

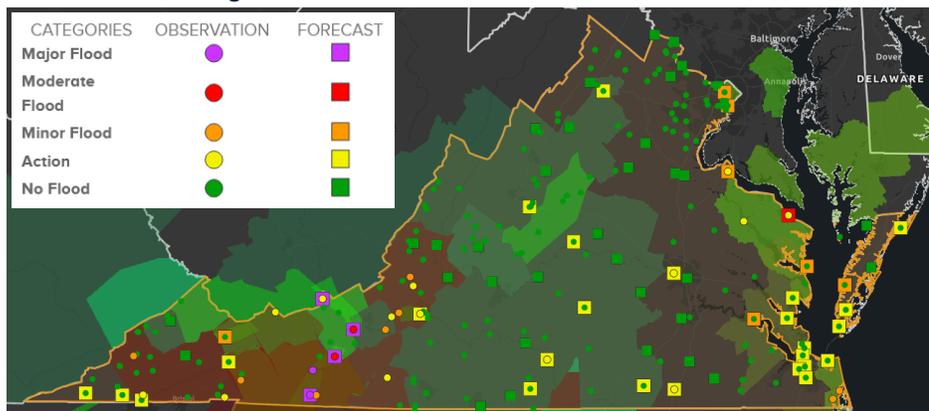
September 27, 2024

Key Takeaways

- The remnants of Hurricane Helene are currently impacting Virginia, causing power outages, with major flooding expected along the New River. This is an ongoing situation. Follow local weather and news to keep up to date on local impacts.
- California reports significant growth of HPAI A(H5N1) in dairy herds.
- India reports a case of clade Ib mpox. This is the third case detected outside of Africa.
- COVID-19 activity continues declining nationally and locally.
- The ongoing Measles outbreak in Minnesota has reached 51 cases.
- Israel issued a traveler warning ahead of religious holidays and the anniversary of the Oct 7 attacks.

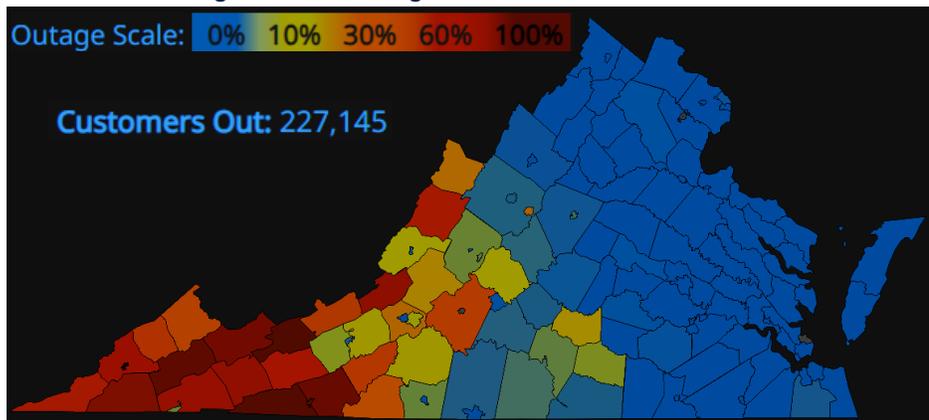
Key Figures

Virginia Flood Status as of 2024-09-27 at 2:00 PM



Source: [NWS](#).

Virginia Power Outages as of 2024-09-27 at 2:01 PM



Source: [PowerOutage.us](#).

Mpox

32,010 / 820

The number of suspected mpox cases / deaths reported in the 15 African Union Member States from Jan 1 to Sept 13, 2024.

3

The number of clade Ib mpox cases reported outside of Africa as of Sept. 26, 2024.

COVID-19

3%

The likelihood that COVID-19 activity is growing in Virginia, according to CDC models as of Sept. 24, 2024.

HPAI A(H5N1)

238

HPAI A(H5N1) detections in dairy cattle herds in the United States as of Sept. 27.

Spotlight:
Mideast Conflict

Ongoing Monitored Situations

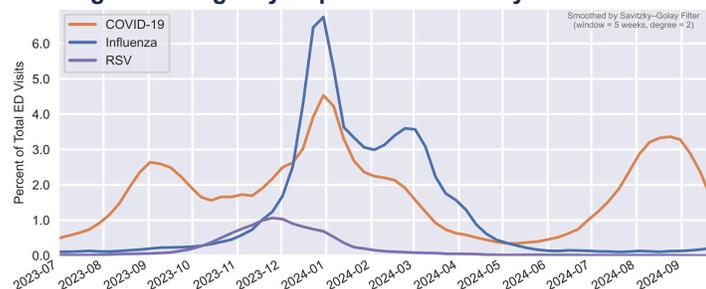
Avian Influenza A(H5N1)

- **California reports doubling of cases among dairy cattle.** The state, which first detected HPAI A(H5N1) on August 30, has reported 40 unique detections among dairy herds since then.
- **CDC reports on recent wastewater surveillance efforts.** The agency found H5-subtype virus in nine states. They note that animal sources are likely the cause for these elevated levels.

Seasonal Respiratory Illness

- **COVID-19 activity continues to decrease.** The emergency department (ED) COVID-19 diagnosis rate for Virginia fell 24% this week, continuing a three week declining trend. Nationally, diagnoses fell 22%. Epidemic models based on diagnoses forecast a continued 'declining' trajectory for the Commonwealth.
- **The XEC variant remains rare, but is growing globally.** The variant is a recombination of KS.1.1 and KP.3.3. To date, only California, New Jersey and Virginia have identified more than ten cases caused by XEC. But data suggest that XEC has a growth advantage over its peers, and it has now been detected in 25 states.
- **FDA approves self-administered nasal spray flu vaccine.** The AstraZeneca vaccine will be offered for the 2025-26 flu season. It will be the first vaccine on the U.S. market that can be administered without a healthcare professional.
- **Poll finds only 45% of over-50s expect to take this year's COVID-19 vaccine.** This figure jumps to 59% for those over 75 years of age.

Virginia Emergency Department Visits by Viral Illness

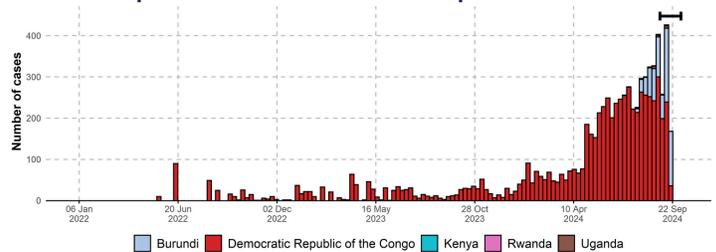


ED diagnoses of COVID-19 have consistently declined over the last few weeks. Data Source: CDC.

Mpox

- **Clade Ib mpox detected in India.** The case was in a 38-year-old man living in Kerala. The patient had recently traveled to Dubai but had not visited any region with endemic clade Ib mpox. An earlier case in Delhi proved to be clade II mpox.
- **DR Congo and Burundi continue to account for most new cases.** Reporting 2,948 and 493 new cases respectively, the two nations represent 97% of the 3,556 cases reported this week to the Africa CDC. Liberia recently detected cases of clade II mpox, but clade Ib mpox endemicity remains limited to the Congo Basin.
- **Study finds waning immunity following mpox vaccination.** The preprint study found that serum antibody levels following two doses of JYNNEOS vaccine waned significantly in the subsequent 6-12 months. The authors note that boosting may be necessary in the event of another epidemic.
- **CDC issues Health Alert Network update for travelers to nations with clade I mpox.** The alert focuses on prevention and avoidance strategies.
- **U.S. pledges one million vaccines and \$500 million in funding to combat mpox.** The U.S. will also send personnel to support local efforts.
- **Mpox surges in L.A.** The city reports 52 new cases last month, double the prior month's totals.

Epidemic Curve of Clade Ib mpox in Africa



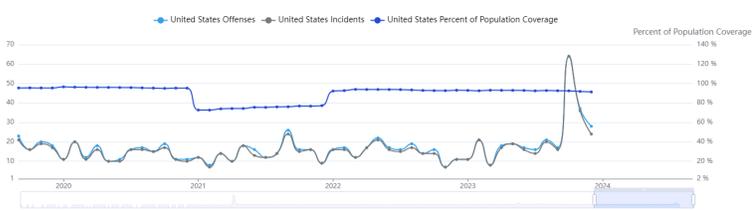
New cases of clade Ib mpox are largely limited to the nations of DR Congo and Burundi. Data Source: WHO.

Measles

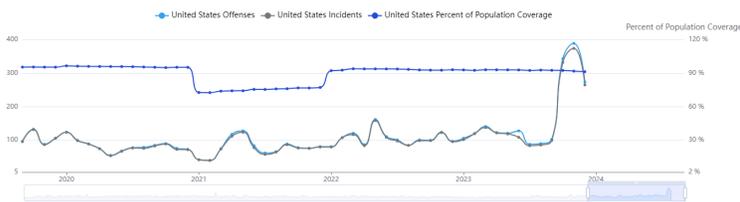
- **Measles outbreak in Minnesota continues.** The state now reports 59 total cases this year, 51 of which are associated with an outbreak among K-12 students in the Twin Cities region. Nationally, the CDC reported 16 new cases since Sept 1.

Spotlight

Anti-Islamic Hate Crimes



Anti-Jewish Hate Crimes



According to FBI data, anti-Jewish, anti-Islamic and anti-Arab hate crimes spiked following the Oct 7 terrorist attack and response. Incidents remained elevated at the end of 2023. Advocacy groups claim incidents targeting these groups remain high.
Image Source: FBI.

Other News

- **Hurricane Helene hit Florida as a Category 4 storm.** The Governor's Office has declared a state of emergency in Virginia. Strong winds and heavy rains from Helene are causing power outages and floods in Southwest Virginia.
- **The FBI has dismantled a network of over 260,000 hacked devices linked to China.** This "botnet," which had the capability to conduct targeted cyberattacks on critical US systems, contained infected devices all over the world, around 50% of which were located in the US.
- **VDH determined mineral oil caused the odor at the Wilderness Water Plant.** A water pump failure caused food-grade mineral oil to leak, resulting in the odor that resulted in the "Do Not Use" advisory. No public health threats were identified.
- **Two new cases of locally acquired dengue are being investigated in Los Angeles, CA.** This brings the total number of locally acquired cases in Los Angeles County to three in 2024. Locally acquired dengue is extremely rare in Los Angeles.
- **An East and Gulf Coast port strike appears imminent.** The strike could shut down up to 36 East and Gulf Coast ports, including the Port of Virginia, on Oct 1. A strike could cause over \$1 Billion in economic impacts every two days.
- **Over 1,000 homes were evacuated due to a pipeline fire in a Houston suburb.** The fire burned for four days and damaged nearby properties. The fire was sparked by a vehicle accident striking an above-ground valve.
- **Police intervened in a 300-person brawl at the Kings Dominion amusement park.** No weapons were involved, and the situation was contained without arrests. This incident, along with smaller fights at Busch Gardens Williamsburg, has led both parks to implement chaperone policies for young visitors.

Mideast Conflict

- **Israel updated warnings for travelers ahead of Jewish holidays and the first anniversary of the Oct 7 terrorist attacks.** Rosh Hashanah begins Oct 3, followed by Yom Kippur on Oct 12. The U.S. and Canada recently foiled a planned attack on a NYC synagogue, planned for Oct 7.
- **Pagers and handheld radios exploded across Lebanon** in two waves last week. Thousands were injured in the attack, overwhelming hospitals and emergency services, which were also impacted by the attacks. Communications were affected due to security fears around mobile phones and other electronic devices. The attack highlights supply chain attack risks.
- **The U.S. is preparing to evacuate American citizens as the risk of war between Lebanon and Israel escalates.** The U.S. Embassy in Lebanon advised U.S. citizens to book any available flight out of the country, and additional troops have been sent to the region to support evacuations.