

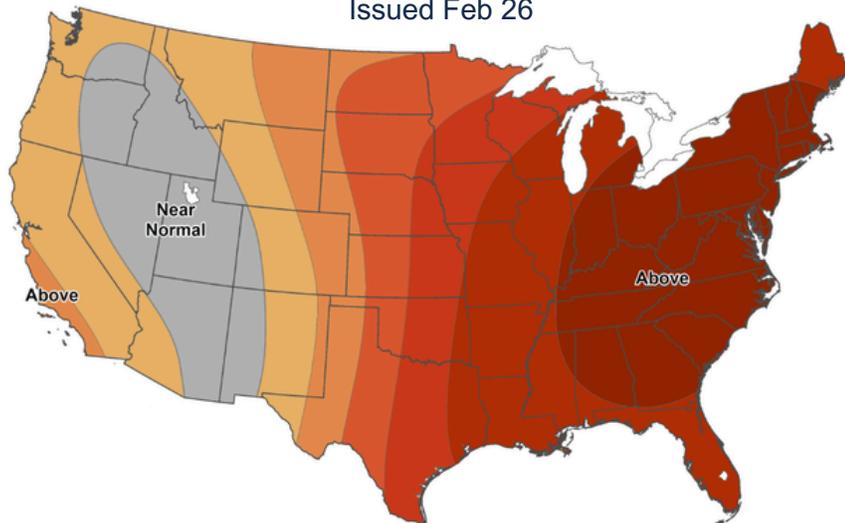
February 27, 2026

## Key Takeaways

- Respiratory disease activity increased in Virginia last week, driven by increased flu activity among 5-17 year-olds.
- 2026 US measles cases surpassed 1,000.
- Gastrointestinal illness activity is trending up in Virginia, and is above threshold statewide and in all Virginia regions.
- 2025 was among the three warmest years on record, with temperatures approaching the 1.5°C IPCC warming threshold.

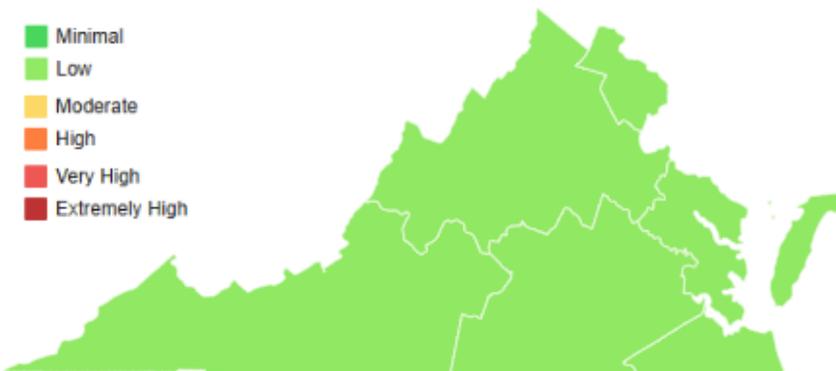
## Key Figures

Temperature Outlook, Mar 6-12  
Issued Feb 26



Early March may be unseasonably warm, posing a potential heat risk in populations acclimated to recent cold weather.  
Image Source: [CPC](#)

### Respiratory Disease Activity Level



Flu activity is low in all Virginia regions. Image source: [VDH](#)

## Measles

**154**

Measles cases confirmed nationally in the week ending Feb 26.

## Seasonal Illness

### Low, Trending Up

Overall respiratory disease activity in Virginia for the week ending Feb 21.

**13.5%**

The share of Virginia ED visits for respiratory illness for the week ending Feb 21.

**11.9%**

The share of Virginia ED visits for Gastrointestinal Illness for the week ending Feb 21.

## Key Date

**Mar 18-19**

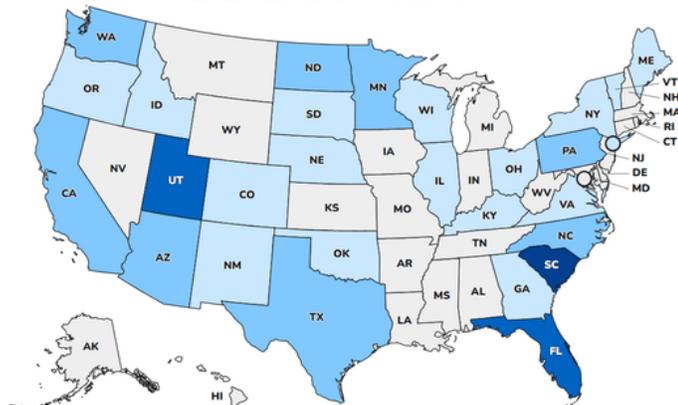
CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices meeting.

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## Ongoing Monitored Situations

### Measles

2026 Measles Cases



South Carolina (653), Utah (149) and Florida (107) have each reported over 50 measles cases in 2026.

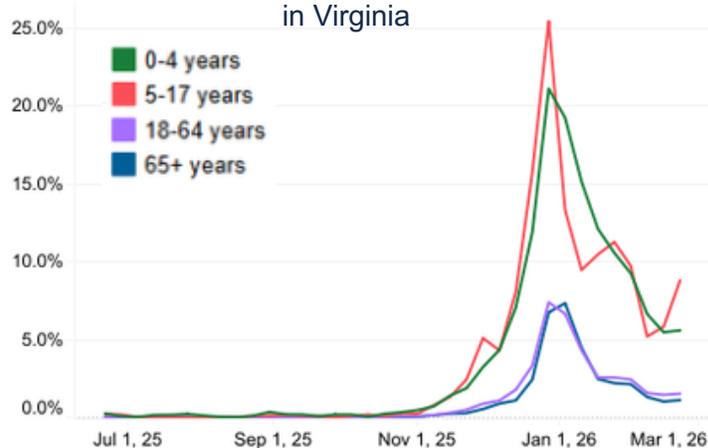
Image Source: [CDC](#)

- The CDC reported **154 new measles cases** in the US over the past week, bringing the 2026 total to 1,136 cases across 27 US states. [Canada](#) reported 71 new cases last week. [Mexico](#) reported 609.
- [South Carolina](#) reported **18 new measles cases** in the week ending Feb 24, bringing the outbreak total there to 979. [Florida](#) added 43 cases last week according to CDC figures. Utah added 32.
- **Health practitioners are struggling to quickly identify measles cases**, leading to unnecessary exposures and regulatory risk. Most practitioners have no experience with measles, and many childhood diseases can cause measles-like rash, leading to delays in identification and quarantine.

### Seasonal Illness

- In [Virginia](#), overall respiratory activity is **low and trending up**. Flu activity accounts for 2.4% of all ED visits, up from 2.0% a week ago. Influenza B accounts for 44% of lab tests. COVID-19 and RSV activity is stable.
- **Nationally**, flu and COVID-19 activity is **declining or likely declining in most states**. RSV activity is growing or likely growing in 22 states, with a downward trend in 8.
- **Gastrointestinal illness** is above threshold in [Virginia](#), accounting for 11.9% of ED visits, up from 11.3% last week. GI illness is above threshold in all regions.

ED Visits for Diagnosed Influenza in Virginia



Flu activity has risen among 5-17 year olds, driving increasing overall activity in Virginia.

Image Source: [VDH](#)

ED & UC Visits for GI Illness in Virginia

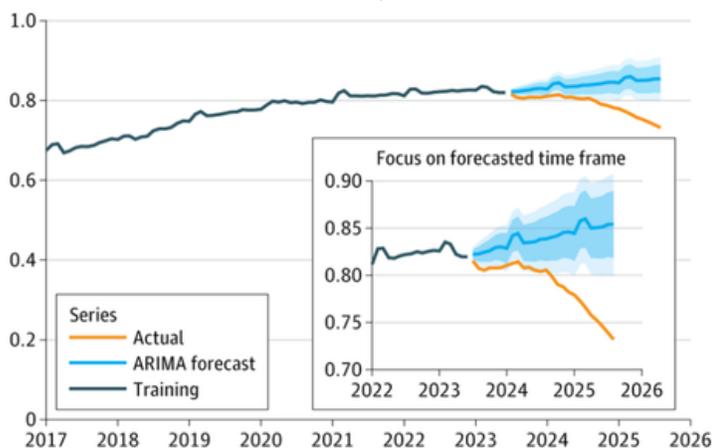


Gastrointestinal Illness Activity in Virginia has increased over the past few weeks. Image Source: [VDH](#)

## Other News

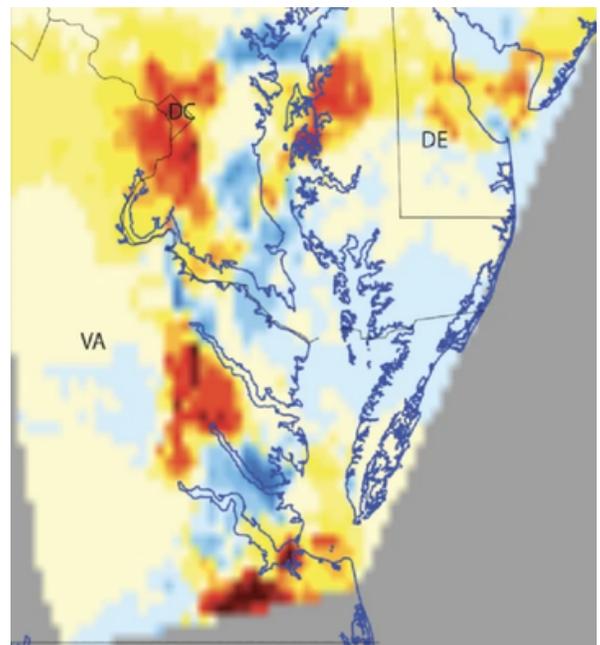
- **Evacuation orders remain on 19 Centreville homes** following a house explosion on Feb 15. Several gas pipelines run through the area, and a leak is suspected in the explosion. At least one leak was found and repaired. 35 homes were evacuated following the explosion, which injured 2.
- **Nine people were shot in a Richmond, Virginia mass shooting.** 2 people were killed and 3 hospitalized. The shooting stemmed from a fight between two groups. Police recovered 50 cartridge casings and 2 firearms but believe more firearms were involved.
- **As enforcement focuses on fentanyl, reports of illicit polydrug blend use are increasing.** Polydrug blends, in powder or pill form, are harder to detect, reverse, and treat.
- **Despite decreases, the Potomac still has unsafe bacteria levels** according to University of Maryland testing. The high levels follow a month-old sewage pipeline collapse, still under repair. Notably antibiotic-resistant MRSA has been detected, along with non-resistant *S. aureus* and *E. coli* bacteria. The White House approved a disaster declaration in response to the sewage release.

### Birth-dose Hepatitis B Vaccination Rate Within 30 days of Birth



*Birth-dose Hepatitis B vaccination rates declined more than 10% over the past 2 years, prior to recent changes to the CDC childhood immunization schedule. The declines followed 6 years of increasing uptake. Image Source: [JAMA](#)*

### Land Subsidence Hotspots



*Land subsidence is 'ubiquitous' in the Chesapeake Bay region. Subsidence rates have slowed since the 1970s, but are accelerating in red shaded areas of the map. Image Source: [Nature](#)*

- **A nor'easter dropped as much as 2 feet of snow among blizzard conditions in much of the Northeast US.** Over 562,000 customers lost power and transportation was disrupted in several major cities. Virginia was largely spared, but parts of the Eastern Shore experienced blizzard conditions with up to a foot of snow. Widespread power outages and travel disruptions were reported there.
- **2025 was among the 3 warmest years on record** according to the World Meteorological Organization, with global surface temperatures 1.44°C above pre-industrial levels. The past 11 years have been the 11 warmest on record.
- **The AI company Anthropic scaled back its safety pledge,** allowing it to release new models without proper mitigation for known risks (e.g., biosecurity, cybersecurity). The company cited lack of regulation and cooperation on safety. Anthropic was built by former OpenAI employees who left when that company similarly shifted away from its focus on safety.