

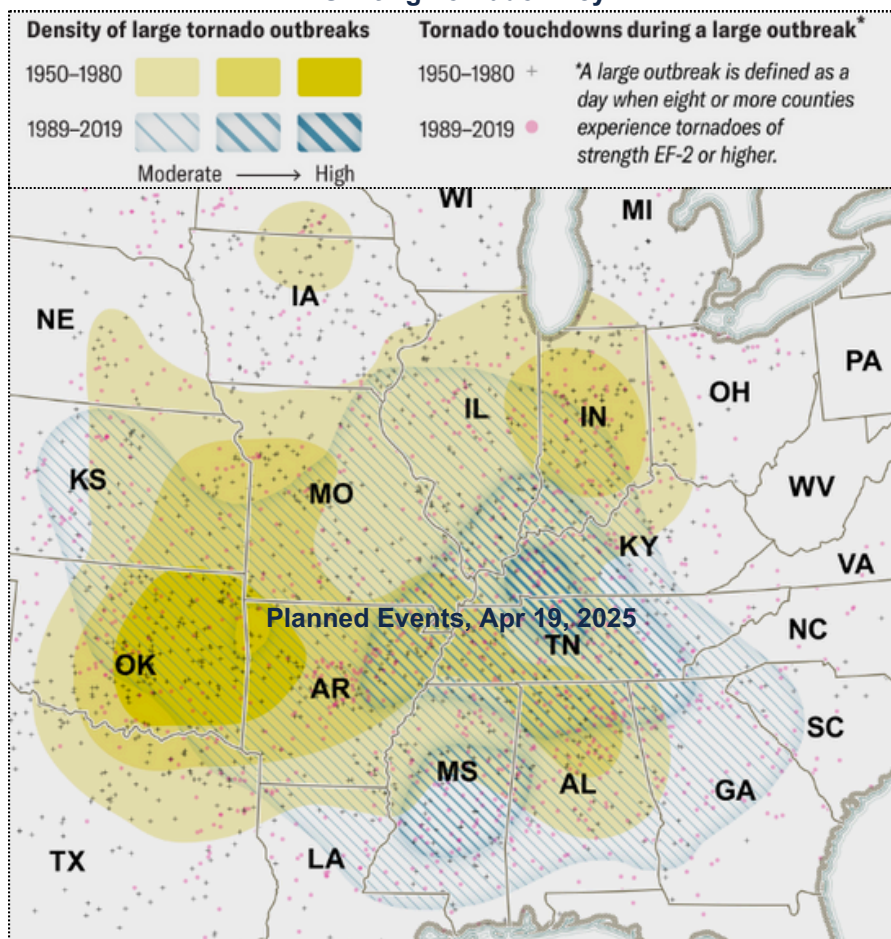
April 25, 2025

Key Takeaways

- Virginia confirmed its first measles case of 2025, related to international travel.
- 84 measles cases were reported nationally last week. 30 states have reported cases in 2025.
- Clade I mpox was detected in Greenville, NC wastewater samples.
- US infrastructure received a 'C' grade from the ASCE, the highest grade in the report card's 27 year history.
- Some specialized CDC labs have paused taking samples following layoffs.

Key Figures

A Shifting Tornado Alley



Tornado alley has moved east and south since 1950. Rather than Oklahoma and Kansas, the highest tornado densities have moved into western Kentucky and Tennessee, and Mississippi. Through Apr 7, Mississippi accounted for a fifth of 2025 tornadoes.
Image source: [Scientific American](#).

HPAI H5N1

1,031

HPAI H5N1 detections in US cattle herds as of Apr 25.

Feb 17

The date when the latest human H5N1 case was reported in the US.

Measles

884

Measles cases reported in the US in 2025, across 25 states as of Apr 24.

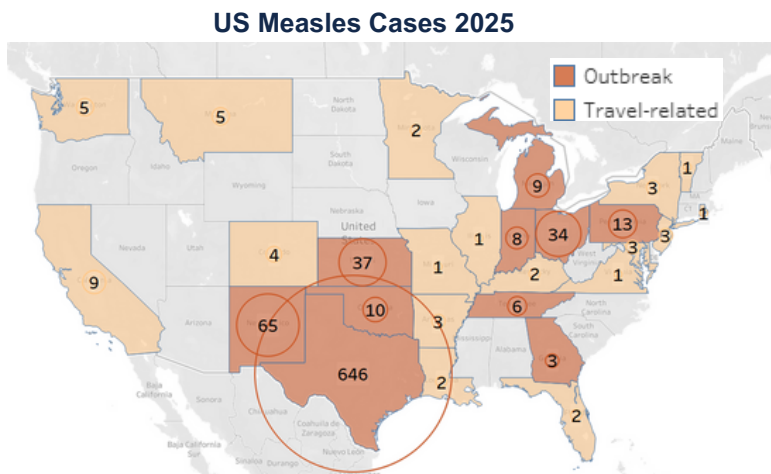
Fire Season

April 30

Virginia's spring fires season ends. Fall fire season begins Oct 15.

Ongoing Monitored Situations

Measles



Data source: [CDC](#).

- **Virginia** confirmed its first 2025 measles case in the Northwest region. The patient, a child under age 5, had recently traveled internationally. Potential exposures occurred at two health clinics on Apr 15 & 16.
- **Montana** reported 5 cases among unvaccinated children and adults exposed while traveling outside of the state. **Illinois** also reported a case. Officials there did not note the exposure source but noted the risk of community transmission remains low.
- **Models** suggest measles is likely to become endemic at current vaccination rates, generating over 850,000 cases over 25 years. A 10% drop in MMR vaccination rates could result in 10 - 12 million cases over 25 years.

Seasonal Illness

- Respiratory illness activity is minimal and trending downward in **Virginia**, and is low or minimal in all Virginia regions. However, test positivity for rhinovirus/enterovirus and human is increasing nationally.
- **GI illness** accounts for 10.56% of emergency visits in **Virginia**, just a touch above threshold of 10.53%. However, GI illness activity is at or below threshold in all Virginia regions.

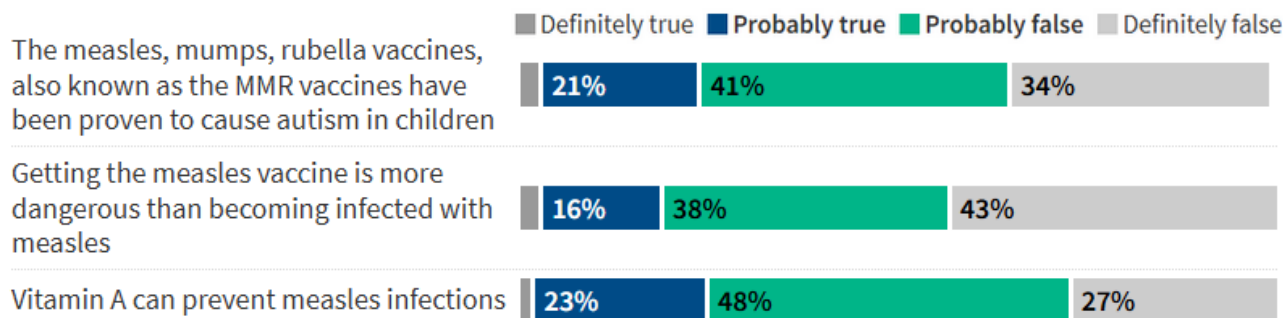
Avian Influenza

- **Vietnam** reported an H5N1 case with encephalitis in an 8-year old girl with underlying health conditions. The child had been in contact with 'mass death' of chickens.
- An H5Nx virus that could switch to human receptor binding with a single mutation circulated in 2016. Researchers examined two strains isolated in 2016. The other required more complex changes.

Mpox

- **Clade I mpox** was detected in multiple **North Carolina** wastewater samples in late March and early April in Greenville NC. The specific clade (Ia or Ib) was not mentioned in the report, though officials discussed spread in Africa mostly through heterosexual contact, which more closely matches clade 1b.

False Claims About Measles and Vaccines



A KFF survey found widespread confusion around false claims related to measles, with fewer than half stating each of three false claims were definitely false. Acceptance of false claims varied by race/ethnicity, education, and political affiliation of respondents. Image source: [KFF](#)

Spotlight

The 2025 Report Card for America's Infrastructure



Despite 8 of 16 categories receiving a 'D' range score, 2025 is the first year no categories received a 'D-' grade. Image source: [ASCE](#)

Infrastructure

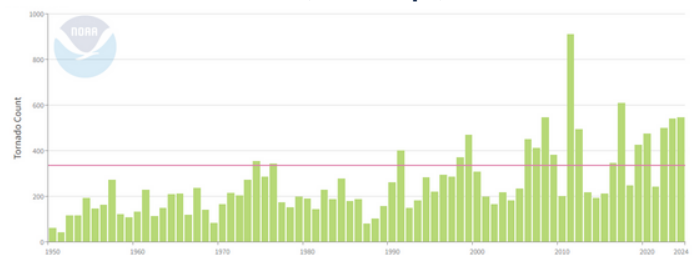
- **America's infrastructure earned a 'C' grade** according to the American Society of Civil Engineers. The [Report Card for America's Infrastructure](#) is released every four years. The 'C' grade is a [step up](#) from 2021's 'C-' grade, itself the first score above the 'D' range since the first report in 1998. The report cited funding in the [US Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act](#), now [in flux](#), as a key driver of the improvement.
- **\$9.1 trillion is needed for all report card categories to reach 'a state of good repair'** according the [report](#). Without disruption, the report forecasts \$5.4 trillion in public and private infrastructure investment will occur over the next ten years, leaving a gap of \$3.7 trillion. The report recommends sustained investment, prioritizing resilience, and advancements in policy and innovation to improve scores.
- **In its 2022 report, Virginia received a 'C' grade.** States are scored on a rolling basis. Virginia's bridge and solid waste categories earned 'B' range scores, while wastewater earned the only 'D' range score. Only [three states](#) (GA, UT, WI) scored a higher, 'C+' grade. [Virginia](#) also ranks 3rd in the [infrastructure](#) category in CNBC's Top States for Business ranking.

Other News

- **CDC labs for antimicrobial STIs and genomic hepatitis surveillance are no longer accepting samples** due to recent layoffs. In both cases, all scientists at the lab were laid off.
- **5,000 NJ residents were evacuated due to wildfires**, but returned home Wednesday. The wildfire, which is [60% contained](#) as of Friday morning, covers over 15,300 acres. Low humidity and [drought](#) facilitated spread. [Smoke](#) from the fires may impact Virginia over the weekend.
- **Two of four hospitals in Delaware County PA will close** due to bankruptcy, prompting an [emergency declaration](#). Emergency departments are on diversion and inpatients are transferring to other facilities. The county had been working to keep the hospitals open but a collapsed deal led to the sudden closures.

- **The CDC reported 8,064 pertussis cases in 2025 through Apr 23**, more than twice the number reported for the same period in 2024. Decreased vaccination rates and vaccine effectiveness underlay the increase.

US Tornadoes, Jan - Apr, since 1950



The US has had 548 tornadoes so far in 2025, well above the 338 average for the Jan-Apr period since 1950. Virginia has [historically](#) seen its highest number of tornadoes Apr-Jun. Image source: [NOAA](#)