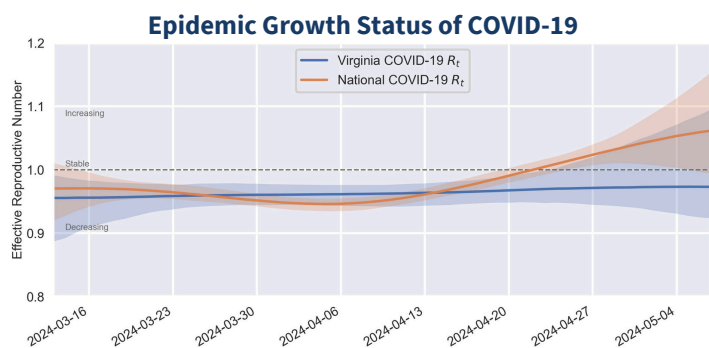
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Additional dairy herds with detected Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza A (HPAI) detections nationally in the past week.

## Ongoing Monitored Situations

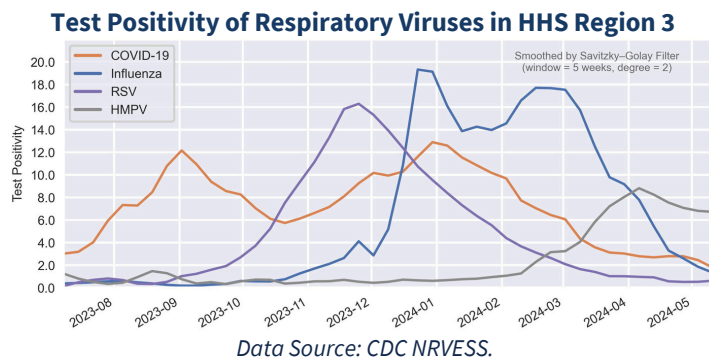
### Seasonal Illnesses

- **COVID-19 showing signs of growth nationally, still decreasing in Virginia.** Epidemic models based on emergency department (ED) diagnoses, suggest the possibility of growth in New York, New Jersey, and the American Southwest. The same models suggest that COVID-19 activity is still ‘likely declining’ in Virginia. Both trends are corroborated by wastewater data.



Modeling suggests growth of COVID-19 nationally. The same models suggest that Virginia is still in a declining trajectory. Data Source: CDC.

- **The KP.2 variant of COVID-19 is growing nationally, accounting for an estimated 30% of new cases,** including 12.7% in HHS Region 3. A descendant of JN.1, the new variant does not appear to be more severe but may drive increased cases this summer.
- **Human metapneumovirus (HMPV) rates stabilize.** Test positivity for HMPV in HHS Region 3 has leveled off in the last few weeks. Wastewater data suggests that HMPV is in a downward trend in the South.
- **Seasonal gastrointestinal illness rates continue to be elevated.** Wastewater data suggest high but stable norovirus and rotavirus activity in the Southeastern United States. Test positivity for norovirus Census Region 3 also remains elevated.



Data Source: CDC NRVES.

### H5N1 (HPAI A) Bird Flu

- **WasterwaterSCAN data shows high Influenza A markers in the South and Northeast.** The three sites in Virginia are rated as low, however sites in Maryland and North Carolina are high (see map on page 1).
- **Weekly raw milk sales increased by up to 65% following reports of HPAI A(H5N1) in milk.** Just 4.4% of Americans report consuming raw milk, and just 1% report consuming it weekly. Meanwhile, the CDC is monitoring 260 farm workers, and tested 30, amid reports that some farm owners and workers are resisting monitoring and eschewing PPE.

#### States with HPAI A(H5N1) Detections in Cattle

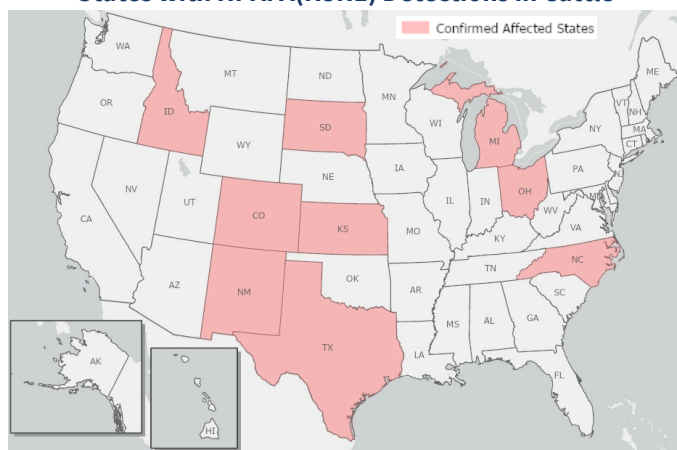
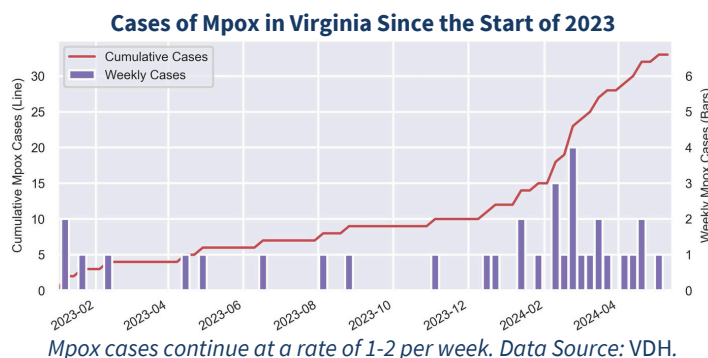


Image Source: USDA. Data current as of: 2024-05-16.

### Mpox

- **The Clade I mpox virus circulating in the DRC poses a ‘very low’ threat to the U.S. population** according to a new CDC assessment. However, it poses a ‘low to moderate’ threat to MSM with more than one sexual partner, and to those who have sex with MSM.

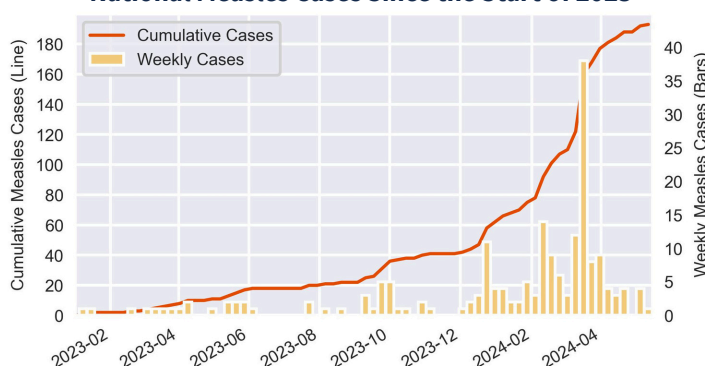


Mpox cases continue at a rate of 1-2 per week. Data Source: VDH.

## Other News

- A malfunctioning electrical device caused an accidental electrical fire at the Princess Anne Health and Rehabilitation Center in Virginia Beach on Sunday. Four people were treated for smoke inhalation and 26 residents were displaced to other facilities in Chesapeake and Virginia Beach.
- The 2024 Blue Ridge Rock Festival has been cancelled. The 2023 festival was also cancelled due to severe weather amid complaints about other public health issues. The 2024 festival was originally scheduled to be held at the Virginia International Raceway in Halifax County in September.
- Operations at the healthcare system Ascension were significantly impacted by a cyberattack. The system spans across 19 states and the attack forced several of its 140 hospitals to divert ambulances and take appointment scheduling and electronic medical records offline. Ascension reports it “may still take some time to return to normal operations.”
- US Poison Centers responded to 539 cases of illicit fentanyl exposure among children under 6-years old in 2023, a 349% increase from 120 cases in 2020 and a 5,290% increase from 10 cases reported in 2016.

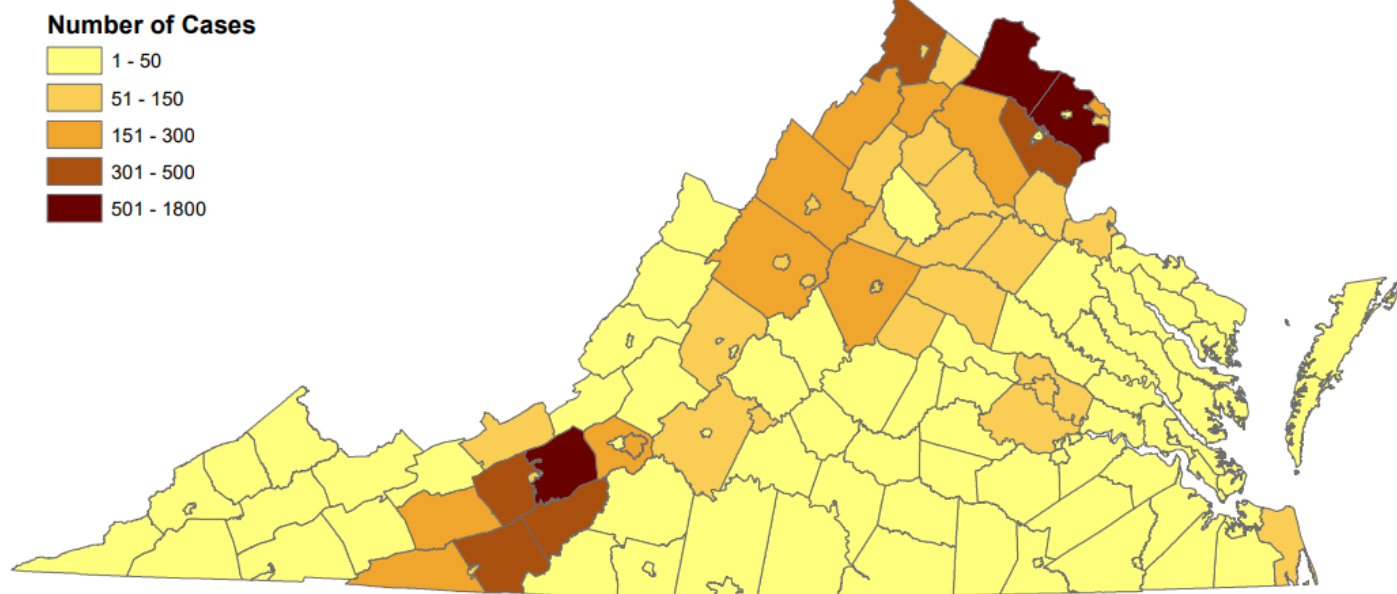
National Measles Cases Since the Start of 2023



Source: CDC.

- The CDC reports five new cases of measles this month. Most recently, San Diego reported its third outbreak of the year. The CDC released an MMWR on the February migrant shelter outbreak in Chicago.
- Severe thunderstorms accompanied by hurricane-force winds, tornadoes, and flooding, left four dead and almost one million homes and businesses without power across Texas and Louisiana on Thursday evening. Although power outage numbers are improving, officials warn that disruptions to power could persist for several days.

Lyme Disease Cases by County from 2013 to 2022



Tick and mosquito season is beginning in Virginia, and with it the risk of tick-borne and mosquito-borne diseases, such as tick-borne Lyme disease (mapped above). The range of some diseases is spreading due to climate change, land development, and other factors. Pets may also be at risk for some diseases, including Lyme disease. Data source: VDH.