

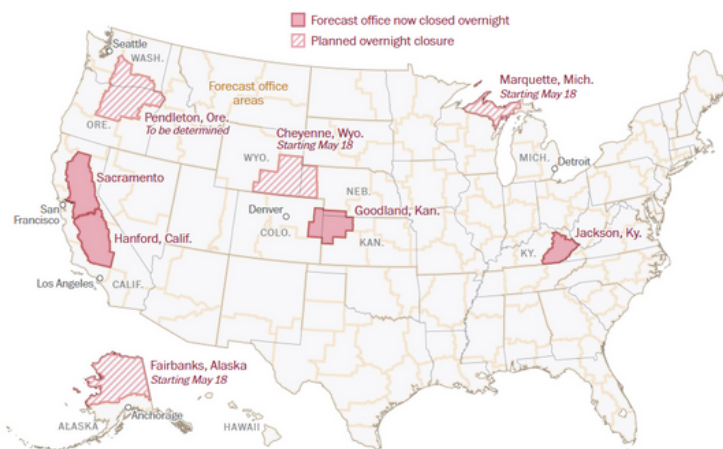
May 23, 2025

Key Takeaways

- 22 measles cases were reported nationally last week. The outbreak in Texas appears to be slowing, with just 4 cases reported there last week.
- The WHO World Health Assembly approved the Pandemic Agreement, but it still faces a long road and a significant roadblock before it takes affect.
- Despite historic lows, a COVID-19 wave is possible this summer.
- FDA officials announced a new approach to COVID-19 booster approvals.

Key Figures

National Weather Service Overnight Closures



Seven NWS local forecast offices have begun closing overnight, with one more expected. Image source: [WP](#).

HPAI H5N1

1,072

HPAI H5N1 detections in US cattle herds as of May 23.

39

HPAI H5N1 detections in the last 30 days in US cattle herds as of May 23.

Measles

1,046

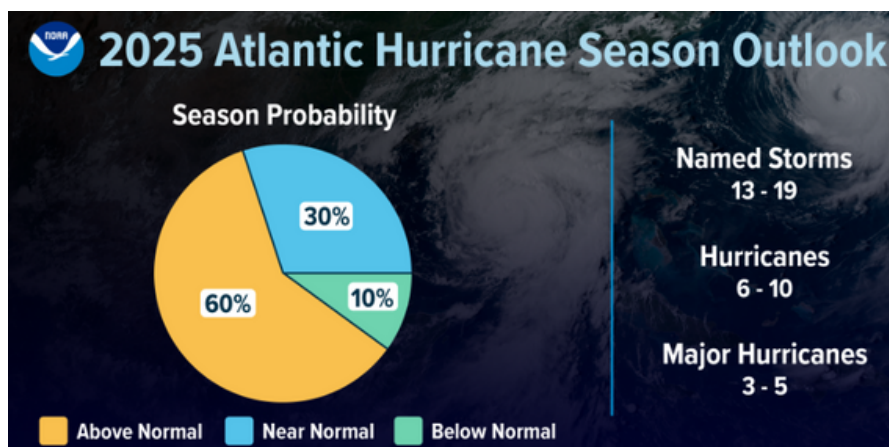
Measles cases reported in 2025 across 31 US states as of May 22.

Tropical Weather

June 1

Atlantic hurricane season begins.

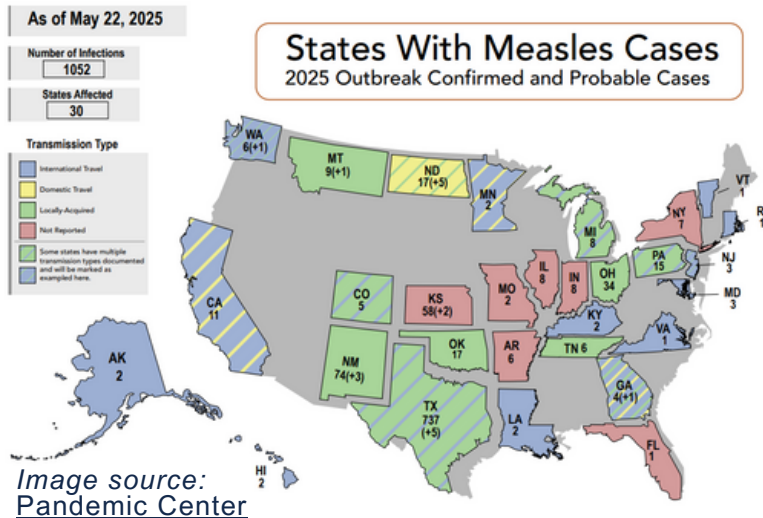
Spotlight:
 WHO Pandemic Agreement



NOAA expects an above normal 2025 Atlantic hurricane season, with 13-19 named storms, largely mirroring the forecast from [Colorado State University](#). Image source: [NOAA](#)

Ongoing Monitored Situations

Measles

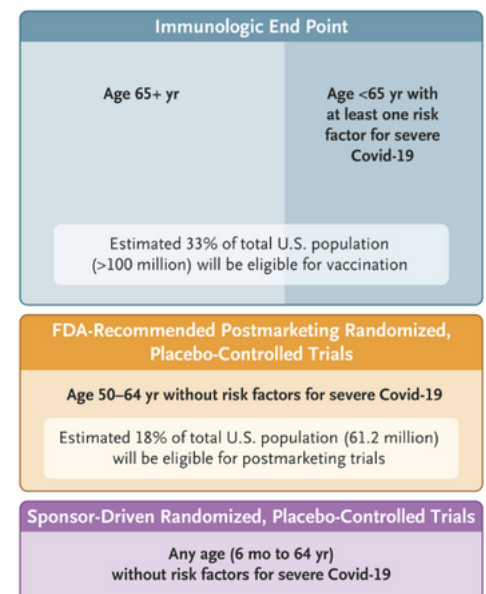


- The New Jersey DOH reported an exposure at a sold-out concert at Met Life Stadium on May 15. The open air football and soccer stadium has a capacity of 50,000 for most concerts.
- Canada has reported **1,846 measles cases, including 346 in the prior week**, in 2025 through May 3. Ontario reported an additional 173 cases in the week ending May 20. Ontario has reported 1,795 cases in its outbreak which began in October. Mexico reports 1,152 cases in 2025 through May 16. Chihuahua, which borders Texas and New Mexico, has 1,094 confirmed cases.

Seasonal Illness

- GI illness remains at or below threshold statewide. Respiratory illness is minimal statewide. However, test positivity for rhinovirus/enterovirus and parainfluenza is increasing nationally.
- Experts are on the lookout for increased COVID-19 activity this summer. Although activity is at historic lows, the US has historically experienced COVID waves in late summer. A muted winter season may also indicate lower population immunity to newer variants. Cases are currently rising in China, Singapore, Thailand and other Southeast Asian nations, but severity is reportedly low.
- The FDA Commissioner and an advisor laid out a new approach to COVID-19 vaccination. The approach 'anticipates' booster recommendation for persons age 65+ and for those with specific high risk conditions. Boosters for all other groups would require placebo-based testing to demonstrate efficacy. The announcement came two days before an FDA expert advisory committee meeting. It is unclear how the announcement fits into the usual, multi-step scientific review and approval process or how it may affect fall vaccinations.

FDA Regulatory Framework for COVID-19



FDA officials estimate that between 100 and 200 million Americans will have access to COVID-19 vaccines under the new framework.
Image source: NEJM

Avian Influenza

- Brazil reported its first HPAI H5N1 detection in a commercial poultry farm, sparking poultry trade bans. Brazil is the world's largest chicken producer, accounting for 35% of global chicken trade. Brazil has also ruled out 3 of 7 suspected human cases.
- HPAI was detected at an Arizona commercial layer facility affecting over 2 million birds. Officials note that eggs from affected birds did not enter the food supply.

Spotlight

Key Elements of the Pandemic Agreement



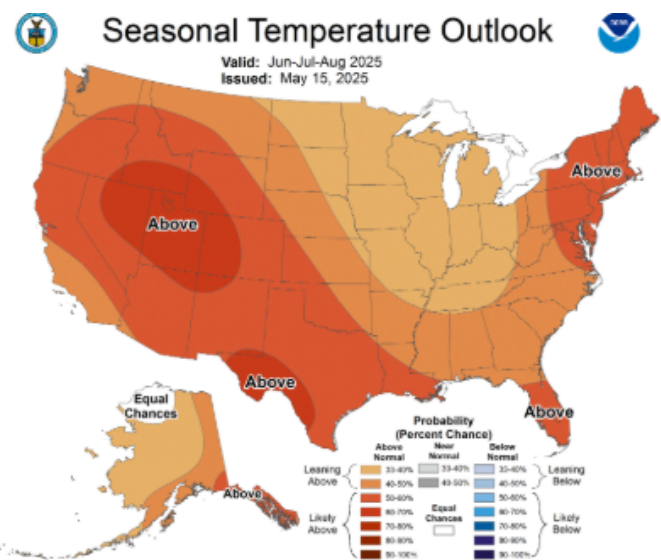
The Pandemic Agreement is a wide-ranging document with the goal of 'achieving equity in, for and through pandemic prevention, preparedness and response.'
Image source: [ECC EU](#)

Global Pandemic Agreement

- The WHO's World Health Assembly adopted the first global Pandemic Agreement. The US began the process of withdrawing from the WHO on Jan 20, and thus will not be a party to the Agreement. However, the Agreement has broad implications for global surveillance, research, preparedness and response.
- The Agreement must still be signed, ratified or otherwise agreed to by 60 member states before it takes effect. However, this step is paused until a key annex establishing a Pathogen Access and Benefit-Sharing System is finalized. That system will link shared pathogen information to shared benefits of research and countermeasure development.

Other News

- A car bomb damaged a fertility clinic in a targeted attack in Palm Springs CA. The lone suspect was killed and four others were injured. A neighborhood was evacuated during a search of the suspect's residence due to risk of explosives. Authorities are investigating the attack as an act of terrorism but do not suspect an ongoing threat.
- The USDA suspended imports of live cattle, horse and bison due to New World Screwworm. NWS detections 'exploded' in Panama from a 25 annual average to 6,500 in 2023 and have since spread northward to Mexico.
- ASPR issued an advisory on violence in or targeting healthcare facilities. The advisory notes that nearly 75% of 25,000 workplace assaults reported annually occur in health care settings.
- Weak Atlantic currents increase sea levels and flood risk along the East coast. Researchers identified a decades-long cycle in AMOC currents. Weak parts of the cycle were associated higher seas and increased flooding. In addition to the cycle, climate change may be causing long-term weakening, even risking collapse of the AMOC, though evidence is mixed for the latter.



NOAA expects above normal heat and above normal rainfall across Virginia this summer.
Image source: [NOAA](#)

- CDC communication remains limited. Almost all communications staff were laid off on April 1st, locking the CDC out of most social media accounts. New review processes centralized at HHS are creating bottlenecks for other communication mediums.
- NOAA continues to decommission numerous datasets, while lapses in funding and contract approval bottlenecks hamper other activities.