

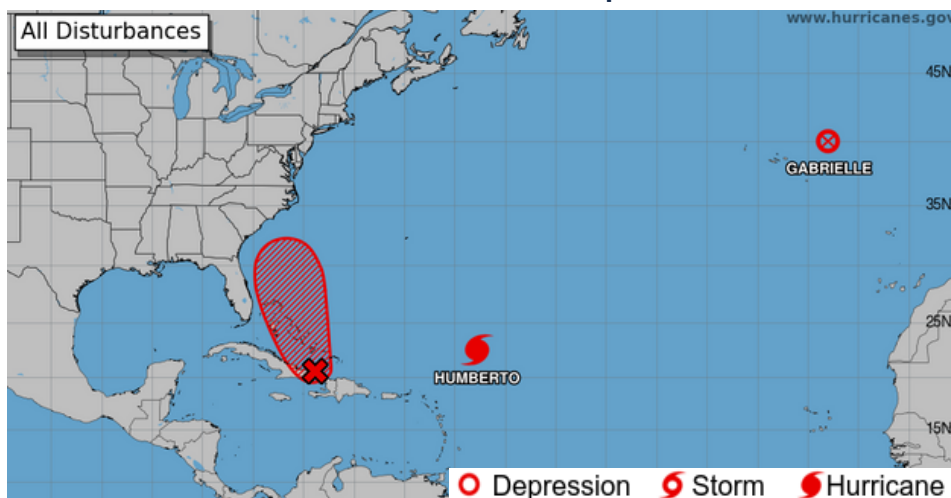
September 26, 2025

Key Takeaways

- Atlantic tropical activity is picking up and should be monitored over the weekend.
- Statewide respiratory activity is minimal and stable.
- The Ebola outbreak in DRC shows early signs of slowing down.
- Measles cases in the US topped 1,500.
- New World Screwworm was detected in Mexico within 70 miles of the US border.

Key Figures

Fire and Smoke Map



Tropical Storm Humberto is expected to develop into a major hurricane this weekend and may cause increased swell and rip currents locally. A disturbance near Hispaniola is also developing and may bring local impacts early next week. Image source: [NWS](#)

Respiratory Disease Activity Level

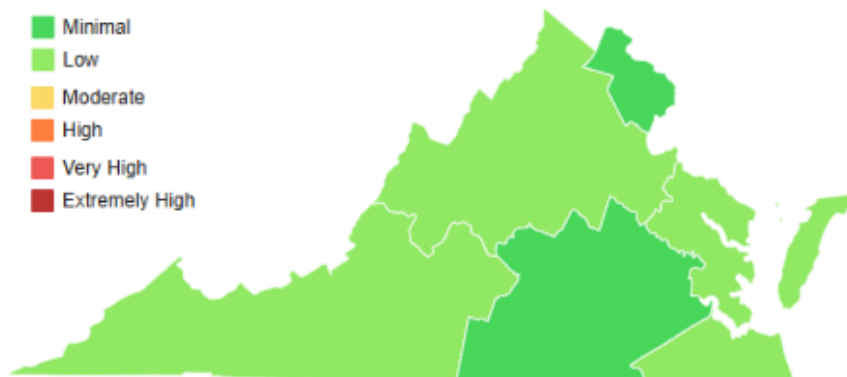


Image source: [VDH](#)

Measles

23

Measles cases confirmed nationally in the week ending Sep 23.

Respiratory

0

The number of regions in Virginia with moderate or higher respiratory disease activity in the week ending Sep 20.

Key Dates

Oct 15

Virginia fall fire season begins.

Oct 18

Nationwide free speech events planned.

Spotlight:
Antimicrobial
Resistance

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Ongoing Monitored Situations

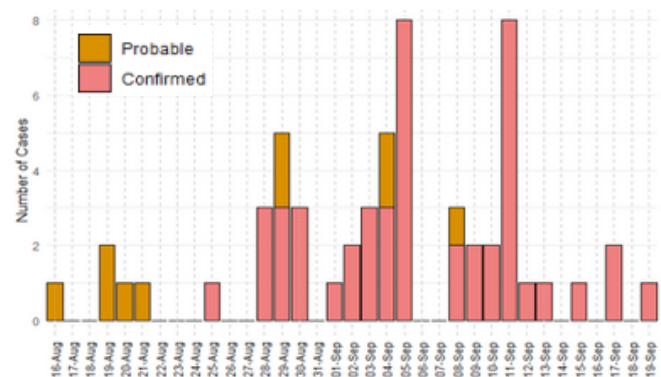
Measles

- The CDC reports **23 new measles cases in the US in the past week**, bringing the total to 1,514 across 14 US states. Canada reported 70 new cases. Mexico reported 120.
- PAHO reports a **31-fold increase in measles cases in the Americas in 2025**. Through Sep 12, there were 11,313 cases in 2025 compared to 358 in 2024. Most cases have occurred in Canada (4,849), Mexico (4,553) and the US (1,454). Among the 23 deaths reported, Mexico has 19, the US has 3, and Canada has 1.
- **Vaccine coverage did not substantially increase following an outbreak in Ohio**. 20 months after the outbreak, 1st dose MMR coverage did not increase, while 2nd dose coverage by 84 months increased only slightly. Overall vaccination remained below the herd immunity threshold and was significantly lower in some populations.

Ebola

- As of Sep 21, the WHO reports **57 confirmed and probable cases and 35 deaths** in the Democratic Republic of Congo outbreak. No cases have been reported outside of the remote epicenter. 1,740 people were vaccinated in a ring vaccination approach. 2,410 doses remain on hand, with more expected.

DRC Ebola Cases by Date of Onset



Ebola cases have shown early signs of a potential slowdown in the past week, but data is preliminary. Image source: WHO

Other News

- **Pandemic preparedness is not a global political priority** according to an analysis of party platforms. Only 4 of 43 platforms across 16 countries listed specific policy pledges, while 6 made brief mentions of pandemic prevention, preparedness and response.
- America's Poison Centers noted a **202% increase in nicotine pouch-related cases** from 2022 to 2024. There has been an additional 92% increase so far in 2025. Children under 6 account for 73% of cases.
- **Nine patients were evacuated after an Oklahoma hospital lost a section of its roof**. Strong storms and winds ripped off the roof. No injuries were reported.
- **Southwest Va localities are better prepared following a year of catastrophic flooding that began with hurricane Helene**. Localities have updated emergency plans and purchased equipment based on lessons learned. At least two counties are training swift-water rescue teams.

Seasonal Illness

- In Virginia, overall respiratory activity remains minimal and is stable. COVID-19 activity decreased to 1.0% of ED visits from 1.3% last week. Flu and RSV are stable, accounting for 0.1% or less of ED visits.
- **Nationally, COVID-19 activity is low and declining**. Activity is declining or likely declining in 36 states, including Virginia and all bordering states. COVID-19 activity is growing in just 1 state: Arizona Test positivity for rhino/enterovirus is elevated and increasing.
- ACIP **recommended** that updated COVID vaccines can be administered to anyone 6 months and older after consulting with a healthcare provider. At least 21 states and Washington DC have made recommendations that differ from ACIP's. Virginia issued a standing order supporting access at pharmacies for adults.

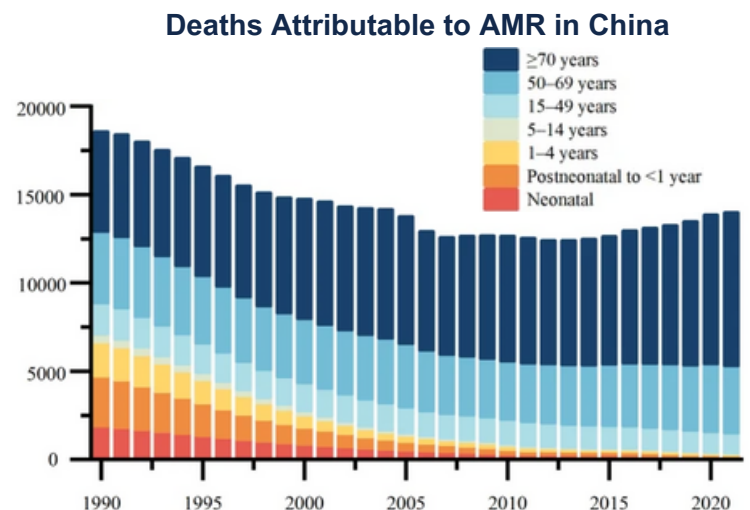
Other News, Con't

- **The CDC released a new hurricane dashboard.** The dashboard allows users to explore population characteristics, health burden, and environmental characteristics of populations impacted by recent storms, or under threat from active storms.
- **Over 200 AI developers, academics and dignitaries called for agreement on 'red lines' for AI development.** The signatories warned human's ability to exert meaningful control over AI is waning. Meanwhile, the CEO of a leading AI development company estimated a 25% chance that AI outcomes could go 'really, really badly'.
- **The US Secret Service discovered a network of SIM farms in New York City** ahead of the UN General Assembly meeting this week. The servers, clustered within 35 miles of the UN Building, could have been used for surveillance, jamming cell networks, sending encrypted messages or other uses. Officials noted there were no credible threats to the city.
- **Trust in federal public health institutions has declined over the last year** according to an Annenberg Center survey. Confidence in the CDC, FDA and NIH ranged from 62% to 64%, down from 72% to 74% the year prior. The survey found partisan differences in both the level of trust and the decline.
- **Mexico confirmed a case of New World Screwworm just 70 miles from the US Border**, 300 miles closer than the previous northernmost detection. San Hidalgo, where the case was detected, is about 67 miles from the border crossing at Falcon TX, and about 80 miles from Laredo TX.
- **One detainee was killed and two were critically injured in a lone wolf shooting at an Immigration and Customs Enforcement facility** in Dallas, TX. The shooter also died from a self-inflicted wound. This is the second shooting this year targeting ICE facilities, which have varying levels of security.

Spotlight

- **US NDM-CRE infections surged over 460% between 2019 and 2023 according to a CDC study.** Cases are also rising in Virginia. NDM-CRE is type of bacteria resistant to nearly all antibiotics. NDM-CRE can cause multiple types of potentially deadly infections. Treatment is 'extremely hard' and detection is challenging.
- **A meta-study found over one third of culture-positive organisms in hospital settings globally are classified as resistant.** Resistant organisms are associated with higher mortality. Although global, all studies in the survey were pre-pandemic and only covered a small geographic footprint, revealing gaps.
- **The European Union launched the Partnership on One Health Antimicrobial Resistance (OHAMR).** OHAMR brings together 53 organizations from 30 countries to coordinate research and innovation, knowledge translation, improved data sharing and other efforts.

Antimicrobial Resistance



AMR-attributable deaths in children under 5 declined by 95% in China from 1991-2021. However, deaths among the elderly increased by 68%. Researchers attributed the decline among children to vaccines and sanitation. The increase among the elderly was due to susceptibility in the fast-growing senior population.

Image Source: [BMC](#)