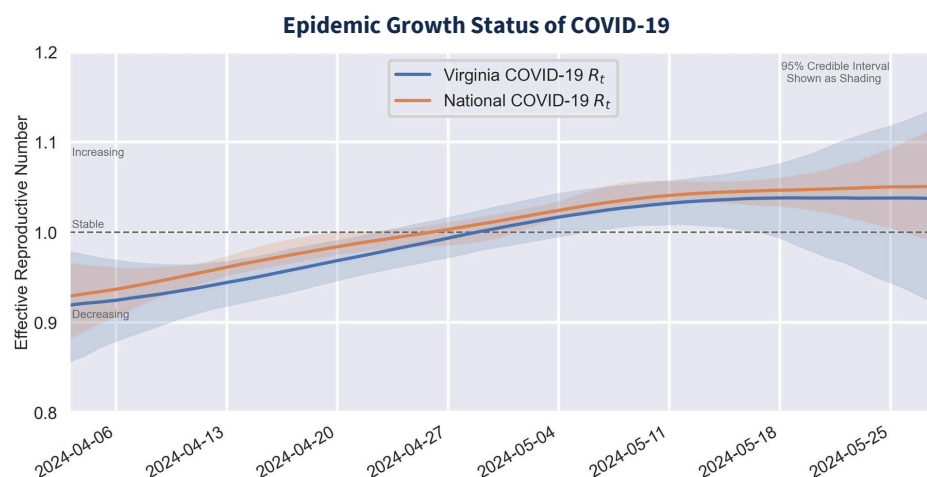


May 31, 2024

Key Takeaways

- Overall viral activity remains low nationally. Nevertheless, there is evidence of COVID-19 growth in 19 states including Virginia.
- A third human case of HPAI (A)H5N1 was reported in Michigan. Unlike the other two cases, this case involved flu-like respiratory illness.
- The CDC urges states and community partners to continue influenza surveillance efforts through the summer.
- HPAI (A)H5N1 was recently detected in domestic alpacas. The animals were housed on the same property that had an outbreak in poultry.
- Measles outbreaks continue to occur sporadically across the nation.
- Saudi Arabia reports an outbreak of meningococcal disease associated with travel for the Islamic pilgrimage Umrah. The most significant and well-attended Islamic pilgrimage, the Hajj, will occur from June 14 to 19.
- June is Pride Month, and the FBI and DHS have warned that extremists may target related events.
- The Atlantic hurricane season begins June 1. NOAA has predicted above-average activity for this season.
- An EF1 tornado struck southwest of Salem, VA this week. The resulting damage left 100,000 without power.

Key Figures



Epidemic models suggest a 79% likelihood that COVID-19 activity in Virginia is increasing. The same models suggest that nationally, COVID-19 has been growing since late April. The current estimate of the effective reproductive number (R_t) in Virginia is 1.04 which is less than the national average, and not conducive to rapid growth. Data Source: [CDC](#).

Mpox

21

The number of mpox cases reported in Virginia in 2024 as of May 28.

Measles

146

The number of new measles cases in the US detected since the start of 2024, as of May 31.

HPAI A(H5N1)

3

Human cases of HPAI A(H5N1) detected in 2024 in the United States as of May 30, 2024

Hurricane Season

11

The number of consecutive months that global sea surface temperatures have exceeded previous records for the respective month (Jun 2023 to Apr 2024).

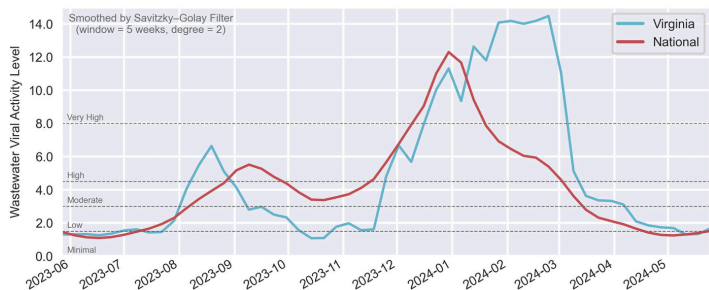
**Spotlight:
June Events**

Ongoing Monitored Situations

Seasonal Respiratory Illness

- **National respiratory illness rates remain low despite signs of COVID-19 growth.** [LLINet data](#) suggest overall respiratory illness activity is ‘minimal’ in Virginia and across the nation. This is supported by [wastewater surveillance](#) which also finds ‘low’ COVID-19 viral activity in the Commonwealth as well as nationally. Emergency department (ED) [diagnoses](#) of COVID-19 in Virginia are up 10% from early-May, but remained level this week. Yet, [epidemic models](#) based on ED visits continue to suggest national and local growth of the virus.
- **Pan-coronavirus vaccine completes phase 1 trial.** Scientists at the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research [reported](#) that the novel vaccine was “well tolerated” and effective against a “broad panel of SARS-CoV-2 variants and other sarbecoviruses.”

COVID-19 Wastewater Viral Activity Level Trends

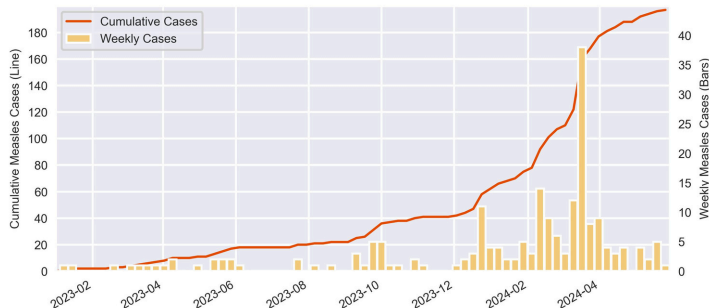


Due to recent growth, COVID-19 activity has increased from ‘minimal’ to ‘low’ across the nation and in the Commonwealth. Data Source: [CDC](#).

Measles

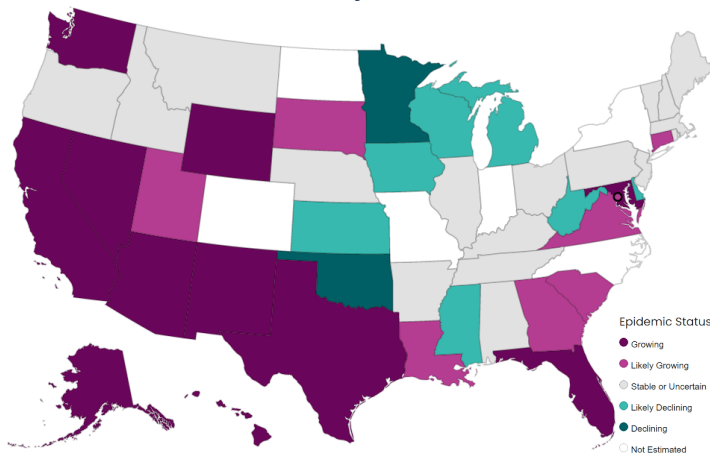
- **Sporadic outbreaks of measles continue nationally.** [Chicago](#) has declared an end to a measles outbreak that started in March. In the same week, [Los Angeles](#) reported an exposure event in the LAX airport. Overall, the nation continues to report about 1-2 cases per week.

National Measles Cases Since the Start of 2023



Note, four cases with unknown onset are not included. Data source: [CDC](#).

National Growth Trajectories of COVID-19



As of May 28, CDC models suggest COVID-19 growth in 19 states and territories. This includes Virginia, Maryland and Washington DC. Growth is also being seen in the American Southwest. Image Source: [CDC](#).

HPAI (A)H5N1

- **HPAI (A)H5N1 confirmed in a third dairy worker.** All three of the human HPAI (A)H5N1 cases reported in 2024 were associated with exposure to infected dairy cattle. This case, the second in Michigan, is the first to report significant respiratory symptoms. The case did not change the CDC’s assessment that the virus poses a ‘low’ risk to those who do not have exposure to infected animals.
- **CDC encourages continued flu surveillance.** As flu activity wains in summer months, most flu-specific surveillance efforts are scaled back. But CDC officials [urged](#) against this, citing the need to detect potential human cases of HPAI (A)H5N1.
- **HPAI (A)H5N1 detected among domestic alpacas.** The same facility had recently [detected](#) the H5N1 virus among poultry that were subsequently depopulated. Genomic sequencing confirms that the alpacas were infected with the same virus currently affecting dairy cattle nationally.
- **USDA APHIS released new [data](#) on HPAI (A)H5N1 detections in domestic cats.** The data lists 16 detections across six states. Separately, the World Organization for Animal Health [listed](#) detections in feral cat colonies that are not directly associated with dairy or poultry farms.

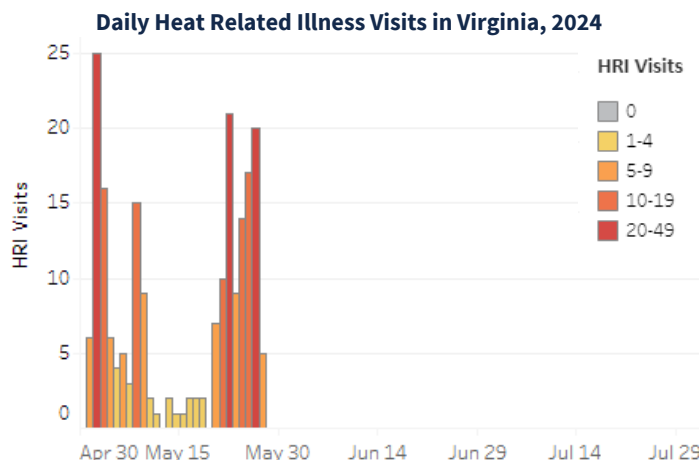
Spotlight

- **June is Pride Month.** Travel to Pride Month events is common, and Virginia hosts many Pride events. Mpox cases remain low in Virginia and nationally when compared to the outbreak in 2022, but have increased recently. Additionally, the CDC warned that men who have sex with men may be at higher risk for Clade I mpox currently circulating in the Democratic Republic of Congo, if it spreads to the U.S.
- **Federal officials warned of potential threats to Pride Month events.** The FBI and Department of Homeland Security warned about threats to domestic events, while the State Department issued a similar warning about international events. At this time, no specific threats were noted.
- **The CDC issued a travel alert for meningococcal disease in Saudi Arabia.** The annual Hajj pilgrimage to Mecca occurs June 14-19. Twelve cases related to travel to Mecca have been reported in the U.S. (5 cases), France (4 cases) and the United Kingdom (3 cases). The Virginia Department of Health continues to respond to an unrelated meningococcal outbreak.

Other News

- **The Environmental Protection Agency released an Enforcement Alert** urging community water systems to ensure the cybersecurity of their operational systems. The EPA also found that over 70% of the water systems inspected since September 2023 are not fully compliant with Section 1433 of the Safe Drinking Water Act.
- **Efforts to establish a global pandemic treaty have come to an unsuccessful conclusion after more than two years of ongoing negotiations.** Although the specific reasons for the development of a failed agreement were unspecified, representatives have indicated differences in the sharing of information and technology related to emerging pathogens and their treatment between countries.

June Events



Summer begins June 20. Although heat-related illnesses (HRIs) are typically highest during the summer months, heat risk increases any time the heat index rises. Virginia has already experienced 205 HRI visits to emergency departments or urgent care facilities this year. Image Source: VDH

- **The Atlantic Hurricane Season begins June 1.** NOAA is expecting an above-normal season, with more named storms, hurricanes, and major hurricanes forecast than in any previous May hurricane outlook. Conditions may also support rapid intensification.
- **An EF-1 tornado with winds up to 105 mph impacted Salem over the holiday weekend,** causing over 100,000 residents of Virginia and West Virginia to lose power. Heavy rains this week also caused a rockslide that pushed a 100-ton boulder into a roadway in Washington County, resulting in traffic delays. Neither event caused major injuries.
- **Cases of Candida auris have increased every year since 2021, while incidence of Carbapenemase-producing organisms have increased since 2018,** according to dashboards released by the Virginia Department of Health. Other dashboards cover antimicrobial stewardship in Virginia hospitals, and healthcare-associated infections in acute-care and long-term acute-care hospitals.