

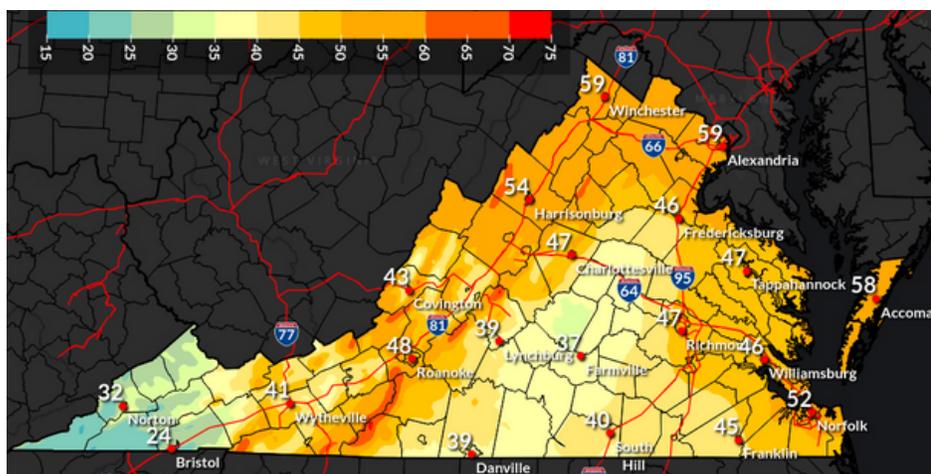
February 6, 2026

## Key Takeaways

- Bitter cold is forecast across Virginia this weekend. Much of the state will experience high winds.
- Virginia reported its 5<sup>th</sup> measles case of 2026, with potential exposure sites in Northern Virginia.
- The US is experiencing a severe blood shortage following weeks of winter weather.
- Geopolitical and societal risks threaten global stability in the short-term. Environmental and technological threats pose more far-reaching risks in the long-term.

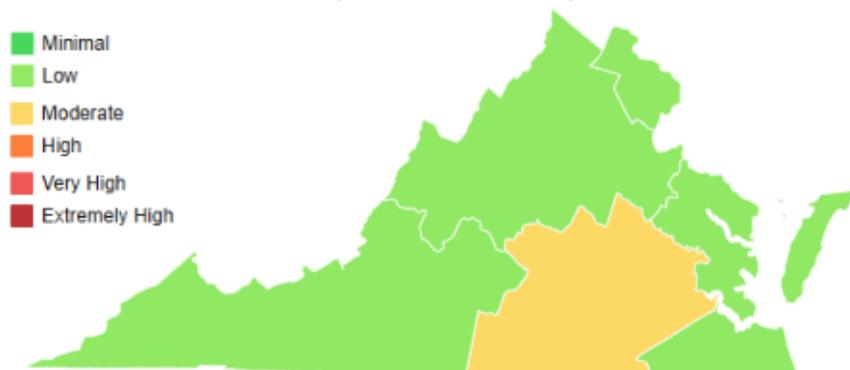
## Key Figures

Forecasted Maximum Wind Gust  
5PM Thu to 5PM Sun



High winds are forecast along the I-85 and I-66 corridors, and along the coast. Image Source: [NWS](#)

Respiratory Disease Activity Level



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

## Measles

**145**

Measles cases confirmed nationally in the week ending Feb 5.

## Seasonal Illness

**Low**

Overall respiratory disease activity in Virginia for the week ending Jan 31.

**14.4%**

The share of Virginia ED visits for respiratory illness for the week ending Jan 31.

***Spotlight:***  
2026 Global Risks

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

## Ongoing Monitored Situations

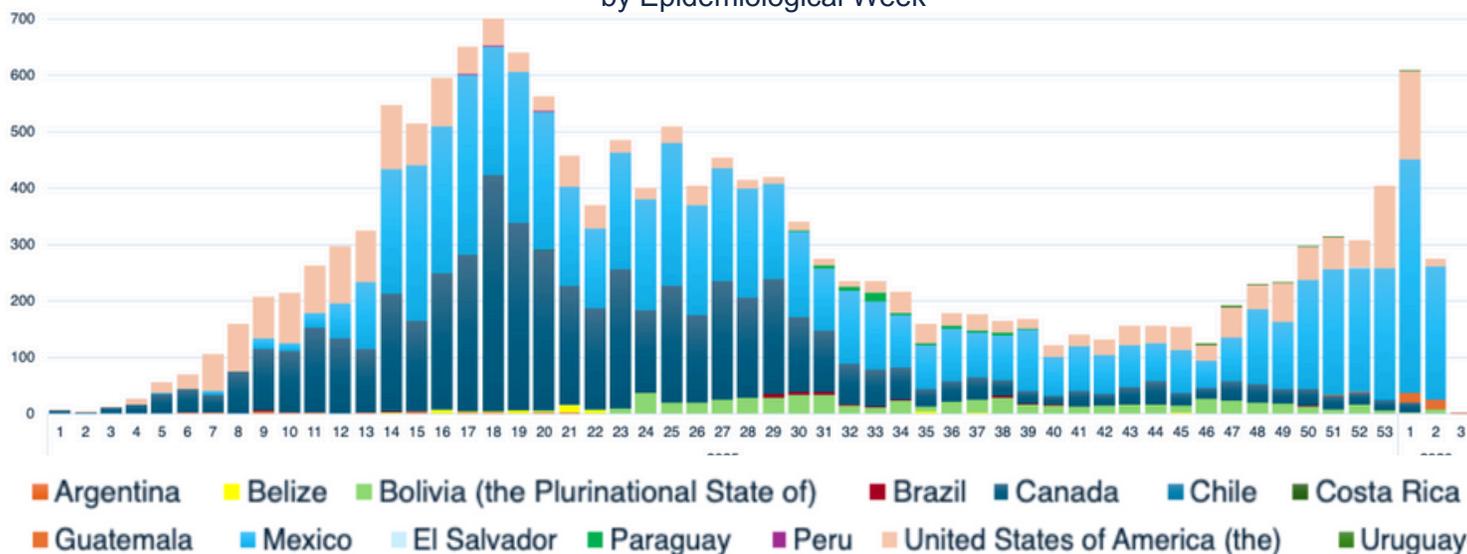
### Measles

- The CDC reported **145 new measles cases** in the US over the past week, bringing the 2026 total to 733 cases across 20 US states. Canada reported 34 new cases last week. Mexico reported 454.
- South Carolina reported **87 new measles cases** in the week ending Feb 3, bringing the outbreak total there to 876. Just 4.3% of cases have been in people with known full or partial vaccination status.
- Virginia confirmed its **5<sup>th</sup> measles case of 2026**. Potential exposure sites occurred in Herndon, Reston, and Fairfax from Jan 23 to 31. Separately, a confirmed case from another state traveled through Dulles Airport on Jan 24.
- **Two measles cases were confirmed in a family immigration detention facility in Texas**. Officials halted all movement inside the facility and quarantined contacts. Large-scale immigration enforcement activity involves moving and concentrating large numbers of at-risk individuals, with public health implications.

### Seasonal Illness

- In Virginia, overall respiratory activity is **low and trending down**. Flu activity accounts for 3.4% of all ED visits, down from 3.9% a week ago. Both COVID-19 and RSV activity are stable, accounting for 0.7% and 0.4% of ED visits, respectively.
- Nationally, **RSV is growing or likely growing in 22 states** and declining or likely declining in just 5. COVID-19 is growing or likely growing in 11 states, mostly in the US South. For flu, more states are in declining categories than growing.
- Gastrointestinal illness is at or below threshold **statewide**, accounting for 10.1% of ED visits. GI illness is above threshold in Eastern and Northern Virginia and at or below threshold in Virginia's other three regions.
- The **COVID-19 vaccine is 79% effective against ventilation or death** and 40% effective against hospitalization. However, uptake is declining. Just 49% of Americans over 50 reported getting the vaccine in the past year in a recent survey.

Confirmed Measles Cases in the Americas Region  
by Epidemiological Week



PAHO recorded 14,891 confirmed measles cases in the Americas region in 2025. Mexico had the most cases (6,428) followed by Canada (5,436) and the United States (2,242). Mexico and the US continue to have elevated case numbers early in 2026. Despite declines, Canada continues to report a few dozen new cases each week. Image Source: PAHO

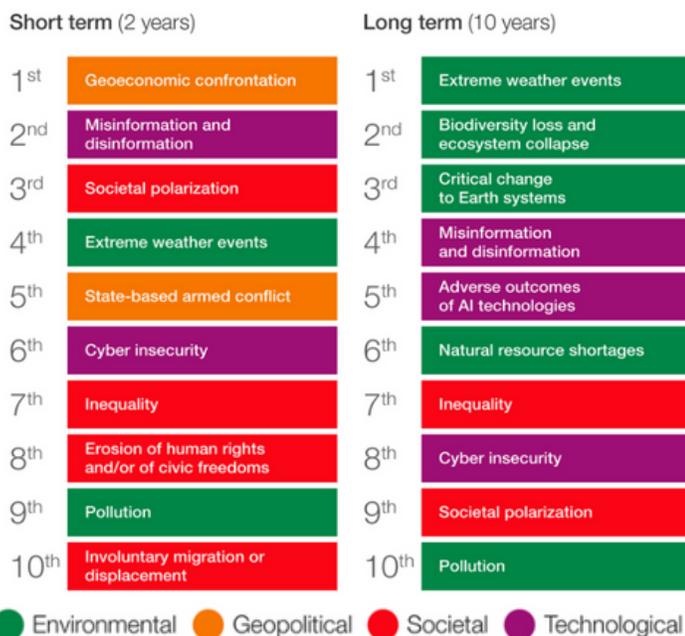
## Other News

- A fire forced the evacuation of 77 people from a hospital in Pennsylvania. All patients were relocated to nearby hospitals. No injuries were reported. The hospital remains closed at this time.
- Police raided an unauthorized biolab in a Las Vegas home, finding possible biological material, including vials with unknown liquid. Housekeepers report several people who stayed at the home, which also served as a short-term rental, became ill. Officials say there is no threat to the public.
- Wildfire smoke contributed to over 24,000 deaths per year from 2006 to 2020. Chronic exposure to fine particulate matter from wildfires can exacerbate a wide range of acute and chronic health conditions. Researchers found no safe threshold for exposure.
- Winter weather across the US disrupted blood collection events and transport, intensifying an ongoing blood shortage. The American Red Cross previously declared a severe shortage of blood on Jan 20, driven by flu season and earlier winter weather.
- A large sunspot has released powerful solar flares and a coronal mass ejection. A flare caused a radio blackout over the Pacific. There is a chance for strong radio blackouts as long as the sunspot is active and facing earth.
- The US had 28,000 pertussis cases in 2025, four times as many as in 2023. Lower overall immunity following COVID-19 and lower vaccination may be contributing to the increase. Pertussis exhibits both seasonal and cyclical trends, with cycles of high incidence lasting 3 to 5 years.

## Spotlight

## 2026 Global Risks

### World Economic Forum Global Risks



According to the World Economic Forum, environmental and technological risks dominate the long-term risk landscape. However, geopolitical and societal risks rank higher in the short-term.  
Image Source: WEF

- The Council on Foreign Relations lists two ‘Tier I Conflicts to Watch’ in the US. Growing political violence and popular unrest is ranked as both highly likely and high impact, while a cyberattack on US critical infrastructure has moderate likelihood and a high impact.
- Global Catastrophic Risks threaten the lives of a large part of humanity across multiple continents. The Global Challenges Foundation listed catastrophic climate change, ecological collapse, WMDs, artificial intelligence, and near earth asteroids as the five biggest GCRs facing humanity today. Last week, scientists moved the ‘Doomsday Clock’ to 85 seconds to midnight, citing a similar list of threats.
- Ransomware remains the primary cyberthreat to the global health sector in 2026. However, cyber threat actors are increasingly exploiting supply chains and vendors instead of targeting health facilities directly. Social engineering techniques are becoming increasingly sophisticated, including proliferation of QR code phishing.