

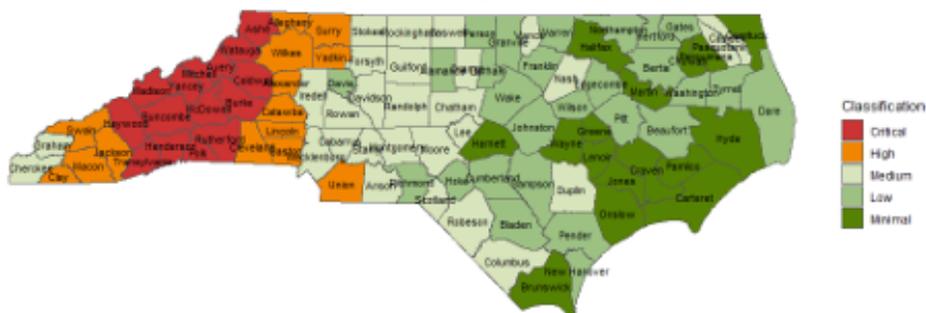
October 25, 2024

Key Takeaways

- Washington state has reported two human cases of HPAI A(H5N1).
- CDC determines that Missouri healthcare workers exposed to HPAI A(H5N1) were not infected.
- Marburg virus disease activity may be declining in Rwanda.
- Germany reports a case of travel-related clade 1b mpox.
- Respiratory disease activity in Virginia is low but trending upward.
- Indirect and direct damages from Helene are approaching \$50 billion in North Carolina.
- Emergency department (ED) visits associated with *Mycoplasma pneumoniae* have increased 7x in children aged 2-4 since spring.

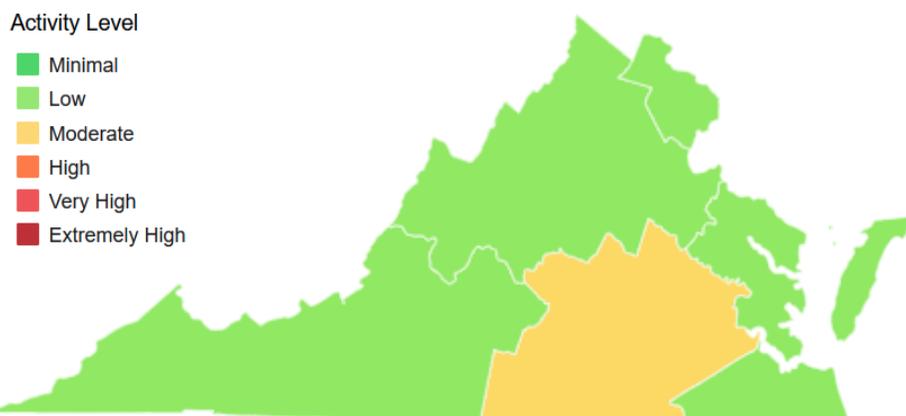
Key Figures

Level of Business Activity Disruption by Helene



Counties classified as “critical” saw 95% of business activity disrupted in the immediate aftermath of Helene, and an estimated 10% still disrupted at the end of October. Impacted areas of Southwest Virginia also experienced major disruptions to economic activity. Image source: [NC OSBM](#).

Respiratory Illness Activity Levels — Week ending 2024-10-19



Unchanged from last week, respiratory illness activity is ‘moderate’ in the Central region, and ‘low’ in all other regions. Image source: [VDH](#).

Mpox

4

The number of clade 1b mpox cases reported outside of Africa as of Oct 25, 2024.

Seasonal Illness

1

Number of Virginia’s five regions at Moderate or higher respiratory illness activity levels for the week ending Oct 19.

38% / 91%

The likelihood that COVID-19 / flu activity is growing in Virginia, according to CDC models as of Oct 22, 2024.

HPAI A(H5N1)

338

HPAI A(H5N1) detections in dairy cattle herds in the United States as of Oct 25.

31

Human HPAI A(H5N1) cases in the United States as of Oct 25.

Spotlight:
Helene Recovery

Ongoing Monitored Situations

Marburg Virus Disease

- **Marburg activity may be declining in Rwanda.** The Ministry of Health reports a total of 64 cases, up two from last week. No deaths were reported this week, keeping the total at 15. Only three patients are in isolation. This is down from nine last week and 30 the week before.
- **Outbreak likely from a single spillover event.** Genetic evidence suggests a single spillover from a bat caused the ongoing outbreak, and all future cases derived from that primary case. This data has not yet been peer-reviewed.
- **USAID earmarks \$7 million for Rwanda.** The aid money will support increased contact tracing, case management, and infection control. The CDC still considers the threat posed by Marburg virus to the American public to be 'low'.

Seasonal Illness

- **Respiratory illness activity in Virginia low but growing.** Emergency department (ED) diagnoses show that rates of COVID-19, flu and RSV are all stable at a low level. However, overall activity is still trending upwards. Virginia is also reporting an increase in pediatric pneumonia hospitalizations, a trend which is also seen nationally.
- **FDA approves RSV vaccine for at-risk adults.** Originally available for adults over 60, the FDA has approved Pfizer's vaccine for adults, aged 18-59, who are at increased risk for developing severe disease. The CDC must adjust recommendations before the vaccine is made available to this group.
- **Study detects clade of RSV with nirsevimab-resistance.** The study, published by Emerging Infectious Diseases, found that one of the eight sampled RSV-B clades had the mutation that provided resistance.
- **Enterovirus D68 remains elevated in region.** Wastewater sampling data show EVD68 activity in HHS Region 3 (including Virginia) has grown since the start of October. Wastewater concentrations are considered 'high' but with a downward trend.
- **Norovirus rates elevated and increasing.** Test positivity in Census Region 3 (including Virginia) has now increased for seven weeks in a row.

Avian Influenza A(H5N1)

- **Washington state reports human cases.** Two cases have been confirmed, another two are still 'presumptive'. All four were among poultry farm workers. This brings the total number of confirmed cases in 2024 to 31, spread among six states.
- **CDC rules out healthcare worker infections in Missouri.** Serology testing found that all five of the workers who had contact with the Missouri index case were seronegative against H5-type viruses. A household contact may have been infected, likely during the same exposure as the index patient.
- **Cattle outbreak continues in California.** The state reported three more infected herds this week. It accounts for 96 of the 100 HPAI A(H5N1) detections recorded in the last 30 days.

H5 Detections in Wastewater over the last 30-days



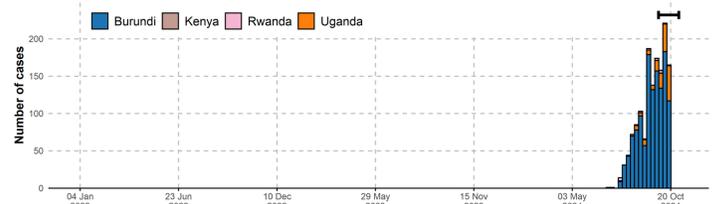
Recent wastewater detections of H5-type virus remain limited to California. Data source: WastewaterSCAN.

Mpox

- **Clade 1b mpox detected in Germany.** The patient was likely infected abroad, though details are limited. This is the fourth case outside of Africa following cases in Sweden, India, and Thailand.

Epidemic Curve of Clade 1b mpox, excluding DR Congo

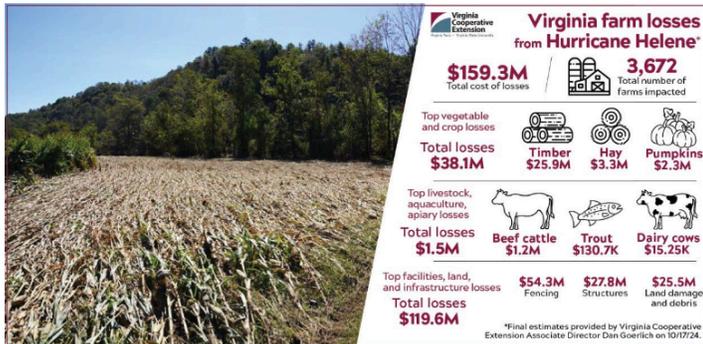
Bracket at end of curve indicates potential reporting delays in recent weeks of data. Data as of 20 Oct 2024



Burundi and Uganda account for most new cases of clade 1b mpox outside of DR Congo. Source: WHO.

Spotlight

Economic Impacts



Virginia's Cooperative Extension estimates Helene caused \$159 million in damage to 3,672 VA farms. The Federal Reserve notes that infrastructure damage may affect key Southwest VA and regional industries for months, including manufacturing, transportation, and a growing leisure and hospitality industry. Gaps in flood insurance may also affect household finances, including increases in mortgage defaults. Federal, state, local and private organizations are working together to provide support.

Image source: [Virginia Cooperative Extension](#).

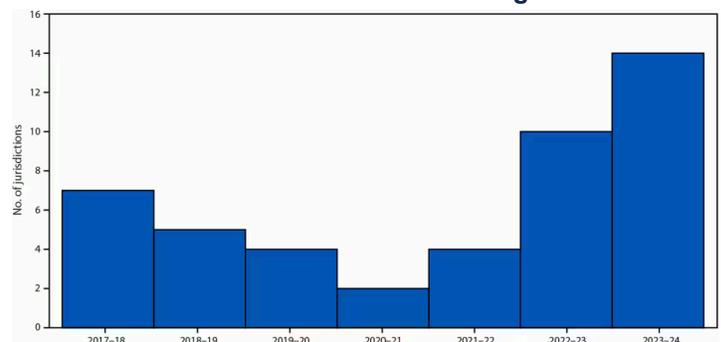
Helene Recovery

- Helene caused nearly **\$49 billion** in damage to North Carolina alone. Nationally, preliminary damage estimates from the storm vary widely, often topping \$100 billion. Only a portion of these losses were insured. NC expects private insurers to cover around \$6 billion. Moody's RMS estimates private insurers will lose \$11 billion nationally.
- The Governor's Office established a Helene Recovery and Rebuilding Office to coordinate recovery in Virginia. FEMA has opened seven Disaster Recovery Centers in Virginia and is hosting Agriculture Recovery Resource Days in several communities. As of October 25, FEMA has approved 2,572 individual assistance applications, providing \$7.5 million in support.
- Health system leaders and staff describe weathering Helene & Milton. Ballad Health's CEO describes evacuations at multiple facilities. Facilities in Florida managed two major hurricanes in quick succession. After the storms, NC health systems served patients while rebuilding and recovering themselves.

Other News

- The Governor's Office has designated the Department of Forestry as the lead agency in wildfire emergencies. Executive Order 40 also establishes clearer communication protocols and a formal agreement between the Department of Forestry and Department of Fire Programs. The Commonwealth has experienced 608 wildfires over more than 45,000 acres since October 2023.
- Since spring 2024, emergency department (ED) visits resulting in a *Mycoplasma pneumoniae* diagnosis increased from 1.0% to 7.2% among children aged 2-4. This is a particularly significant increase given that *M. pneumoniae* is not considered to be a leading cause of pneumonia in this population. Test positivity has also risen from 0.7% to 3.3% across all age groups.
- During the 2023-24 school year, vaccination rates across U.S. kindergartners fell below 93%, with coverage ranging from 92.3% for DTaP to 92.7% for MMR vaccines. About 280,000 kindergartners had incomplete MMR vaccination documentation, putting them at risk for infection.

Number of States Unable to Achieve ≥ 95% MMR Vaccination Coverage



Vaccine exemptions among kindergartners increased to a record high of 3.3% during the 2023-2024 school year, with most of these exemptions being non-medical. Exemption rates are above 5% in 14 states, making them unable to achieve the 95% coverage target. Image source: [CDC](#).

- Baxter plans to resume production on its highest-producing IV fluid manufacturing line within the next week. Products are expected to reach distribution by mid-to-late November. Providers should maintain conservation efforts as hospitals anticipate a busy winter season.