

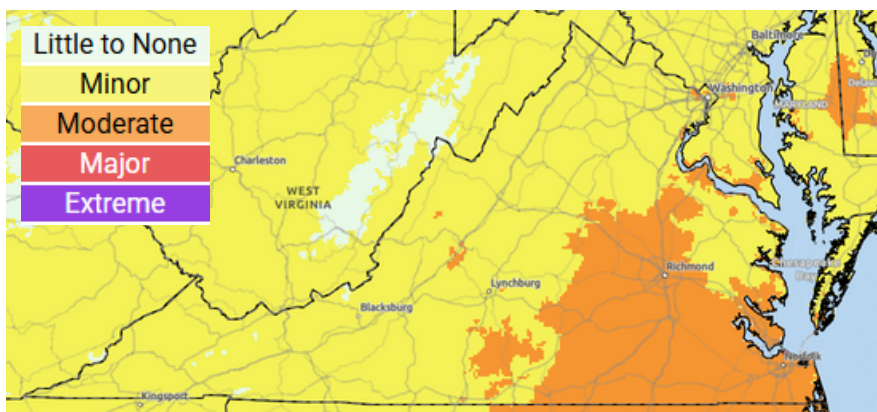
May 16, 2025

Key Takeaways

- 23 measles cases were reported nationally last week. 31 states have reported cases in 2025.
- Sierra Leone in West Africa is experiencing an 'unprecedented surge' in mpox cases according to the WHO.
- Over 75% of systems undergirding US air traffic control are unsustainable or potentially unsustainable due to age.
- Staff cuts to USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service may affect support for avian flu response.
- The Hampton Roads area continues to experience the fastest sea level rise on the East Coast.

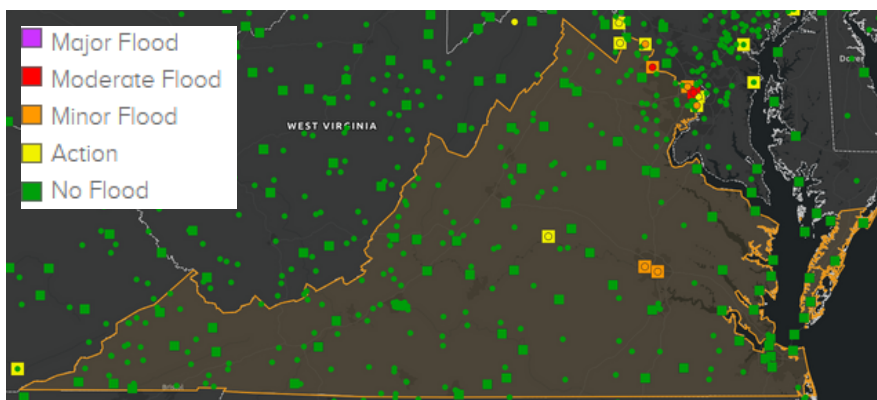
Key Figures

Heat Risk, Sat May 17



Heat Risk returns to Virginia this weekend, but tapers off into next week. Image source: [NWS](#).

Flood Forecasts



Moderate flooding is expected along the Potomac river into the weekend, while minor flooding is expected along James river. Image source: [NWS](#).

HPAI H5N1

1,065

HPAI H5N1 detections in US cattle herds as of May 16.

42

HPAI H5N1 detections in the last 30 days in US cattle herds as of May 16.

Measles

1,024

Measles cases reported in the US in 2025, across 31 states as of May 15.

Mpox

500+

The number of mpox cases reported in Sierra Leone for the week ending May 4.

Air Safety

73

of 138 total US air traffic control systems that were deployed over 20 years ago and are now rated unsustainable or potentially unsustainable.

Ongoing Monitored Situations

Measles

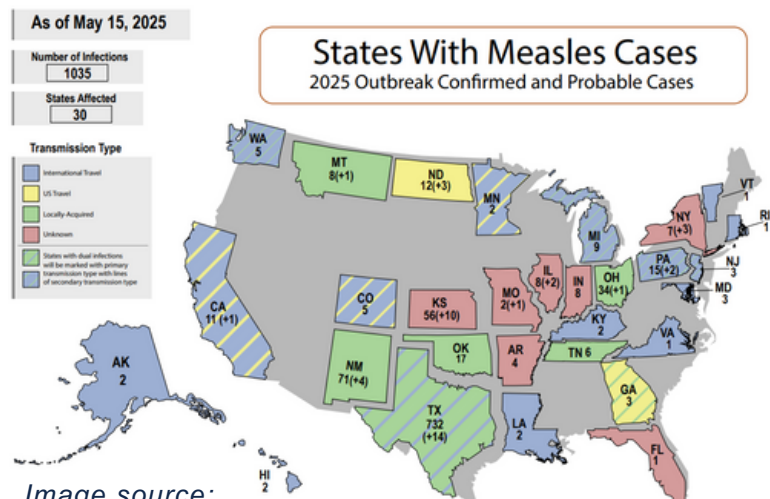


Image source: Pandemic Center

- **Kansas** reports 54 cases in its outbreak, making it the second largest outbreak after the one centered in west Texas. **New Mexico** reports 71 cases associated with the West Texas outbreak, while **Texas** reports 717 cases.
- **Canada** has reported 1,506 measles cases, including 329 in the prior week in 2025 through Apr 26. **Ontario** reported an additional 182 cases in the week ending May 13. Ontario has reported 1,622 cases in its outbreak which began in October. **Mexico** reports 1,003 cases in 2025 through May 9. Chihuahua state, which borders Texas, 954 confirmed cases.

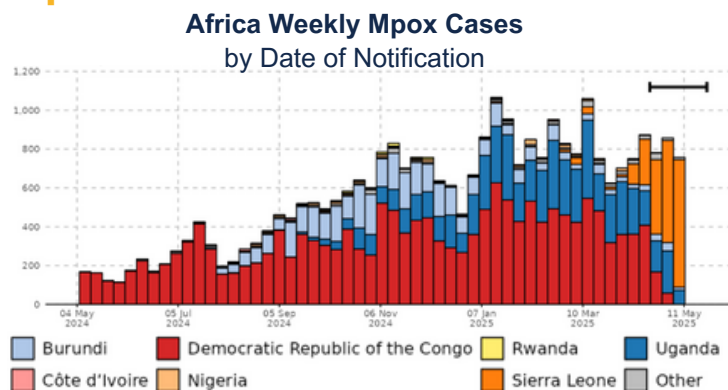
Seasonal Illness

- **GI illness** remains at or below threshold statewide. **Respiratory illness** is minimal statewide. However, **test positivity** for rhinovirus/enterovirus, human metapneumovirus and parainfluenza is increasing nationally.
- **Maternal RSV vaccination and antibody treatments reduced RSV hospitalizations** among infants age 0-7 months. Reductions up to 56% were found when controlling for areas with season onset before products were available. Reductions were higher for infants age 0-2 months.

Avian Influenza

- **USDA APHIS** lost 16% (1,377) of its **staff**, including 20% (400) of staff in the Veterinary Services Arm. Some state officials are concerned support for avian flu response may be diminished. New Mexico officials report state workers are taking on additional duties after USDA support staff there resigned.
- **A meta-analysis found a ‘dramatic flux’ in bird flu cases among felines since 2023.** The review found 607 infections across 18 countries from 2004-2024. 63% of cases were in domestic cats. The authors note concerns raised by a lack of surveillance and by new and unknown transmission routes.
- **A transmission model suggests bovine H5N1 is underreported** and more widespread than known. Assuming a single **introduction** in Texas in Dec 2023, modeling suggests a large burden in the West Coast, but East Coast states are also at risk. Among states without a reported infection, the authors state that Wisconsin, Indiana and Florida are most at risk.

Mpox



Mpox continues to cause new outbreaks in Africa, with DRC, Uganda, and now Sierra Leone most affected. Unlike DRC and Uganda, where Clade I strains dominated, the surge in Sierra Leone began with the Clade II strain which emerged globally in 2022. The situation in Uganda has stabilized, while the situation in DRC remains opaque due to conflict.

Image source: WHO

Other News

FAA Air Traffic Control System Criticality by Sustainment Rating

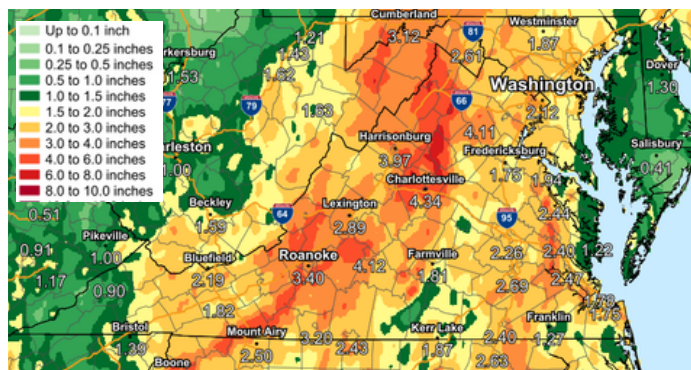
Sustainability rating		Number of FAA systems by operational impact		
		Critical	Moderate	Low
A	Unsustainable due to shortages in spares and shortfalls in funding.	13	4	1
B	Unsustainable due to shortfalls in funding or capability.	16	12	5
C	Potentially unsustainable due to possible shortfalls in funding or capability.	29	9	16
Total		58	25	22

The US Government Accountability Office rated 58 critical air traffic control systems as unsustainable or potentially unsustainable in a Dec 2024 report. Systems are largely unsustainable due to age, making it difficult to find spare parts or expertise in obsolete technology, or to otherwise meet the needs of the modern air industry. Overall, 37% of systems are unsustainable and 39% are potentially unsustainable. Image source: [GAO](#)

- Airports in Newark and Denver experienced brief air traffic control system outages this week, highlighting a national issue. Meanwhile, a hotline connecting Reagan Washington National airport air traffic control to the Pentagon has been down since March 2022.
- The route for a planned Jun 14 military parade will begin in Virginia according to permit applications. Starting at the Pentagon, it will cross Arlington Memorial Bridge into Washington DC. National protests are also planned for Jun 14, including along the parade route.

- **Protest activity increased 12% in April across the United States.** According to ACLED there were 2,220 demonstration events in the US, including 47 in Virginia, with daily peaks exceeding those seen in 2020. ACLED also reported 4 riots and 3 acts of violence against civilians nationally.
- **NOAA will cease tracking the cost of weather disasters.** Data on Billion-dollar Weather and Climate Disasters will not be reported past 2024. Existing data, which goes back to 1980, will remain on the website.
- **Norfolk and Yorktown have the fastest rising sea levels on the East Coast**, and the fastest in the nation outside of the West Gulf Coast. Sea levels are rising at about 5.5 mm per year in both cities, and the rise is accelerating.
- **Saudi Arabia reported 9 Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) cases** between Mar 1 and Apr 21. One cluster involved six health workers exposed while treating a single patient.
- **Virginia experienced 4 earthquakes in 2025.** A 3.0 magnitude quake struck Dillwyn May 6, while Wyndham has experienced 3, the largest a 2.8 magnitude quake on Jan 14. Eastern Tennessee experienced a 4.1 magnitude quake May 10.

Observed Participation, Past 7 Days
 Ending May 16, 8 AM



Virginia experienced severe weather over the past week, including hail and heavy rain. One child was killed in floodwaters in Albemarle County. Harrisonburg issued a mandatory water conservation order after debris affected its water treatment plant. Image source: [NWS](#)

- **Climate change increased the rainfall intensity of April storms by 9%** according to the World Weather Attribution group, and made such storms 40% more likely. The storms caused tornados, extreme rainfall, and 24 deaths across the central Mississippi valley Apr 3-6. WWA scientists credited effective emergency management with preventing a 'larger catastrophe'.