

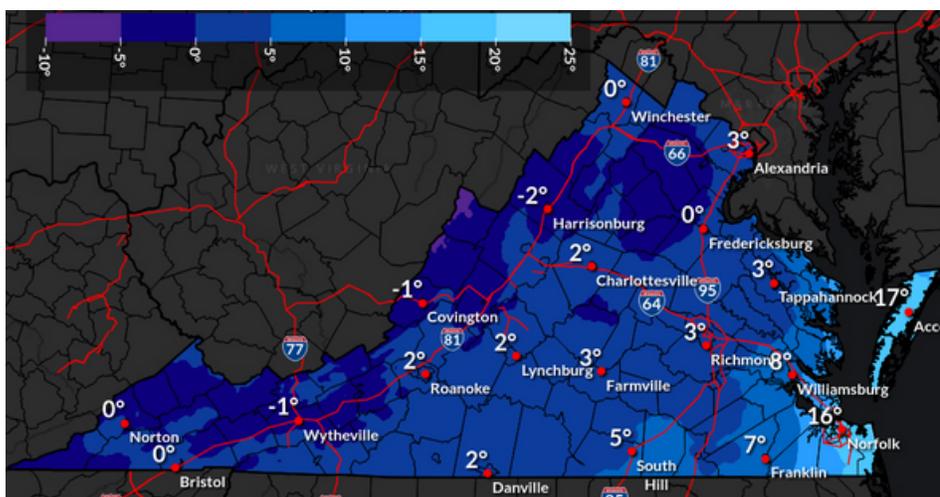
January 23, 2026

Key Takeaways

- The Governor's office declared a state of emergency ahead of a winter storm coming this weekend. **Extreme impacts** from snow, sleet, ice, and extreme cold are expected into next week.
- Gastrointestinal illness activity is above threshold statewide, and in all regions of Virginia.
- South Carolina's measles outbreak has produced a substantial number of cases over the past few weeks.
- Virginia reported its third measles case of 2026. All cases were in children 0-4 years of age.

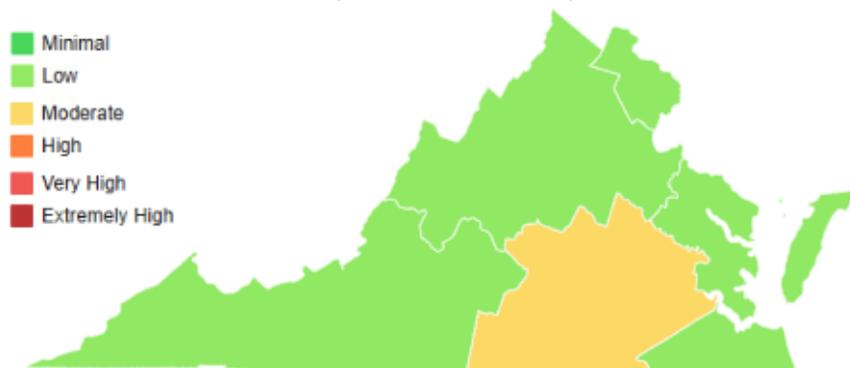
Key Figures

Low Temperature Tuesday AM



Frigid temperatures, extending into next week, will exacerbate heavy snow and ice accumulations from this weekend's winter storm.
Image Source: [NWS](#)

Respiratory Disease Activity Level



Flu activity is moderate in Central Virginia, and low all other regions. Image source: [VDH](#)

Measles

245

Measles cases confirmed nationally in the ten days ending Jan 22.

Seasonal Illness

Low

Overall respiratory disease activity in Virginia for the week ending Jan 17.

3.9%

The share of Virginia ED visits for respiratory illness for the week ending Jan 17.

Spotlight:
Winter Weather
Graphics

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Ongoing Monitored Situations

Measles

- The CDC changed its measles report date to **Fridays**. Over the past 10 days, the CDC reported 245 new measles cases in the US, bringing the 2026 total to 416 cases across 14 US states. Canada reported 17 new cases last week. Mexico reported 295.
- South Carolina reported **212 new measles cases in the week ending Jan 20**, bringing the total there to 646. Exposure sites include a large number of K-12 schools and at least two universities.
- **Jan 20 marked 1 year since the measles outbreak in West Texas began**, putting the US on the brink of losing its elimination status. PAHO will meet in April to examine evidence, including the lack of an epidemiological link between current active outbreaks and the one in Texas. Mexico's status is also under review, while Canada lost its status in Nov.
- **Virginia reported its third measles case of 2026** in a preschool-age child who recently traveled internationally. This case is not related to the one reported last week. Potential exposure occurred at sites in Woodbridge on Jan 13 and Falls Church on Jan 15-17.

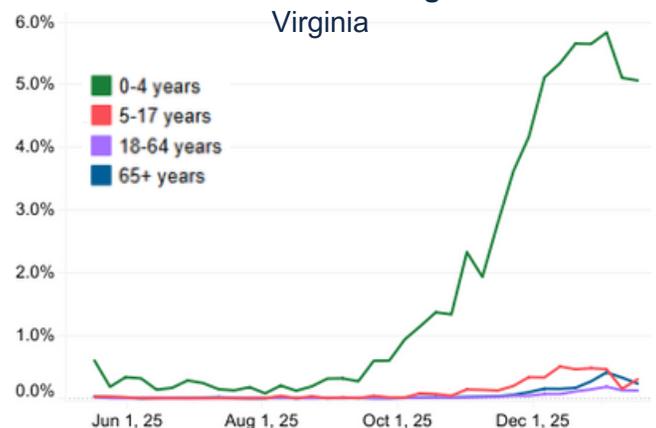
Avian Influenza

- **China reported 3 new human cases of avian influenza A(H9N2), from Jan 9 to 15**. 155 cases of A(H9N2) have been reported since 2015, including 29 last year.
- **The scale and diversity of circulating avian flu viruses is raising concerns among some experts**. In 2025, five separate strains of avian influenza A (H5N1, H5N2, H9N2, H5N5 and H10N3) caused human cases in 2025. Meanwhile, HPAI A(H5N1) continues to affect mammals globally, including 4 separate spillover events to cattle in the US.

Seasonal Illness

- In Virginia, overall respiratory activity is **low and trending down**. Flu activity is highest, accounting for 3.9% of all ED visits, down from 5.4% a week ago. Both COVID-19 and RSV activity are stable, accounting for 0.7% and 0.5% of ED visits, respectively.
- **Gastrointestinal illness is above threshold statewide**, accounting for 11.1% of ED visits. GI illness is above threshold in all 5 of Virginia's regions.
- **The current flu vaccine is 36% effective against infection** according to an interim analysis from France. Effectiveness was highest among 0-17 year-olds (57%) and lowest among seniors (28%). The study occurred when both A(H3N2) and A(H1N1) were co-circulating.

Percent of ED Visits for Diagnosed RSV



RSV activity remains elevated among 0-4 year-olds in Virginia. Image Source: [VDH](#)

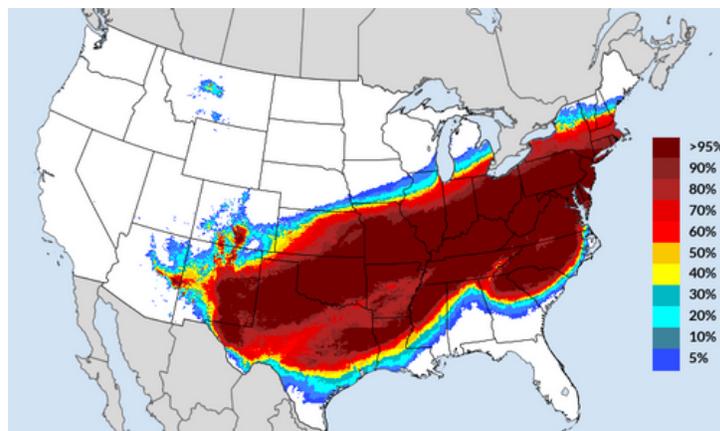
Mpox

- **58% of mpox patients had symptoms 11 to 18 months later**. Of these, 56% were appearance related, while 13% involved anorectal or urinary dysfunction.
- **Asymptomatic spread of mpox is likely** according to a seroprevalence study in Nigeria. 5 of 153 (3%) of study participants had mpox antibodies, despite no history of disease or exposure.

Other News

- **New World Screwworm** was detected in **Tamaulipas state, Mexico**, which shares a border with Texas. NWS has been detected previously in **Nuevo Leon**, just 70 miles from Texas.
- **Federal immigration activity** and related **protests** are continuing in **Minnesota**, including activity within **health facilities**. Meanwhile, enforcement activity is **expanding** in other areas, including **reported activity** in **central Virginia**.
- **The US completed its withdrawal from the WHO Thursday**. The withdrawal means that researchers will have limited access to surveillance data for emerging threats and seasonal flu strains. It also weakens global health infrastructure and cooperation.
- **Half of respondents were less confident in federal vaccine guidance** following recent changes, according to a **recent survey**. A third of respondents reported being more confident.

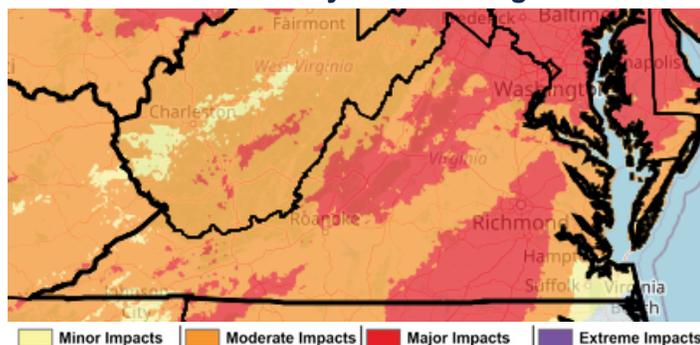
Probability of at Least Minor Impacts
Winter Weather, Jan 25-26



Winter storms are prompting emergency declarations in a growing number of US states. Image Source: NWS

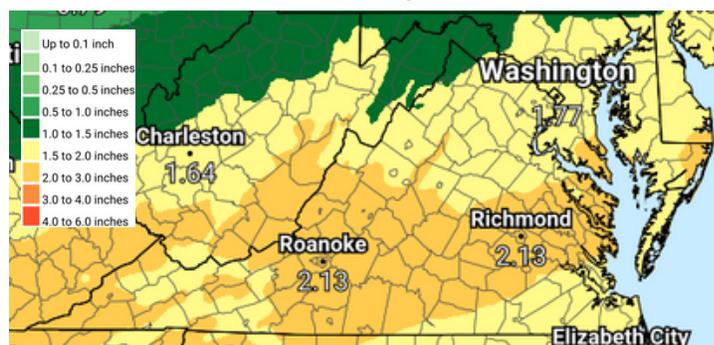
Spotlight

Winter Storm Severity Index through 1PM Mon

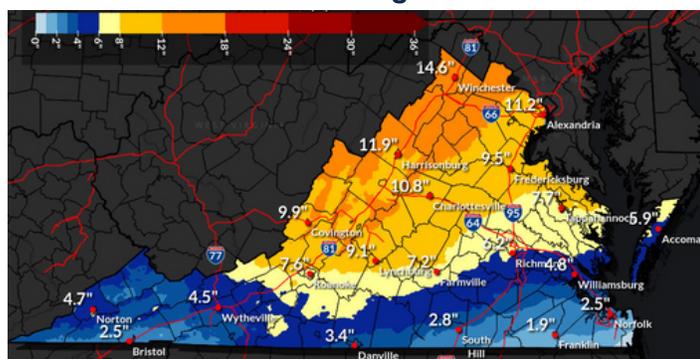


Winter Storm Graphics

Liquid Equivalent through 1PM Wed Jan 28



Snow Accumulation through 7AM Mon Jan 26



Ice Accumulation through 7AM Mon Jan 26

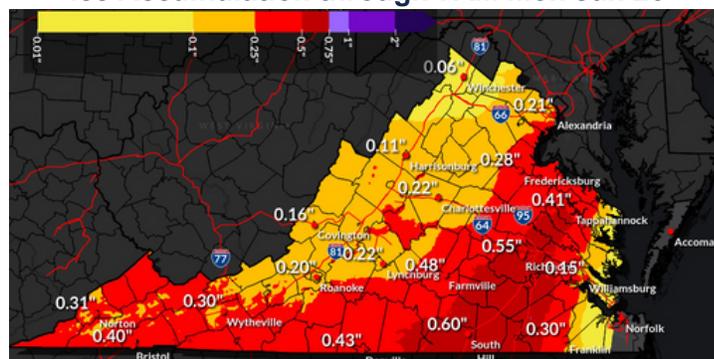


Image Source: NWS