

Emerging Health Threats

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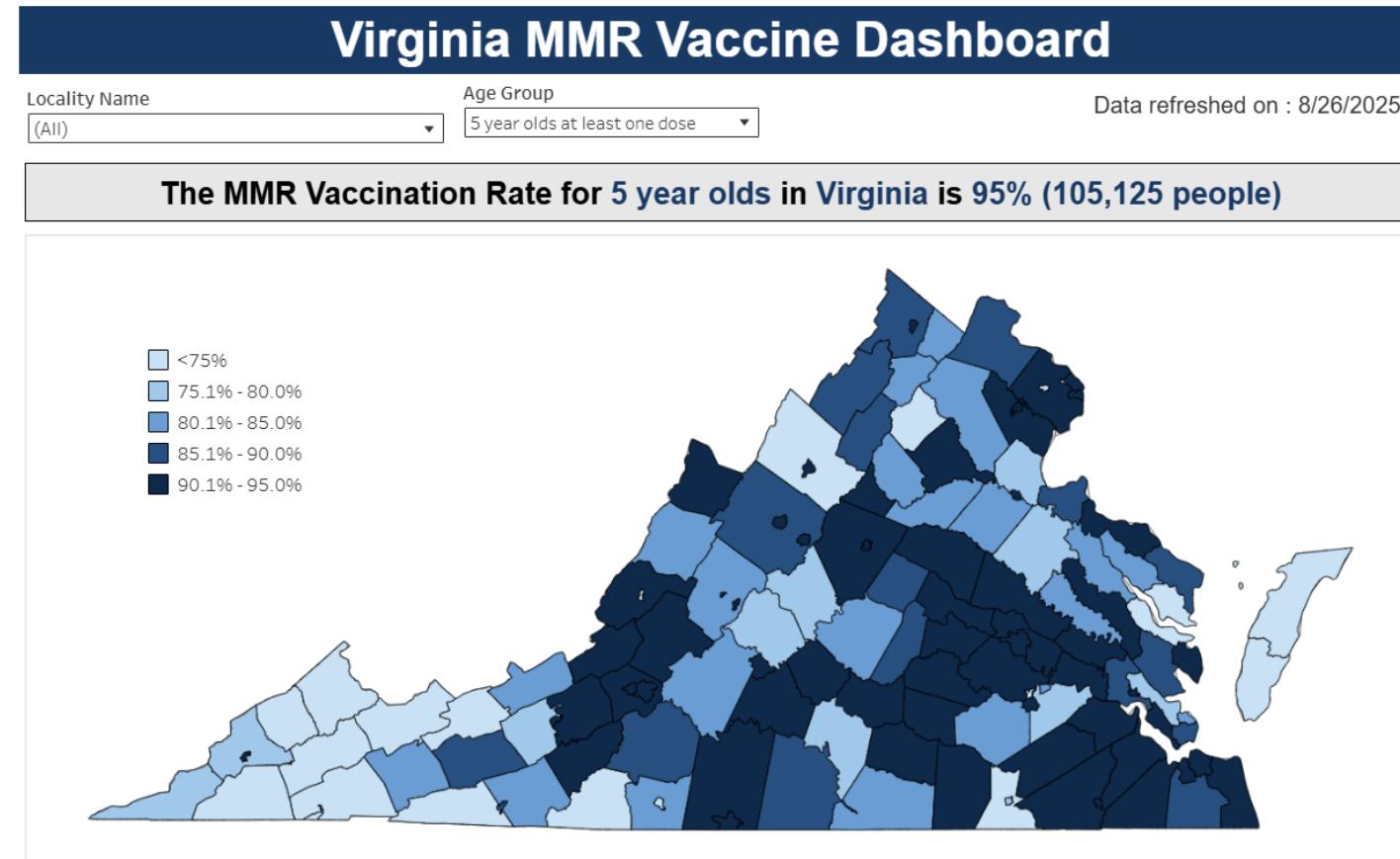
Health and Human Resources (HHR) Sub-Panel,
Governor's Secure and Resilient Commonwealth Panel

September 8, 2025

Measles

- **Four cases of measles have been reported in Virginia in 2025.**
 - Three of those cases occurred in people who **traveled internationally**.
 - **One was a secondary case** (i.e., exposure occurred to another case in the U.S.)
 - **Two were pre-school aged children (0-4 years); one was a young school-aged child (5-12 years), and one was a teenager (13-17 years)**
- In addition, VDH has responded to multiple measles exposures at airports and public locations after international travelers and residents of neighboring jurisdictions traveled through Virginia while infectious.
- VDH is closely monitoring measles activity within the United States and abroad.
- VDH maintains response readiness for measles outbreaks including laboratory capacity to test suspected cases.
- VDH continues to work with local health district teams and external partners to improve provider education on measles testing, reporting, and infection control protocols.

Measles

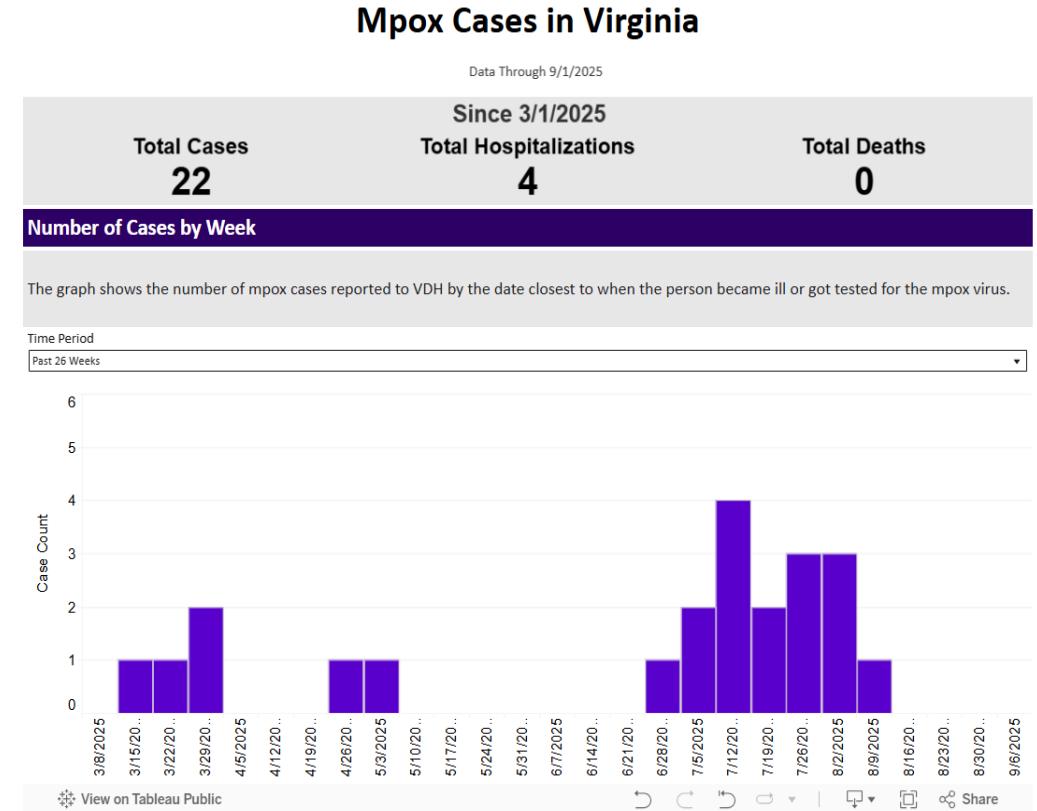


- <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/measles/>
- <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/immunization/datamanagement/mmr/>

Mpox

- **Increase in cases seen in July**
- As of Sept 1, there have been 23 cases reported in 2025
 - For comparison, there were 27 cases reported in all of 2024
- VDH issued a [clinician letter](#) on August 12 to share awareness
- Encourage everyone to remain vigilant, **test patients** who present with compatible clinical signs, and **get vaccinated** if eligible

VDH VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH



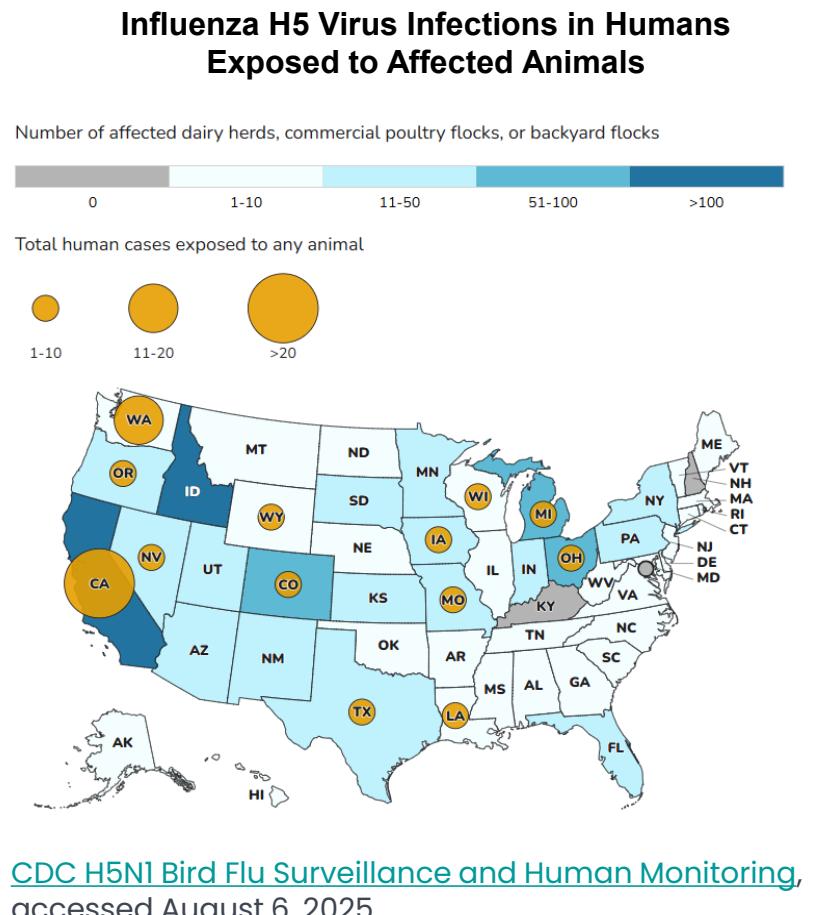
New World Screwworm (*Cochliomyia hominivorax*)

- Parasitic flies that **feed on live tissue**
- Typically found in South America and parts of the Caribbean
 - **Geographic distribution has been shifting northward**
- Infestation occurs when fly larvae infest the tissue or flesh of warm-blooded animals
- Primarily affects livestock, but can also infest people
- Biological control technique (sterilized insects) used to successfully eradicate NWS fly populations



Avian Influenza

- Current public health risk is low
- No new human cases in US since Feb. 2025
- VDH and CDC continue to use flu surveillance systems to monitor for H5 bird flu activity in people
 - H5 detected in Northern Virginia wastewater in June, likely from animal inputs
 - Sporadic detections occur in VA wild birds as reported by DWR and USDA
 - VDH monitors health of exposed workers and conducts ongoing sentinel surveillance



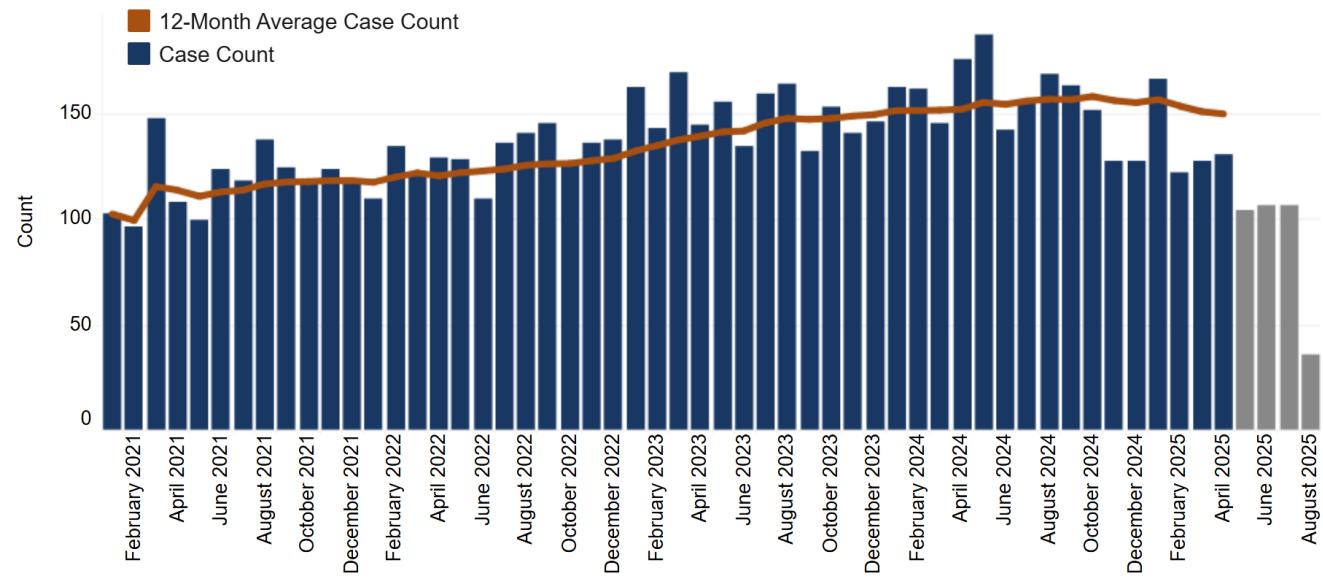
2025 Avian Influenza Detections in Virginia Animals

- January 2025 - three H5 avian influenza detections and responses in Virginia animals
 - Commercial broiler flock mortalities in Accomack County
 - Petting zoo in Virginia Beach with mortalities of multiple avian species
 - Local zoo in Chesterfield County had mortalities occur in several cranes
- Wildlife - two red foxes tested positive
- Dairies - no positive Virginia dairies
 - 75% of VA dairy milk specimens tested negative to achieve 'Unaffected' national status with ongoing surveillance milk testing in accordance with the National Milk Testing Strategy
 - Negative testing is still required prior to interstate movement of lactating dairy cattle
- No positive cats reported in Virginia

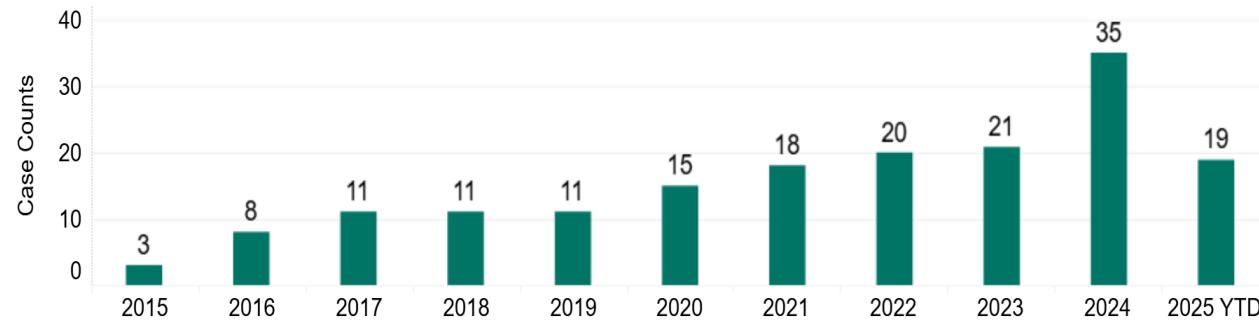
Syphilis

- Early syphilis cases **increased 3.5%** from 2023-2024
- In 2025, cases **decreased 21.8%** from Jan-May compared to 2024
- Cases among women increased 19.7% 2023-2024, 1.4% 2024-2025
- Congenital syphilis cases remain high
- Increase in cases with substance use and incarceration

Early Syphilis Cases in Virginia 2021-2025 YTD



Congenital Syphilis Cases in Virginia 2015-2025 YTD



Syphilis- Penicillin Shortage

- Pfizer voluntarily recalled many lots of Bicillin L-A (penicillin G benzathine) on July 10
- Bicillin is **the only recommended treatment for pregnant women with syphilis and babies with congenital syphilis**
- VDH released a clinician letter recommending that private providers prioritize Bicillin for pregnant women and neonates
- VDH has adequate supply of Bicillin for patients seen at health departments
- Private providers may request doses for pregnant women and babies
- Doxycycline is the alternative treatment for non-pregnant adult individuals when Bicillin is unavailable
- Recent update from Pfizer indicate manufacturing issue resolved, supply slowly recovering

Questions?

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