

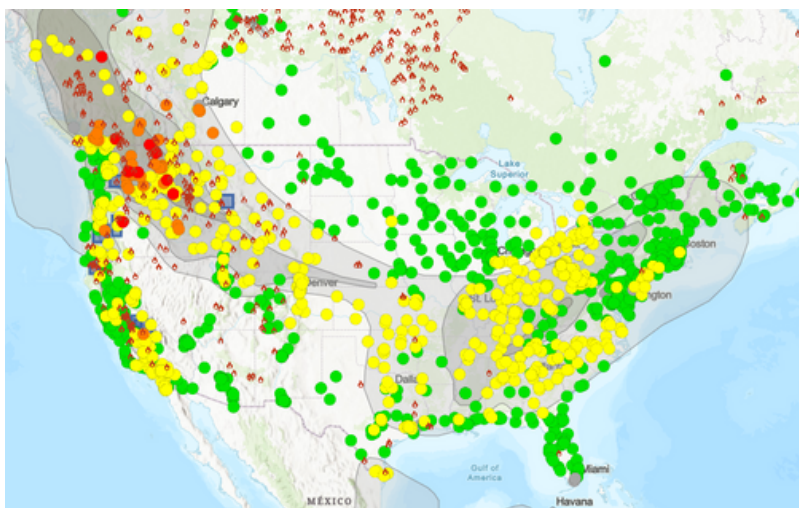
September 5, 2025

Key Takeaways

- The Democratic Republic of Congo declared an ebola outbreak.
- Virginia confirmed its fourth travel-linked measles case.
- Confusion around fall vaccines is intensifying and affecting access. Some states are adopting medical society guidance.
- COVID-19 activity continues to increase but is lower than at this period last year.
- The CDC Center for Forecasting and Outbreak Analytics expects peak hospitalizations for respiratory diseases to be similar to peaks seen last season.

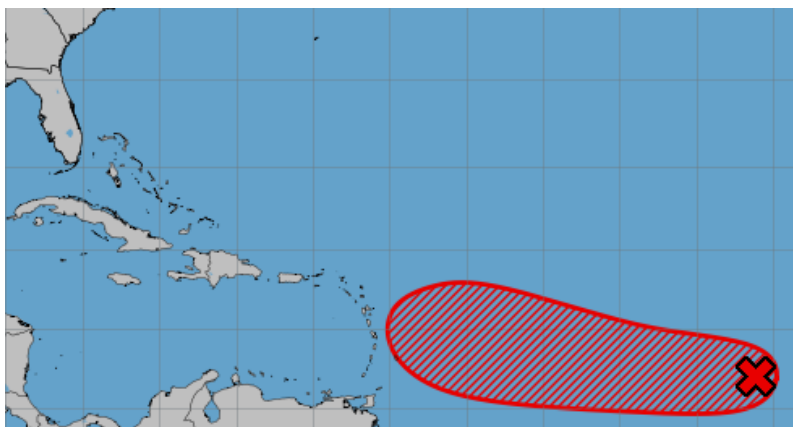
Key Figures

Fire and Smoke Map



Smoke from Western US and Canadian wildfires is affecting air quality into the Southern US. Image source: [AirNow](#)

7-Day Atlantic Tropical Weather Outlook



A tropical depression is likely to form this weekend, impacting the Lesser Antilles by midweek. Tropical cyclone formation is 90% likely. Image source: [NWS](#)

Measles

1,431

Measles cases identified in 2025 across 42 US states as of Sep 2.

COVID-19

1.7%

The share of emergency and urgent care facility visits for COVID-19 in Virginia for the week ending Aug 23.

Wildfires

633

The number of active wildfires in Canada as of Sep 5, 385 of which are out of control.

65

The number of large fires in the US as of Sep 5. Just 3 are contained.

Spotlight: Vaccine Policy Fractures

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Ongoing Monitored Situations

Ebola

- The Democratic Republic of Congo declared an **ebola outbreak** that began Aug 20. 28 cases and 15 deaths, including 4 health workers, were reported. WHO is supporting a national rapid response team with expertise, equipment and supplies. DRC is also deploying its 2,000 dose vaccine stockpile.

Seasonal Illness

- In Virginia, overall respiratory activity remains **minimal but continues to trend up**. COVID-19 is trending up, accounting for 1.7% of ED visits, up from 1.6% last week. Flu and RSV are stable. Nationally, COVID-19 activity is low but is growing or likely growing in 24 states.

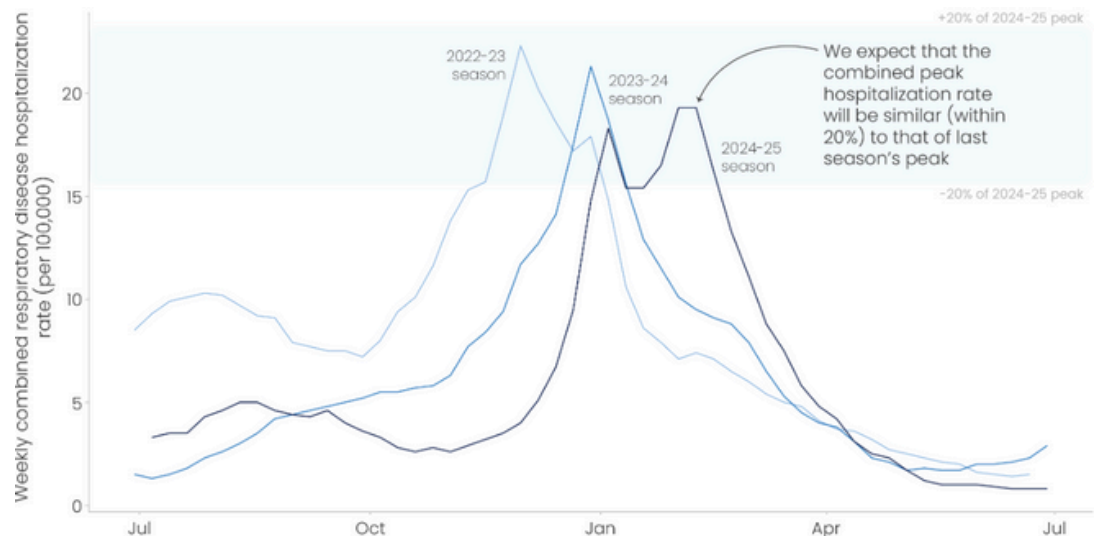
Measles

- The CDC reports **23 new measles cases in the US in the past week**. Canada reported 82 new cases. Mexico reported 127.
- **Virginia confirmed its fourth measles case**, linked to international travel. Three potential exposure sites were identified in Virginia Beach and Norfolk from Aug 27 - Sep 1, including two health facilities and a pharmacy.
- **Local officials and health systems describe insufficient federal support** during Texas' measles outbreak. CDC staff were unable to communicate, or limited in the advice they could give, early in the outbreak. Staff and financial support were also slow to materialize.

Combined Hospitalization Rates for COVID-19, Influenza, and RSV

The CDC expects a respiratory disease season similar to last year's, with a combined peak hospitalization rate within 20% of last year's peak. Risks to the forecast include more severe COVID-19 variants or influenza subtypes, and lower vaccine uptake or effectiveness than expected.

Image Source: [CDC](#)



Avian Flu

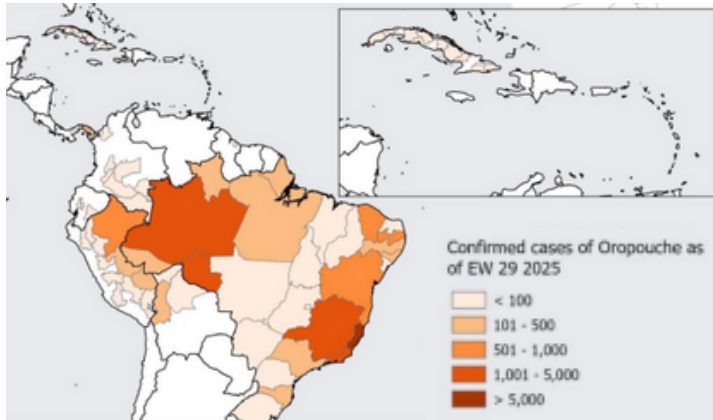
- **H5N1 (A) was identified in raw cat food**. The virus was identified in a cat, an open container at its San Francisco home, and in a separate lot from the company. The genotype (B3.13) was associated with dairy cattle and, later, poultry, last detected in Dec 2024. The company uses USDA-inspected human food-grade chicken.

Other News

- **Human exposure to wildfire increased 40% globally** between 2002 and 2021, despite a 26% decline in burned area. Increased fire activity and development at the urban-wildland interface explain the increase. 85% of exposures occurred in Africa, but exposure in North America increased 15.7% over that period.

Other News, con't

Locally-acquired Oropouche Cases, 2025



Several countries in the Americas have reported elevated chikungunya cases, while oropouche continues to spread outside its historic zone. Both diseases have been detected in Cuba in 2025. Image source: [PAHO](#)

- Europe is experiencing a record **mosquito-borne disease** season, highlighted by a chikungunya outbreak in France and Italy and an expanding range for West Nile Virus. The European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control expects longer, more widespread and more intense seasons to become the 'new normal.'
- **854 new subscribers joined the [Staunton Alert Message](#) system** following its Aug boil water advisory. The BWA stemmed from a water main break on Aug 14. The city is conducting a [review](#) of its response.
- An egg-linked **[Salmonella outbreak](#)** has infected **95 people in 14 widespread states**. Illness onset ranged from Jan to Jul. Officials suspect a high number of unreported cases.

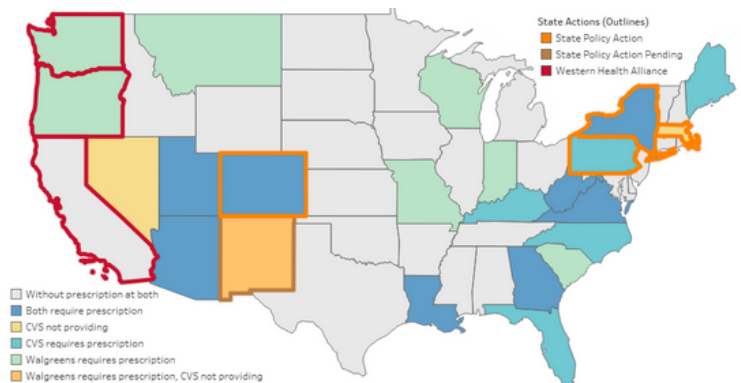
Spotlight

- The CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices ([ACIP](#)) will [meet](#) on Sep 18. ACIP advises the CDC Director on the use of immunizing agents, a key step in the [vaccine approval process](#). The panel may schedule recommendation votes for measles, mumps, rubella and varicella (MMRV), COVID-19, Hepatitis B, and RSV vaccines.
- The [CDC Director](#) was [fired](#) and [four top officials resigned Aug 28](#), [citing differences over vaccine policy](#), scientific integrity and transparency. The entire 17-member [ACIP panel](#) was fired in June. The White House named an [acting CDC director](#), while the HHS Secretary named [7 new ACIP members](#). Another [8 members](#) were appointed in June, though one has since [resigned](#).
- **CDC staff staged a [walkout](#) to protest the leadership turmoil**, while 1,000+ current and former HHS staff members [signed a letter](#) calling for the HHS Secretary to resign. Some [US Senators expressed](#) alarm. One Senator called on HHS to postpone the Sep 18 ACIP meeting.
- **California, Oregon and Washington announced the [Western Health Alliance](#) to coordinate public health guidance and to align immunization recommendations from national medical organizations.** [Pennsylvania, Colorado, Massachusetts and New York](#) took policy actions to allow pharmacies to administer COVID-19 vaccines without a prescription, while New Mexico is expected to release a new protocol soon. Meanwhile, [Florida](#) announced plans to eliminate all childhood vaccine mandates.

Vaccine Policy Fractures

COVID-19 Vaccine Availability at CVS & Walgreens Pharmacies

As of Aug 29, 2025



CVS and Walgreens pharmacy chains limited access to COVID-19 vaccines in some states. Each chain had a different list, creating a [patchwork](#) of access. Both chains currently require a prescription in Virginia. Some states took policy actions to maintain access at pharmacies (outlined states, current as of 1:30 PM Sep 5). Data source: [NYT](#) & OEP Research