

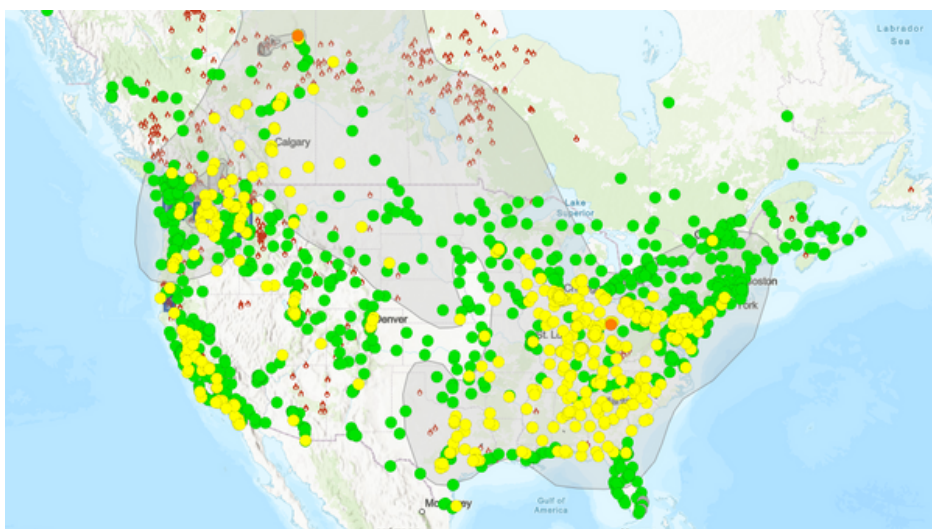
September 19, 2025

Key Takeaways

- COVID-19 activity declined and statewide respiratory activity to decreased to minimal.
- States continued to take steps to support vaccine access as the ACIP met Thu and Fri.
- Nebraska became the 18th state to identify HPAI in cattle.
- A WHO-led team has begun vaccinating health workers and case contacts in the DRCs Ebola outbreak.
- Three police officers were killed and two wounded in a Pennsylvania shooting. The shooter was also killed.

Key Figures

Fire and Smoke Map



Wildfire smoke is moving from the Midwest into the South and may be affecting air quality in some areas.
Image source: [AirNow](#)

Respiratory Disease Activity Level

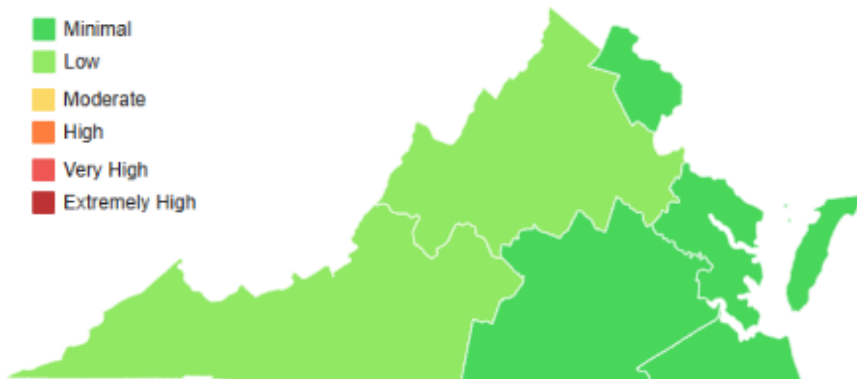
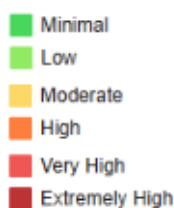


Image source: [VDH](#)

Measles

1,491

Measles cases identified across 42 US states in 2025 as of Sep 16.

Respiratory

0

The number of regions in Virginia with moderate or higher respiratory disease activity in the week ending Sep 13.

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.

[Subscribe to receive this update in your inbox weekly.](#)

Ongoing Monitored Situations

Ebola

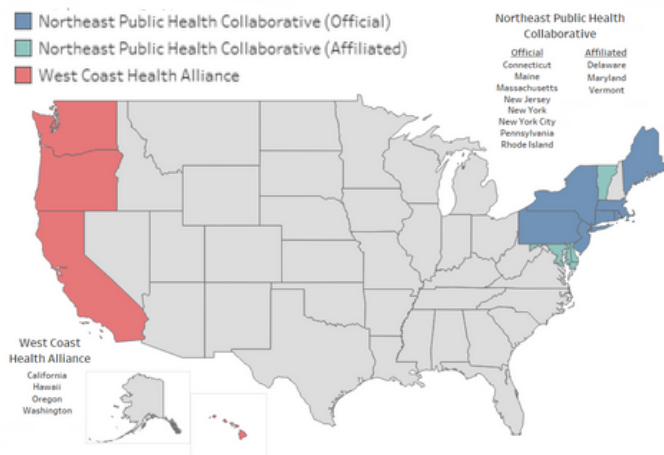
- As of Sep 14, the WHO is reporting **54 cases and 27 deaths in the Democratic Republic of Congo outbreak**. Genomic analysis suggests a new spillover event, not linked to previous outbreaks. So far, only one remote province in south-central DRC is affected.
- A team consisting of WHO and multiple partners, including the US CDC, has **deployed to the area** and begun **vaccinating** healthcare workers and case contacts. 400 vaccine does have arrived, with another 45,000 en route.

Avian Influenza

- **Nebraska reported its first HPAI (A)H5N1 detection dairy cattle**, bringing the total number of states with detections in cattle to 18. There have only been **8 detections in cattle** since June 1, five of them in California. Arizona, Texas and Nebraska each have 1.

Seasonal Illness

State Public Health Partnerships

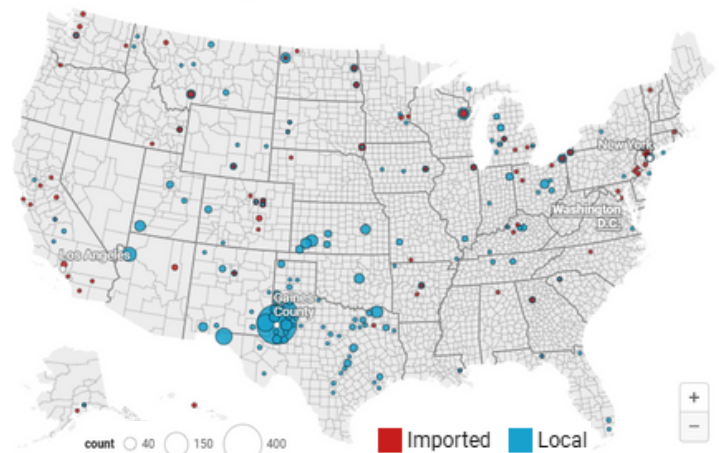


Four states have joined the West Coast Health Alliance, while seven states and New York City are officially part of the Northeast Public Health Collaborative. Three other states have been affiliated with the NEPHC. Both the WCHA and NEPHC released respiratory season immunization recommendations this week.
Data Source: OEP Research

Measles

- The CDC reports **37 new measles cases in the US in the past week**. Canada reported 53 new cases. Mexico reported 99.
- A **school-age child died from a measles complication years after being infected**. The child, who was too young to be vaccinated when infected, recovered but recently suffered from a rare, progressive brain disorder stemming from the infection.

County-level Measles Cases, 2025

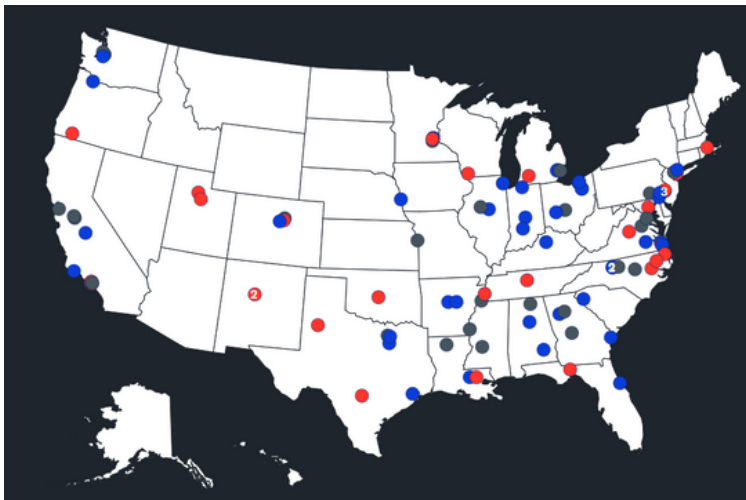


John Hopkins launched a county-level measles case tracker, showing both cumulative and recent cases.
Image Source: JH

- In Virginia, overall respiratory activity decreased to minimal and is trending down. COVID-19 activity decreased to 1.3% of ED visits from 1.7% last week. Flu and RSV are also stable, accounting for 0.1% or less of ED visits.
- Nationally, COVID-19 activity is low and declining. Activity is growing or likely growing in 9 states, and declining or likely declining in 24 states, including Virginia and all bordering states.
- America's Health Insurance Plans (AHIP) announced that health plans will continue to cover all currently CDC-recommended vaccines through the end of 2026, with no cost-sharing, including updated flu and COVID-19 vaccines.

Other News

Shooting Incidents on Schools or Campuses, 2025

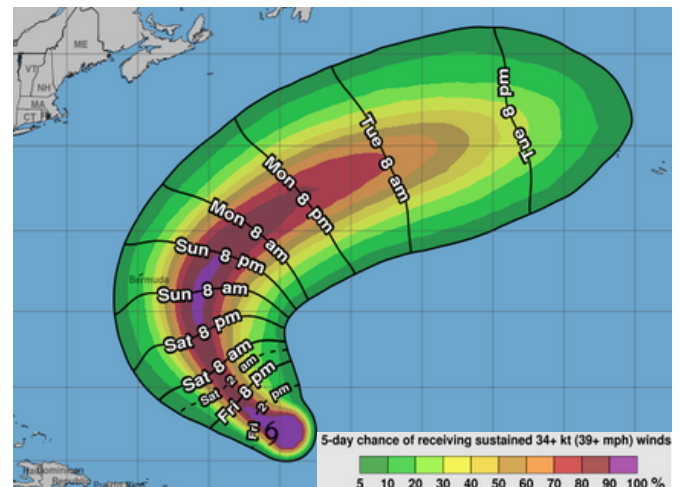


A school shooting in Colorado on Sep 10 injured two, while the shooter died from a self-inflicted gunshot wound. It was the 100th US school or campus shooting incident in 2025, including accidental discharges, self-harm, and intentional shootings. As of today, 105 incidents have resulted in 33 deaths and 101 injuries. 6 incidents have occurred in Virginia, resulting in 3 deaths and 4 injuries. Image source: [ETFGS](#)

- **Emergency action averted a cascading outage in Baltimore on Aug 11.** A substation outage could have caused loss of 1,200 MW (enough to power 1 million homes) to PJM's regional grid, which also covers Virginia. The event was contained to 20 MW load shed for 28 min. PJM is developing similar procedures to manage threats from data centers.

- **Several historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs) received hoax threats last week**, causing brief lockdowns. Virginia State and Hampton Universities were among HBCUs that received threats.
- **Heavy rain caused flooding, power outages, and early school closures in the Hampton Roads area on Tue.** Over 7.5 inches of rain fell on Virginia Beach and parts of Norfolk on Tuesday, while other areas saw between 2.5 and 4 inches. Over 60,000 residents lost power.

Tropical Storm Gabriel

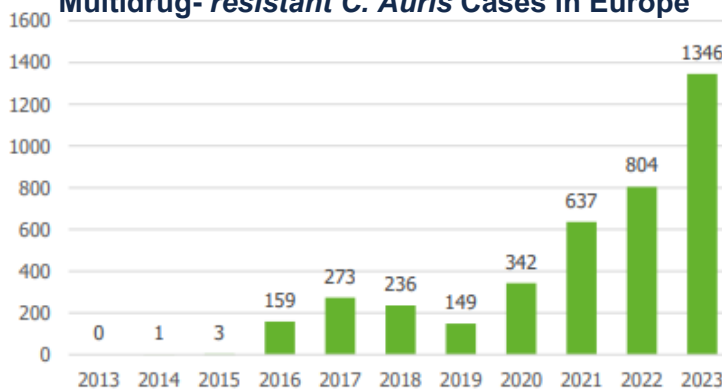


Tropical Storm Gabriel has formed in the Atlantic. It is expected to strengthen into a hurricane over the weekend but will remain well offshore.

Image source: [NWS](#)

- **A chemical spill at a Michigan battery plant sent 15 workers to the hospital Sep 6.** Three hospitals treated patients for non-life threatening injuries. The spill was contained in the facility.
- **Brazil is leveraging a mosquito biofactory and a homegrown vaccine to fight dengue.** The biofactory can produce 100 million mosquitos, infected with a deadly and sterility-inducing bacteria, weekly. Production of the vaccine, which is potentially effective against all 4 dengue serotypes, could reach 60 million doses by 2026.

Multidrug-resistant *C. Auris* Cases in Europe



Multidrug-resistant *Candida auris* is spreading in European hospitals. 4,012 cases were reported across 18 countries between 2013 and 2023, however 1,346 cases were reported in 2023. Image source: [ECDC](#)