

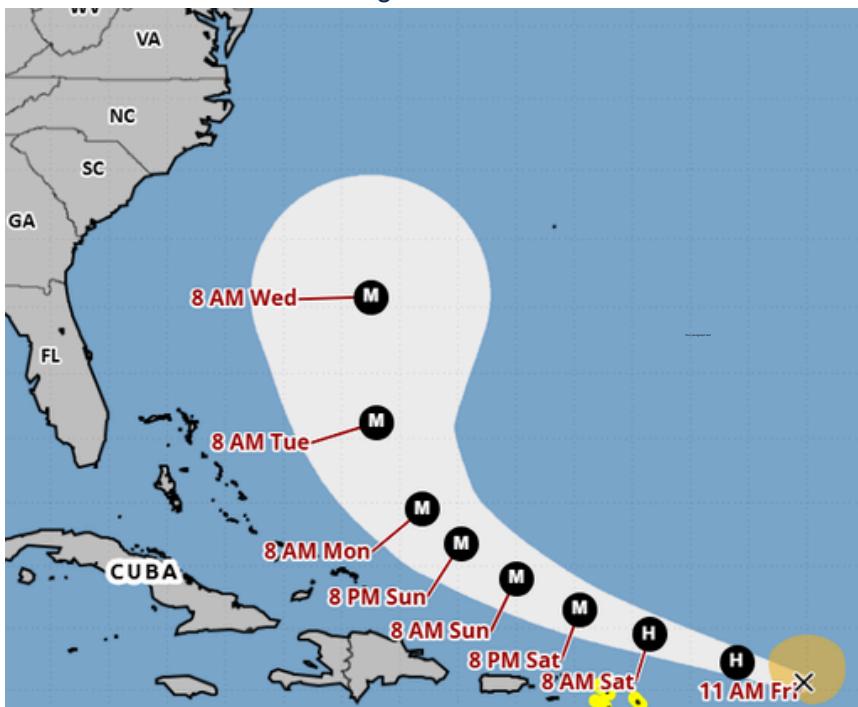
August 15, 2025

Key Takeaways

- Hurricane Erin has formed in the Atlantic. It is expected to become a major hurricane by Sat evening.
- The CDC's Atlanta campus was struck by around 200 bullets in a targeted attack. One police officer was killed. The attack highlights threats against public health and healthcare workers.
- Mpox cases increased in Virginia in July. Mexico is also dealing with an increase in mpox cases.
- Kratom-involved calls to poison centers in 2025 have already surpassed the total for all of 2024.
- Virginia's population is projected to exceed 9 million by 2030, and 10 million by 2050, but population growth will vary across the state.

Key Figure

Tropical Cyclone Erin Forecast Cone
Aug 15, 11 AM



Hurricane Erin is expected to veer out to sea early next week. However, Erin is projected to become a major hurricane and the path is uncertain, so it bears watching over the weekend. Regardless of path, large waves, tidal flooding and beach erosion are expected along the Atlantic coast and Chesapeake Bay. Image Source: NWS

Measles

1,362

Measles cases identified in 2025 across 41 US states as of Aug 14.

Wildfires

708

The number of wildfires in Canada as of Aug 14, 469 of which are out of control.

COVID-19

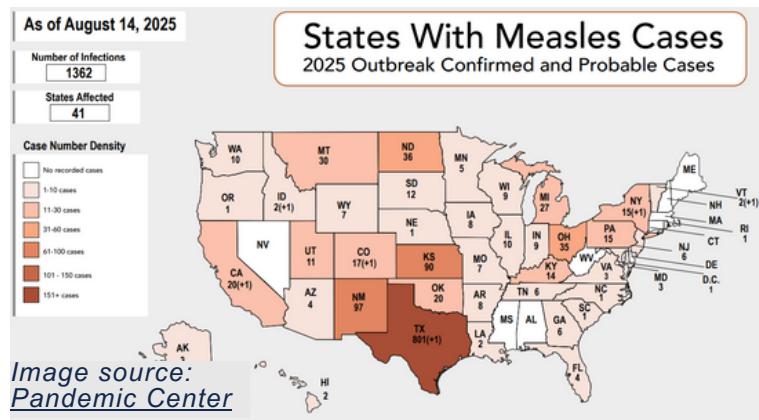
1.1%

The share of emergency and urgent care facility visits for COVID-19 in Virginia for the week ending Aug 9.

Spotlight:
Violence Targeting
Health Systems

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Ongoing Monitored Situations



- **CDC measles reports are paused due to last Friday's attack.** Brown University's Pandemic Center identified 6 new cases last week. Canada reported 153 and Mexico reported 163.
- **As of August 11, 2025, 19 mpox cases have been reported to VDH this year.** To compare, Virginia had 27 cases in all of 2024. Eleven of the 19 cases were reported in July. Seven of those cases were in the Northern region, three in Central, and one in Southwest.

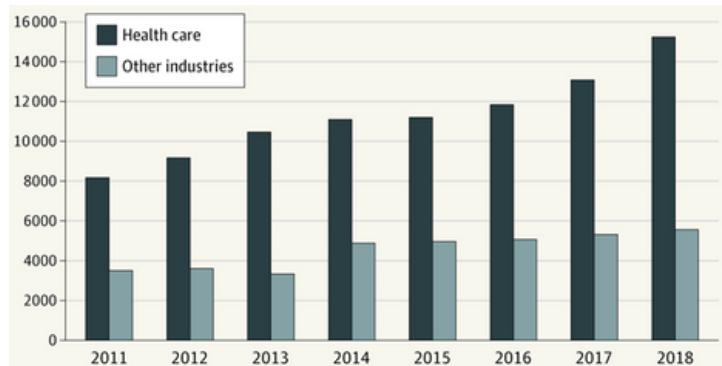
- **Mpox cases in Mexico** have increased significantly in 2025. Through Jul 27, 467 cases were reported, compared to 46 cases over the same period in 2024. Mexico City has the most cases, at 280.
- **Though still low, the CDC estimates that COVID-19 is growing or likely growing in 34 states.** In Virginia, COVID-19 is trending up, accounting for 1.1% of ED visits, up from 0.9% reported last week. Overall respiratory illness activity in Virginia is minimal and stable.

Spotlight

- One police officer was killed in an attack targeting the CDC campus in Atlanta. Nearly 200 rounds struck six buildings on the campus. 500 shell casings were found at the scene. The campus was also damaged as police cleared the buildings. The shooter died from a self-inflicted gunshot wound.
- The shooter believed COVID-19 vaccines caused his mental health issues. Multiple organizations and experts have highlighted misinformation and heated rhetoric's role in the attack and its impact on the public health workforce.
- A NACCHO survey of local health departments found that 71% experienced some form of harassment in 2022, including 22% that experienced direct threats to an individual or families, 10% reporting doxing, and 5% reporting vandalism of LHD property. Of LHDs reporting harassment, just 37% received some form of protection.

Violence Targeting Health Systems

Nonfatal Workplace Violence Incidents with Days Away from Work



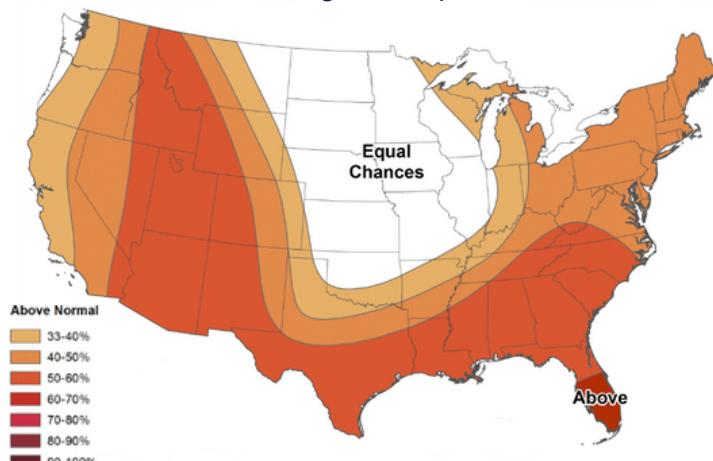
Violent incidents in healthcare were increasing faster than in other industries prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. Studies have found violence targeting health workers increased further during and after the pandemic. The American Hospital Association estimates violence in hospitals cost the industry \$18.3 billion in 2023, including prevention, response and recovery activities. Almost 2 in 5 healthcare workers have considered leaving employment due to safety concerns. Image source: JAMA

Other News

- **Poison Centers received 1,690 reports involving Kratom in the 1st half of 2025**, surpassing 2024's total cases. The opioid 7-OH is often marketed as natural Kratom. 165 of the reports in 2025 were for 7-OH alone. Of those, 35% had serious health problems and 67% required treatment at a healthcare facility.
- **Communities near Washington DC are preparing for an influx of homeless people**. Federal law enforcement agencies are clearing homeless encampments in the District while promising fines and arrest for those who refuse relocation to shelters or treatment facilities. DC had just over 5,000 homeless individuals in its latest count.
- **The US Department of Justice reported violent crime decreased 4.5% nationally in 2024**. Homicides declined almost 15%, while rape decreased 5.2%. Aggravated assault and robbery with a weapon dropped 3.0% and 8.9% respectively. A separate report found the trend continued in US cities in the first half of 2025, including in the three Virginia cities included in the study, and in Washington DC.

Weeks 3-4 Temperature Outlook

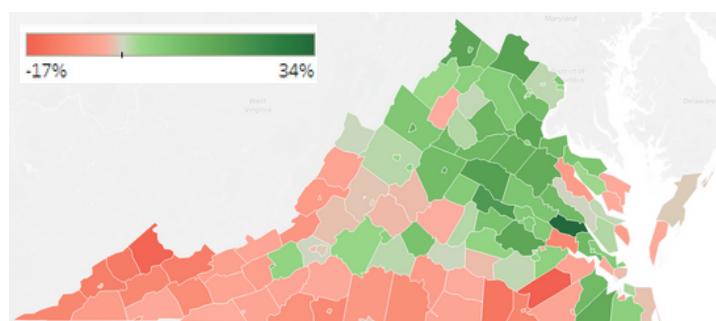
Valid Aug 23 - Sept 5



Temperatures are expected to remain cool through the end of August, but heat could return in September
Image source: [NWS](#)

Percent Population Change

2020 to 2050



The UVA Weldon Cooper Center released its latest population projections. Population growth is projected in most of Virginia's metropolitan arc from DC, through Richmond, to Hampton Roads. Northwest Virginia's population is also expected to increase. Meanwhile, population declines are expected in Southside and Southwest Virginia. Recently, migration has spurred population growth in Virginia's rural regions, but demographic trends may have a stronger impact long term. Data source: [UVA WCC](#)

- **Multiple explosions at a steel plant in Pennsylvania killed 2 and injured 10**. Residents within 1 mile of the facility were advised to remain indoors with windows closed, but air monitors did not detect contaminants above federal standards. Air quality monitoring is continuing.
- **Officials evacuated 179 prisoners from a Colorado prison due to wildfires**. Prisoners were relocated to another facility out of an abundance of caution. The National Interagency Fire Center reports 46 large fires across 8 of 9 geographic areas.
- **There are currently no senior federal officials responsible for pandemic preparedness, biosecurity or biodefense**. The last member of the White House Office of Pandemic Preparedness and Response Policy left in June. The senior director for Biosecurity and Pandemic Response in the National Security Council resigned in July.