

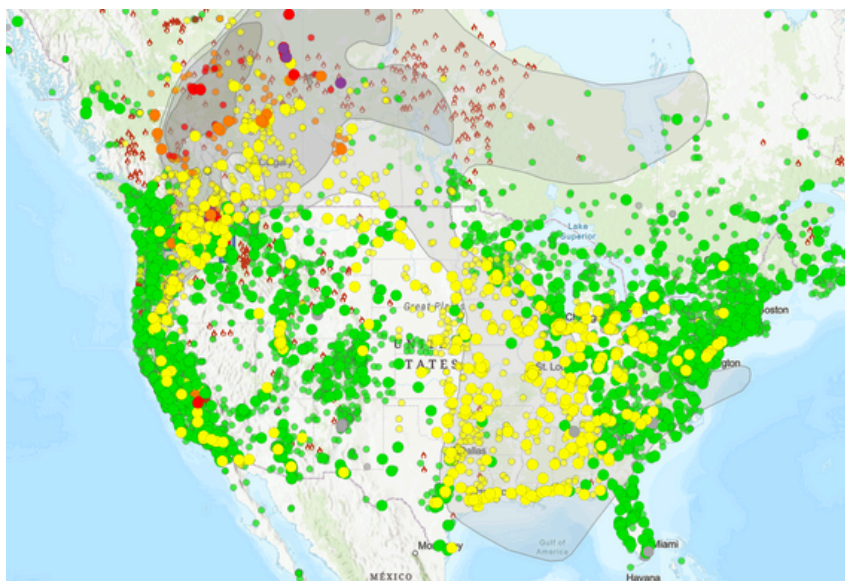
September 12, 2025

Key Takeaways

- Fall respiratory disease season is underway. Statewide activity level is low and trending up.
- Virginia issued a standing order to support COVID-19 vaccine access for eligible adults at pharmacies, joining several other states.
- The Ebola outbreak in DRC has grown to 58 suspected cases.
- Forecasters warn that conditions support an active second-half of the Atlantic hurricane season.

Key Figures

Fire and Smoke Map



Wildfire smoke continues to impact the Midwest but has not affected surface-level air quality east of the Appalachians thus far.
Image source: [AirNow](#)

Respiratory Disease Activity Level

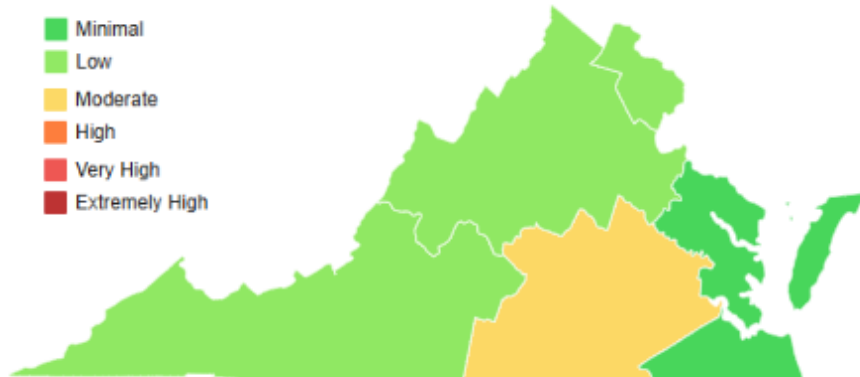


Image source: [VDH](#)

Measles

1,454

Measles cases identified in 2025 across 42 US states as of Sep 9.

Respiratory

1

The number of regions in Virginia with moderate or higher respiratory disease activity in the week ending Sep 6.

Key Dates

Sep 18-19

The CDC Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices meeting.

Oct 15

Virginia fall fire season begins.

Oct 18

Nationwide free speech events planned.

Spotlight: Vulnerability Indexes

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Ongoing Monitored Situations

Ebola

- Cases in the Democratic Republic of Congo outbreak increased from 28 to 58, while death rose from 15 to 20 as of Sep 10. The CDC issued a Level 1 travel advisory (practice usual precautions) for DRC and noted the risk to the US is low.

Avian Influenza

- The UN Food and Agricultural Organization hosted a global multisectoral dialogue to support regional and national implementation of the 2024-2033 Global Strategy for the Prevention and Control of HPAI.
- HPAI A(H5N1) may infect mammals through the gastrointestinal tract, potentially causing GI symptoms in humans. Potential sources include raw virus-contaminated meat or milk.

Seasonal Illness

- In Virginia, overall respiratory activity increased to low and continues to trend up. COVID-19 activity is stable, accounting for 1.7% of ED visits. Flu and RSV are also stable, accounting for 0.1% or less of ED visits. Nationally, COVID-19 activity is low and declining, indicating the summer COVID wave may be peaking.
- The Virginia Health Commissioner issued a standing order authorizing pharmacists to administer updated COVID-19 vaccines to adults age 18+ without a prescription. Under the order, adults 18-64 with at least one underlying condition and seniors age 65+ are eligible to receive the vaccine without a prescription.
- The US 2024-25 flu season had the highest hospitalization rate since 2010 at 127.1 per 100,000 population. Depending on age group, hospitalization rates were 1.8 to 2.8 times higher than median rates since the 2010-11 season. Lower vaccination coverage and virus strain likely contributed to the high severity.
- The American Academy of Family Physicians became the latest medical organization to release its own vaccine recommendations, recommending all adults receive a COVID-19 vaccine. The recommendations also cover children and pregnant women, and align with ACOG and AAP guidance.

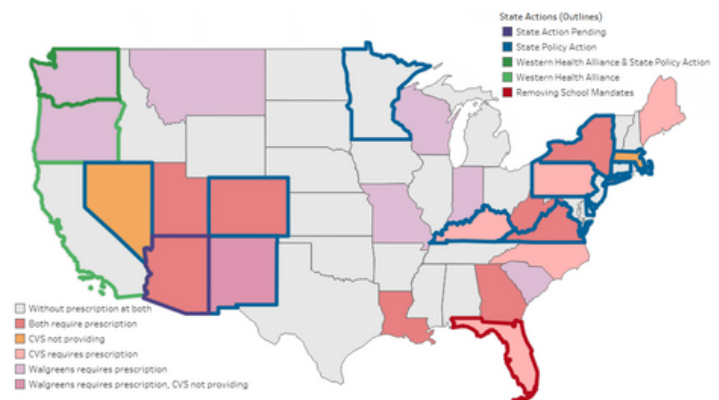
Measles

- The CDC reports 23 new measles cases in the US in the past week. Canada reported 50 new cases. Mexico reported 86.
- A potential exposure occurred at a Utah high school cycling league event with around 2,000 attendees. Health officials are encouraging participants at that and future league events to check their vaccination status.

Mpox

- The Public Health Emergency of International Concern for mpox expired. The WHO noted sustained case declines, increased response capacity and better understanding of disease dynamics in its decision. However, the Africa CDC determined that mpox remains a Public Health Emergency of Continental Security.

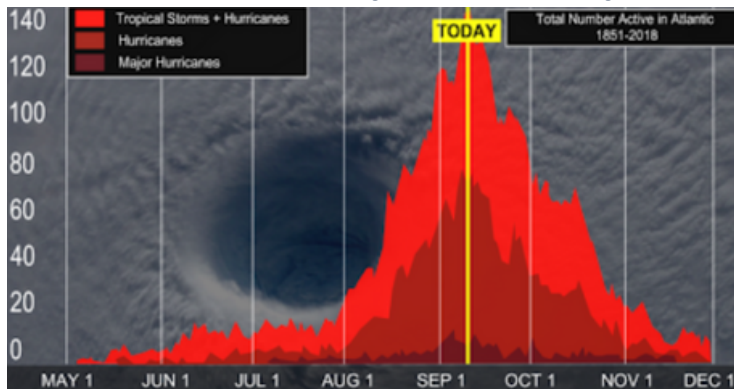
COVID-19 Vaccine Availability at CVS & Walmart Pharmacies & State Vaccine Actions
As of Sept 12, 2025 at Noon



After CVS and Walmart pharmacies declined to provide COVID-19 vaccines without a prescription - or at all - in some states, several states have taken actions to support access. This map shows the original access status at the pharmacy chains, and states that took actions to support access, or have actions pending. Data Source: NYT & OEP Research

Other News

Atlantic Tropical Cyclone Frequency



The first half of the Atlantic hurricane season has been muted due to idiosyncratic local conditions, but forecasters warn conditions still favor an active season. CSU forecasters maintained their forecast of an above-average season in a Sep 9 update. Image source: CBS

- **771 West Nile Virus cases have been reported in the US this year**, compared to a historic average of 550. 490 cases have been severe, up from the 350 average. In Virginia, 9 cases have been reported.
- **A prominent political activist was killed in a targeted attack in Utah**, the latest in a string of high profile lone wolf attacks. However, overall extremist activity in the US hit a 5-year low in August.
- **Richmond's heat island increases summer storm rain intensity by about 30%**, contributing to flood risk. Rain intensity is highest in the southeast of the city, downwind of the downtown hot spot.

Spotlight

Vulnerability Indexes

- **Researchers have developed a number of Census tract based indexes to quantify vulnerability.** Used properly, these indexes help preparedness staff understand and support populations in their community. While their use cases overlap, vulnerability indexes serve distinct purposes.
- **The VDH Office of Health Equity's Health Opportunity Index** identifies social and economic factors that influence resident's health outcomes. It does not include health status or demographic measures. The HOI is particularly useful before and after a disaster strikes to identify communities that may benefit from education, outreach, financial, or other community support.
- **The CDC's Social Vulnerability Index** identifies populations that may be vulnerable during a disaster. It includes social and economic factors, but also demographics (e.g., age, race) and health outcomes (e.g., disability status). The SVI is particularly useful for resource planning and operations.
- **The US Census Bureau's Community Resilience Estimates** measure the capacity of communities to absorb, endure and recover from disaster-related stresses. Like the SVI, it includes social, economic, demographic, and health status indicators. However, CREs use non-public data to count the number of vulnerabilities affecting each household, reporting the count and local share of households with 0, 1-2, or 3+ of 10 vulnerabilities. While the CRE provides less detail on the types of vulnerability affecting a community it can provide insight into the level of household vulnerability.

Community Resilience Estimates, Lynchburg City Percent of Population with 3+ Vulnerabilities

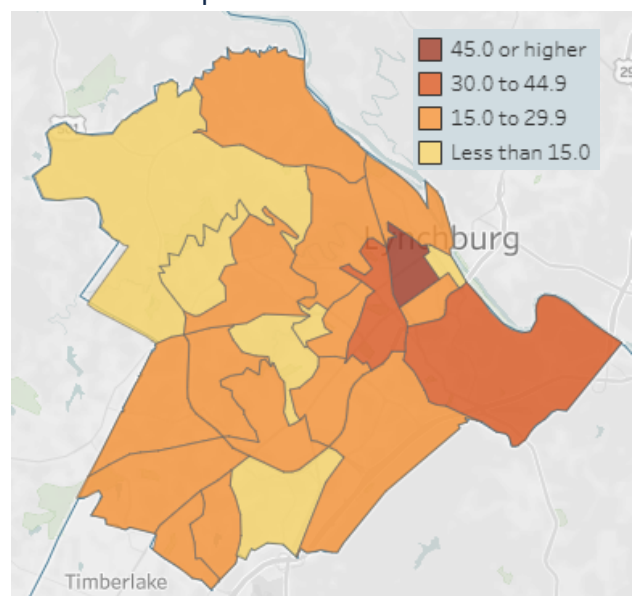


Image Source: US Census Bureau