

August 1, 2025

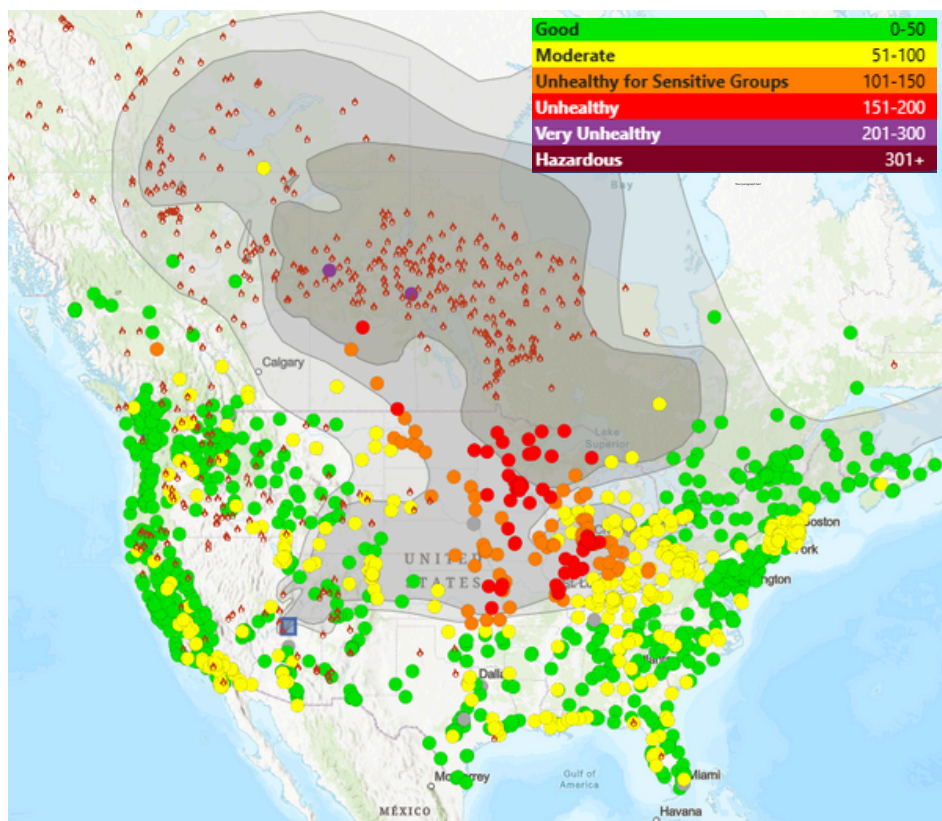
## Key Takeaways

- Reported heat-related illness visits to Virginia emergency and urgent care facilities in 2025 have surpassed the previous annual record set in 2024.
- The sixth strongest earthquake on record struck off Russia's east coast, triggering tsunamis and a volcanic eruption, but damage and injuries were limited.
- A foodborne illness outbreak stressed a 13-bed hospital on Virginia's Eastern Shore.
- Questions continue to arise as federal support for disaster relief and state preparedness remains in flux.
- After early season quiet, conditions may be more favorable for tropical cyclone development in August.

## Key Figure

### Air Quality Index, Fire & Smoke Map

Aug 1, 2025, 12:25 PM



Smoke from Canadian and Western US wildfires has been moving into the Midwest, impacting air quality over the past couple of weeks. Surface level smoke from wildfires is difficult to forecast, but [NOAA](#) and [NASA](#) models have smoke affecting Virginia's air quality tonight and Saturday. Image Source: [AirNow](#)

## Measles

**1,333**

Measles cases reported in 2025 across 40 US states as of Jul 29.

## Extreme Heat

**483**

Heat-Related Illness ED and UC visits reported in Virginia for the 7-day period ending Jul 31.

## Wildfires

**670**

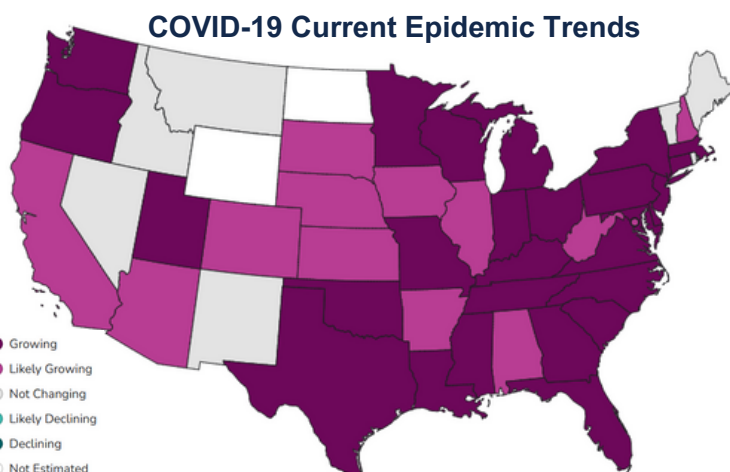
The number of wildfires in Canada as of Jul 30. 475 of which are out of control.

**Spotlight:**  
Federal Support

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## Ongoing Monitored Situations

- The CDC reported 14 new measles cases nationally last week. Canada reported 230 and Mexico reported 173.
- The CDC has released a measles outbreak simulator for state and local public health users. The simulator complements a school-based model released by epiENGAGE earlier this year.
- The global public health risk from A(H5) influenza is low, with medium confidence, according to an updated risk assessment from the WHO, WOA and FAO. Frequently exposed persons have low to moderate risk. Though additional human infections are expected, their public health impact is considered minor.



Though still very low, the CDC estimates that COVID-19 is growing or likely growing in 40 states. In Virginia, the epidemic trend is likely growing and COVID accounts for just 0.7% of ED visits, up from 0.5% reported last week.

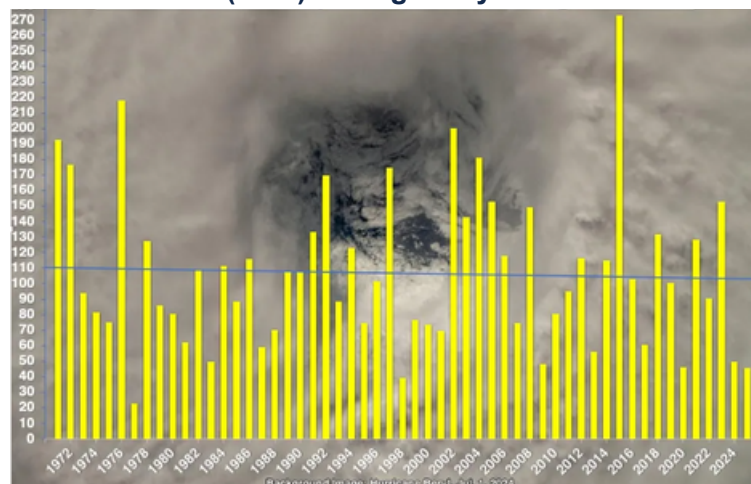
Image Source: CDC

- Despite overall declines, mpox continues to create new outbreaks across Africa. Cases are declining in the DRC, Uganda and Sierra Leone, but increasing in Guinea, Liberia and Ghana. Outside of Africa, travel-linked cases of both clade I and clade II mpox continue to pop-up, though infrequently.
- A cohort study of over 1.5 million individuals found no association between updated COVID-19 vaccines and 29 adverse events. The study examined the 28-day risk period after receipt of the mRNA vaccines containing JN.1 approved for the 2024-2025 season

## Other News

- Extreme heat blanketed much of the country this week, including Virginia. So far in 2025 there have been 3,371 emergency visits for heat-related illness, which has already surpassed 2024's record total of 3,242. Over the past 10 years, Virginia has averaged 1,960 HRI visits by the end of July.
- A foodborne illness outbreak sent more than 50 people to an ER in Accomack county. The outbreak was linked to a non-catered private event. Tests identified both Salmonella and Campylobacter.
- A gunman killed four people and critically injured another in NYC. The shooter was also killed from a self-inflicted gunshot wound. The shooting appears to have targeted a private corporation for health-related reasons. The shooting happened just a few blocks from where a health insurance executive was killed last year, also motivated by health reasons.

### Northern Hemisphere Accumulated Cyclone Energy (ACE) through July 21



Both the Atlantic and the Pacific have had muted tropical cyclone seasons thus far, with the third lowest ACE through Jul 21 on record. However, activity may pick up soon. There are two named storms in the Pacific, with a third likely to form soon. In the Atlantic, conditions may be turning more favorable for storm formation.

Image Source: YCC

## Other News, Con't

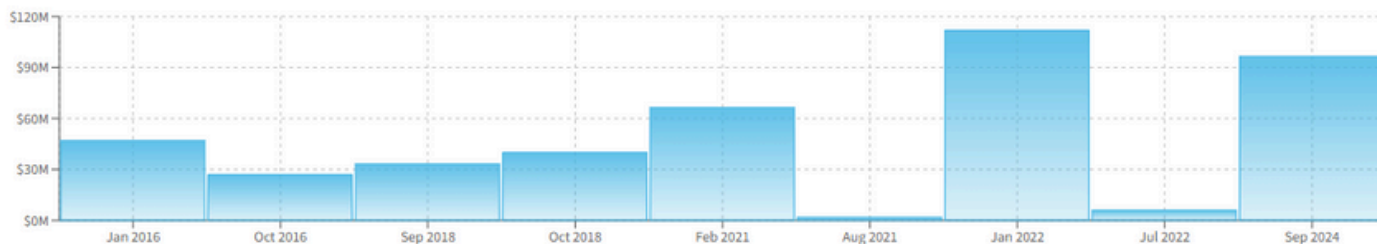
- An **8.8 magnitude earthquake** off Russia's Kamchatka Peninsula triggered **tsunami waves** affecting coastlines around the pacific. **Tsunami warnings** were issued as far south as Chile, sparking evacuations. Though some damage and injuries were reported the area is remote and tsunami waves were smaller than feared, **limiting** damage. A volcanic eruption on the peninsula followed the quake. Tsunami's are rare on the **US east coast** and tend to be small.
- A **thunderstorm damaged a holding tank in Waynesboro's water system** on **Sunday**. The system remained operational and safe during repairs, but residents were asked to limit water use for several hours.

## Spotlight

## Federal Support

- **Federal staff shortages may be impacting wildfire response.** About 15% of **U.S. Forest Service** employees left the agency in the past five months in addition to **probationary employee layoffs** earlier this year. In some cases, frontline firefighters have lacked administrative support or been pulled to perform administrative tasks.
- **FEMA search and rescue teams did not respond to the Texas floods until more than three days after the event**, though US Coast Guard and Border patrol resources deployed sooner. FEMA staff were unable to preposition or deploy teams due to administrative delays. The head of FEMA's Urban Search and Rescue branch **resigned** following the event.
- **Federal preparedness and response grants to states and localities are facing delays, uncertainty or cancellation.** Federal policy may be **shifting** more responsibility to states; however, **timelines, roadmaps** and **funding sources** for such a shift are unclear.

**Federal Disaster Relief in Virginia, 2015 to 2024**



<b>Disaster Events</b> <b>9</b> Total events matching filters	<b>Grand Total</b> <b>\$429,292,963</b> All selected funding types	<b>Individual &amp; Household Program Total</b> <b>\$27,598,078</b>	<b>Public Assistance Total</b> <b>\$355,024,885</b>	<b>CDBG-DR Allocation Total</b> <b>\$46,670,000</b>
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*From 2015 to 2024, Virginia's residents, localities and communities have received over \$429 million in disaster relief following 9 federally-declared disasters from three programs alone: FEMA's Individual and Households programs, FEMA's Public Assistance for local governments, and HUD's Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Preparedness. Among states, Florida has received the most funding (\$22.4B), followed by Texas (\$14.8B), Louisiana (\$14.8B), California (\$8.6B) and North Carolina (\$5.1B). Image Source: CEIP*