



## Ongoing Monitored Situations

### Marburg Virus

- **Outbreak continues in Rwanda, viral strain still unknown.** The Ministry of Health now reports 58 confirmed cases, 13 deaths, and 30 in isolation. Authorities note that without identifying the strain they cannot determine if this outbreak is the result of one or more spillover events. Strain also affects the efficacy of monoclonal antibody products.
- **Rwanda deploys trial vaccines.** The nation has received 700 doses of an experimental vaccine. To date, 346 doses have been administered. The Ministry of Health is also engaged in contact-tracing with help from the Africa CDC.
- **CDC to begin airport screening for Marburg.** Starting the week of Oct 14, travelers who visited Rwanda in the prior three weeks will be rerouted through Washington-Dulles, Chicago-O'Hare, or New York-JFK. These passengers will then be evaluated by CDC staff before entering the U.S.
- **VDH releases Marburg Virus Disease Update.** The letter provides an update on the situation and outlines recommendations for local clinicians.

### Seasonal Illness

- **Respiratory illness activity is low and stable.** Virginia emergency department (ED) diagnoses of COVID-19 have fallen for six weeks and are now considered 'minimal'. Diagnoses of flu and RSV are near zero. National trends are similar.
- **CDC reports flu vaccine efficacy in Southern Hemisphere.** Data from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay, and Uruguay suggest a roughly 35% vaccine efficacy against flu-related hospitalization. It is possible that flu vaccine efficacy will be similar in the Northern Hemisphere in the coming months.
- **Enterovirus D68 activity elevated but stable.** Data from WastewaterSCAN show that EVD68 viral activity in HHS Region 3 (including Virginia) has been stable since early September. Activity levels are considered "medium".
- **Norovirus and Rotavirus elevated in region.** Surveillance data suggest a "medium" wastewater concentration level for both in the American South (including Virginia). The CDC has also reported an increase in norovirus test positivity in the region.

### Avian Influenza A(H5N1)

- **Three human cases detected in California.** The CDC recently confirmed a third human case of H5-type bird flu, all three from unrelated dairy farmers working at different farms. The CDC has confirmed that the first two cases were of clade 2.3.4.4b, the same virus causing the outbreak in dairy cattle. Genotyping is pending on the third case. All three reported mild symptoms including conjunctivitis.
- **Dairy herd detections continue in California.** The state is responsible for 92 of the 95 total HPAI A(H5N1) detections over the last 30 days. The remaining three herds were found in Idaho. In the same period, WastewaterSCAN detected H5-type virus at six of 192 sampling sites, all in California.
- **Central Valley farmers report greater severity.** Farmers in the region report that 50-60% of cattle in an affected herd display symptoms, with a 10-15% mortality rate. Prior studies found only 7% to 22% of cattle become seriously ill. The recent heatwave may be contributing to this increase.
- **HPAI A(H5N1) tests available through Virginia pharmacists.** A letter from the State Health Commissioner notes that pharmacists can now arrange for H5-specific flu testing through their local health departments and the Virginia Division of Consolidated Laboratory Services (DCLS).

### Mpox

- **DR Congo launches immunization program.** The effort will focus on the 11 most affected health zones, starting with North Kivu, the epicenter for the clade 1b outbreak. Over 1600 doses have been given out since the start of the program on Oct 5.
- **Mpox vaccine effective for patients with HIV.** A study published in Clinical Infectious Diseases, found that the vaccine effectively prevented mpox, even among patients with a low CD4 count.

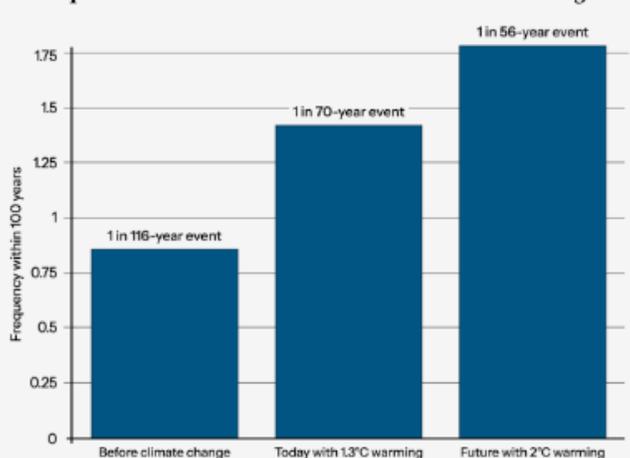
### Measles

- **Minnesota alters MMR vaccination guidance.** In response to the ongoing measles outbreak, the Minnesota Department of Health has authorized the administration of a second MMR dose as soon as 28-days after the first.

## Spotlight

## Helene Recovery

How often should we expect similar three-day inland downpours in the US Southeast due to climate change?



Hurricanes Helene and Milton both intensified rapidly above an unusually warm Gulf of Mexico. One study estimated that climate change has made such warm temperatures 200 to 500 times more likely. Climate change also made Helene-like events 2.5 times more likely, increased Helene's windspeeds by 11%, and rainfall amounts by 10%. Other studies estimate this influence to be even stronger. Image source: YCC.

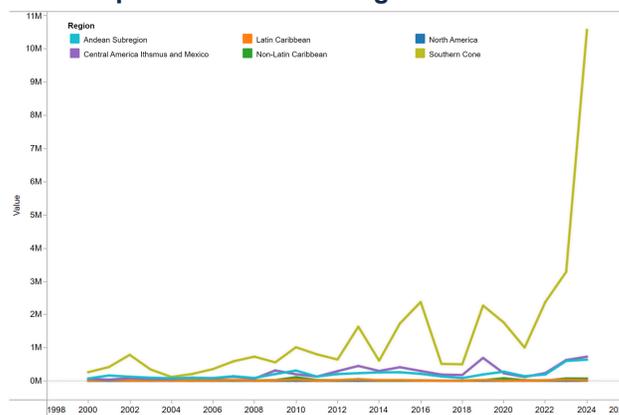
- **Local health districts are offering TDaP and Hepatitis A vaccines to those affected by or assisting with the recovery from flooding due to Hurricane Helene.** Additional resources, critical post-storm safety information and other updates can be found on the VDH website.

## Other News

- **Hospitals nationwide are facing an IV fluid shortage after Hurricane Helene severely impacted a North Carolina manufacturing site of one of the country's leading suppliers of IV fluids.** HHS has released a letter outlining alternative measures to manage disruptions in the supply chain, and Virginia hospital systems are delaying non-urgent procedures and reducing IV fluid usage in accordance with issued guidance.
- **The National Weather Service is simplifying its cold weather forecast products** as part of the Hazard Simplification Initiative. Starting October 1, several cold-related weather alerts will be renamed and consolidated to improve future communication of winter hazards.
- **Residents within a two-mile radius of a Georgia chemical plant remain under a night-time shelter-in-place order.** The order for other areas expired earlier this week. The incident, stemming from a Sept 29 fire, has prompted the closure of schools and government buildings.

- **Tropical Cyclone Helene damaged 475 Virginia homes, destroyed 44 homes,** and impacted 83 businesses as of October 4. Two primary roads and 16 secondary roads were impassable as of Oct 9. All 287 damaged cell towers have been repaired. Thirty-five boil water advisories were issued, but just five are still in effect. VDH is providing test kits for flooded wells. The Virginia Cooperative Extension placed the damage to agriculture at \$125 million.
- **Individual assistance from FEMA is available in 16 Virginia localities.** Twenty-four localities are eligible for public assistance. Disaster Recovery Centers have been opened in Damascus, Independence, and Tazewell to assist with aid applications, with more expected soon.
- **Disinformation has plagued response and recovery efforts across the nation,** prompting FEMA to create a rumor response page to address common claims. The falsehoods have spawned online harassment, threats and incitement to violence against responders, with Jewish officials being targeted in particular.

### Total Reported Cases of Dengue in the Americas



PAHO reports a record-breaking 11.7 million dengue cases in the Region of the Americas in 2024, more than doubling last year's total cases. Image Source: PAHO.

- **San Diego County has reported its first ever locally acquired dengue case, California's 6th locally acquired case this year.** The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) reports that Southern Cone countries are experiencing a 250% surge in dengue cases in comparison to 2023.