

August 8, 2025

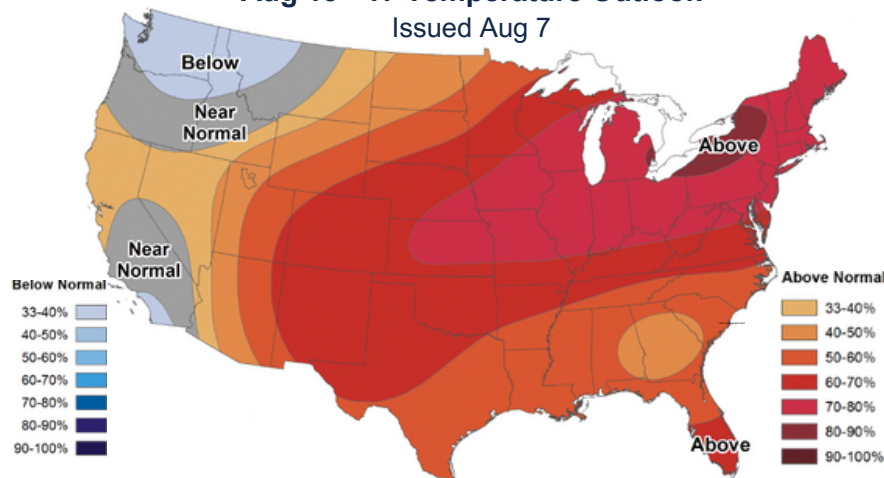
Key Takeaways

- Tropical activity in the Atlantic is picking up, and NOAA maintained its above-average season forecast.
- Nationally, MMR vaccination among kindergartners declined to 92.5%. Virginia maintained coverage above 95%, with some notable disparities.
- Confusion around seasonal respiratory vaccine approvals is continuing and may be affecting uptake.
- The FDA is highlighting risks from the opioid 7-OH, which is often marketed as natural Kratom in retail settings.

Key Figure

Aug 13 - 17 Temperature Outlook

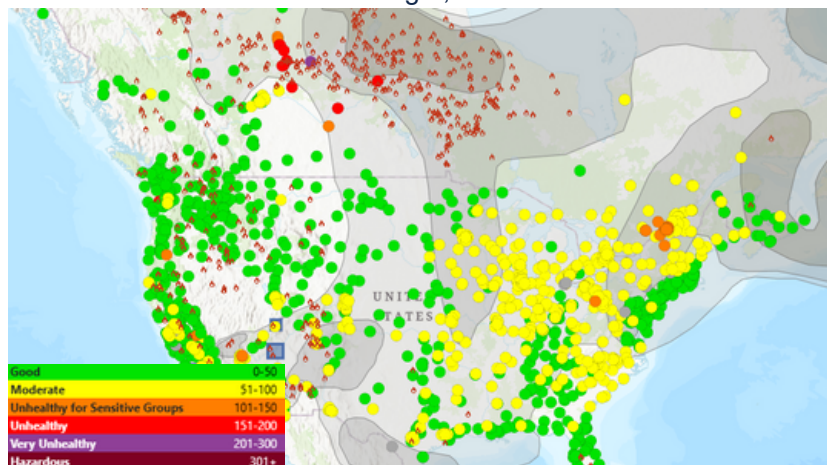
Issued Aug 7



After a cool start to August, temperatures are likely to be above average across Virginia late next week. Image Source: [NOAA](#)

Air Quality Index, Fire & Smoke Map

Aug 8, 2025



Smoke from Canadian and Western US wildfires is impacting air quality in the Northeast and Midatlantic US. Image Source: [AirNow](#)

Measles

1,356

Measles cases reported in 2025 across 41 US states as of Aug 5.

Wildfires

719

The number of wildfires in Canada as of Aug 7. 493 of which are out of control.

Hurricanes

5 to 9

The number of hurricanes expected in NOAA's updated forecast of the 2025 Atlantic Hurricane season.

85%

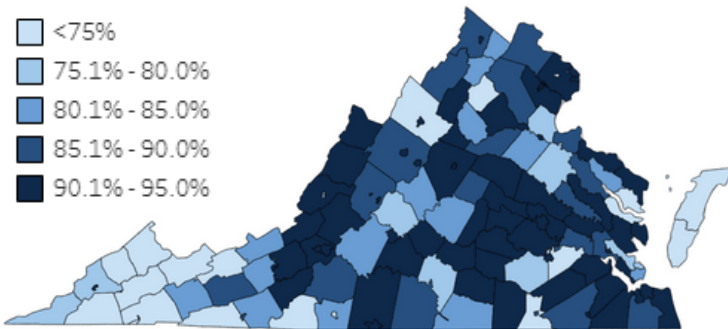
The chance of an above or near normal 2025 Atlantic Hurricane Season in NOAA's updated forecast.

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Ongoing Monitored Situations

Measles

Virginia MMR Vaccination Rate
Among 5 year olds, at least 1 dose.



95% of Virginia's 5 year olds have received at least one dose of MMR vaccine. However, there are wide disparities. Though there are notable exceptions, rural counties, particularly in Southwest Virginia, tend to have lower rates. Rates are also lower among White and Latino Virginians. Image source : [VDH](#)

- The CDC reported 23 new measles cases nationally last week. Canada reported 196 and Mexico reported 215.
- National Measles, Mumps, and Rubella (MMR) vaccination coverage among kindergartners declined to 92.5%. Coverage peaked in the 2019-20 school year at 95.2%. In Virginia, coverage increased to 95.6%, up from 94.2% last school year and near 95.8% peaks last seen in the 2022-23 school year. 95% coverage is needed for herd immunity.
- Virginia health departments are hosting back-to-school vaccination clinics throughout the state. Free or low cost vaccines are available to children who are Medicaid recipients, uninsured, underinsured, or who are Native Americans. Eligible persons can also find free or low cost vaccine providers on the [VDH website](#).

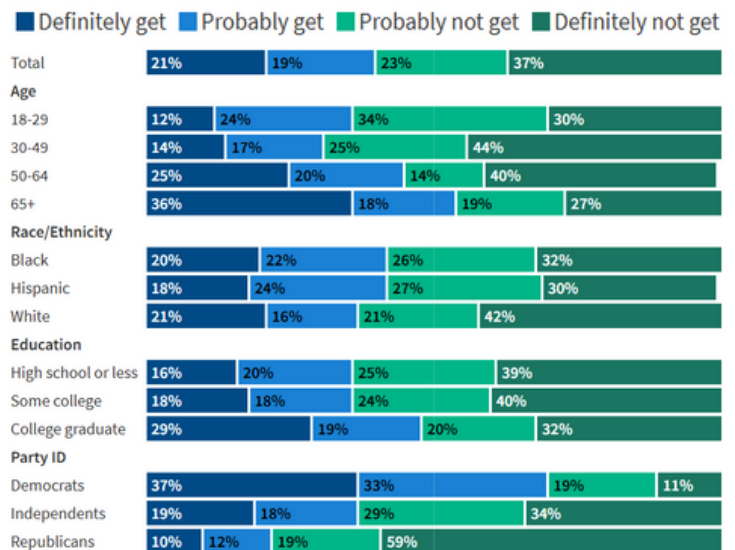
Seasonal

- Though still low, the CDC estimates that COVID-19 is growing or likely growing in 45 states. In Virginia, COVID-19 is trending up, accounting for 0.9% of ED visits, up from 0.7% reported last week.
- Irregular announcements and approval delays continue to create confusion around fall vaccines. The HHS secretary has yet to sign-off on fall flu vaccines, while the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices has yet to make recommendations for fall COVID-19 vaccines. Meanwhile, medical associations are making their own recommendations.

Mpox

- The Africa CDC and the European Commission launched a new mpox testing program. The program, which began Jun 1 will provide over 150,000 tests, and will support sequencing, local test development and surveillance training.

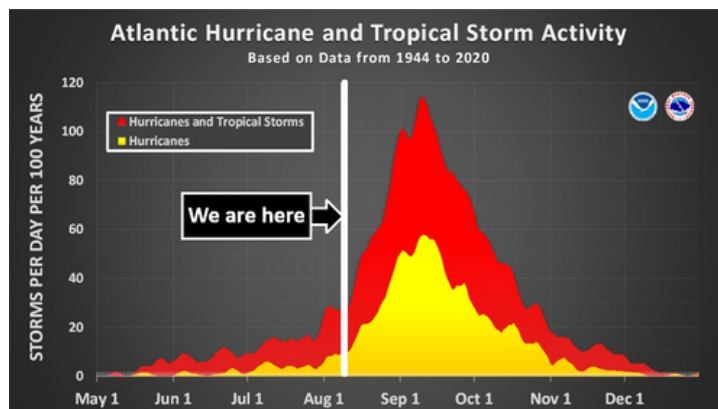
Plans for Fall COVID-19 Vaccinations



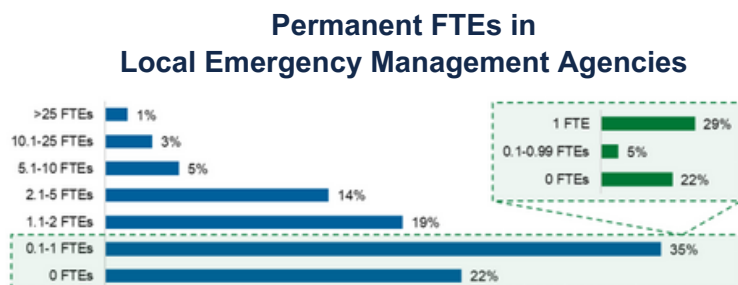
Just 40% of Americans will 'definitely' or 'probably' get fall COVID-19 vaccines according to a new KFF survey. Seniors are the only demographic group where a majority (54%) expect to get the fall vaccine. While the survey found variation by age, race/ethnicity and education, the largest differences stem from political party affiliation. Image source: [KFF](#)

Other News

- **Parts of Louisa county were under a boil water advisory** late last week due to a water main break. This is Louisa's second advisory due to a water main break this year.
- **The FDA is issuing information and warnings about the threat of the opioid 7-OH.** According to the FDA, 7-OH is available in retail stores as natural Kratom, but can be 5x as potent and stronger than morphine. In Virginia, sale of Kratom is age-restricted.
- **Nationally, nearly half of state prisons have partial or no air conditioning**, creating a risk of heat related illness. According to one study, a 10° increase in summer temperatures is associated with a 5.2% increase in prison deaths. Suicides also increased in the three days following an extreme heat day.



After an early season lull, tropical activity is beginning to pick up in the Atlantic. NOAA maintained its forecast for an above-average Atlantic hurricane season.
Image source: Blacksburg NWS



A collaboration of national emergency management associations issued an in-depth report describing state and local EM organization and capacity. Among the findings, 57% of local EM agencies operate with 1 or fewer FTEs, including 22% with no permanent FTEs. In 15% of agencies the local EM director is a volunteer.
Image source: Argonne

- **July 2025 was the third hottest July on record**, behind only 2023 and 2024. Temperatures during 2025's winter and spring months had been the second highest but dipped below 2023 temperatures in June. July 2025's global surface air temperature anomaly was 1.25°C compared to pre-industrial temperatures. The 12-month average remains above the 1.5°C benchmark.

- **Anecdotal reports suggest a rise in hand, foot and mouth disease.** Though not a nationally reportable disease, some states have reported an increase in outbreaks, and health providers report increased cases. Fairfax Health District has reported a rise in outbreaks.
- **Studies show the long term health impacts of wildfires.** 20% of survivors of the 2023 Maui fires experienced lung damage, while half have symptoms of depression. In Los Angeles, interrupted health care and other factors may have contributed to more than 400 deaths on top of the 30 directly attributed to the January fires.
- **The United Nations HQ released its 2025 Global Risk Report.** The report identified Climate Change Inaction, Large-Scale Pollution, and Mis- and Disinformation as the most important global risks. In a separate report, the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction identified three disaster spirals: Increasing Debt, Decreasing Income; Unsustainable Risk Transfer; and the Respond-Repeat cycle.