

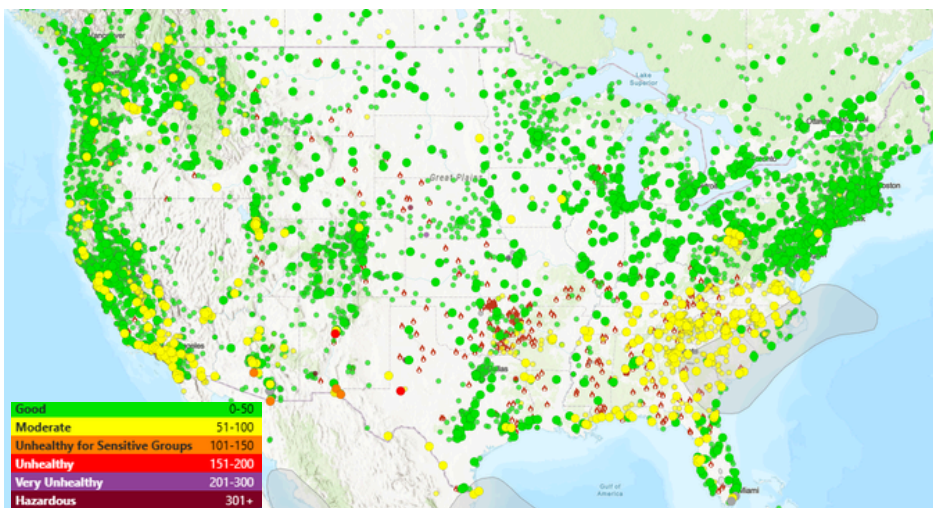
March 27, 2026

Key Takeaways

- VDH reported 3 new measles cases. No additional exposure sites were reported.
- A heat dome in the US Southwest is heading eastward.
- The US Fire Preparedness Level increased to Level 2. Most of the country, including Virginia, faces elevated wildfire risk over the next week.
- Respiratory disease season in Virginia seems to be winding down, but gastrointestinal illness remains elevated.

Key Figures

Fire and Smoke Map



Midwest wildfires are affecting air quality in the US Southeast. Much of the country, including Virginia, faces elevated fire risk over the next week. Image Source: [AirNow](#)

Respiratory Disease Activity Level



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

Measles

88

Measles cases confirmed nationally in the week ending Mar 26.

Seasonal Illness

Low

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

12.4%

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

11.2%

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

Key Date

March 28

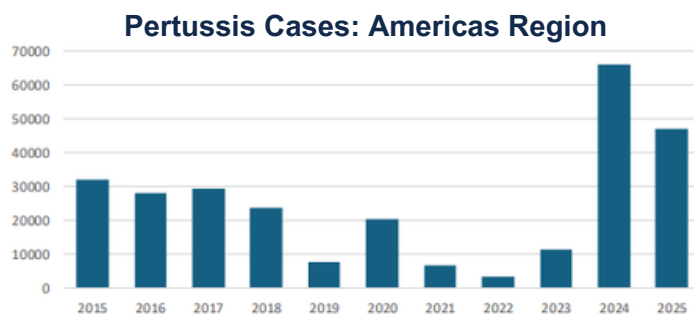
Free speech events are planned nationwide, including several dozen throughout Virginia.

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Ongoing Monitored Situations

Measles

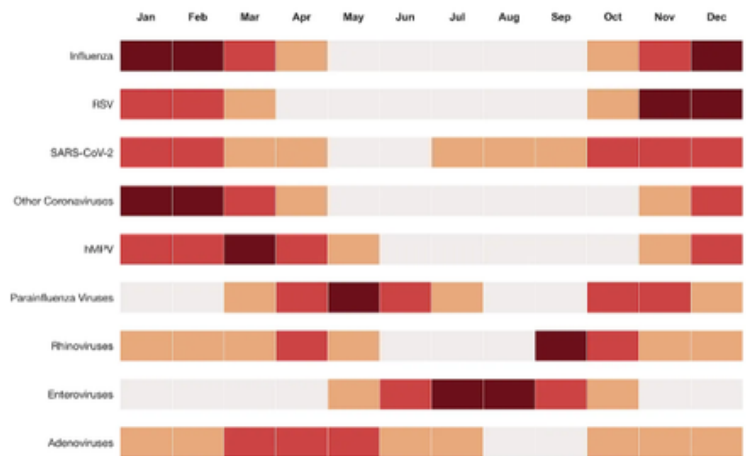
- The CDC reported **88 new measles cases** in the US over the past week, bringing the 2026 total to 1,575 cases across 31 US states. Canada reported 78 new cases last week. Mexico reported 825. Through epi week 10 in 2026, Mexico has 7,212 cases, more than in all of 2025 (6,452).
- **Utah added 43 new cases last week**, bringing the state total to 593 since mid-2025. Texas announced 23 new cases. Texas has had 170 cases in 2026, most linked to immigration detention facilities in the state.
- **Virginia added 3 new measles cases**, 2 in Southwest Virginia and 1 in Eastern Virginia. No additional exposure sites were listed.
- **Utah reported a few breakthrough infections among vaccinated clinicians.** A small number of breakthrough infections are expected in large outbreaks and clinicians may be at increased risk due to repeated close contact exposures. Hospitals and clinics may also become exposure sites when cases show up for care.



After post-pandemic declines, pertussis cases peaked in 2024 at 66,184 cases in the Americas region. Though lower, pertussis cases remained elevated in 2025. Image Source: [PAHO](#)

Seasonal Illness

US Respiratory Virus Seasonality Calendar



Although flu, COVID and RSV capture most of our attention, other seasonal viruses also impact Virginia, including a few with peaks in summer months.

Image Source: [FOI](#)

- In **Virginia**, overall respiratory activity is low and trending down. Flu activity declined to 1.6% of ED visits from 2.0% a week ago. Influenza B accounts for 86% of lab reports. COVID-19 and RSV activity is low and stable.
- **Nationally**, flu, COVID-19 and RSV activity is declining or likely declining in all but a few states.
- **Gastrointestinal illness** is above threshold in **Virginia**, accounting for 11.2% of ED visits, down from 11.6% last week. GI illness is above threshold in all Virginia regions.

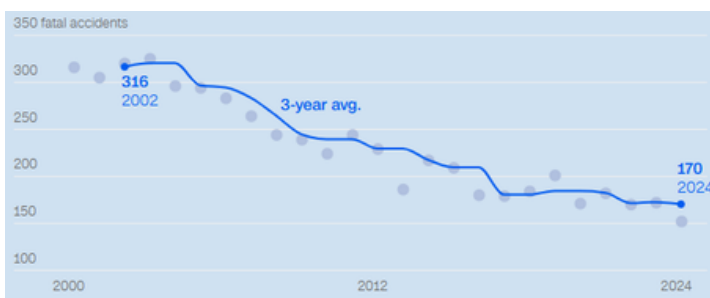
Other Monitored Situations

- **Missouri reported 2 cases of clade I mpox**, bringing the US total to 14. Both cases had recent international travel to areas where mpox is prevalent. The cases are unrelated.
- **Italy confirmed a human case of low-pathogenicity avian influenza A(H9N2)**. It is the first human case in Europe. The person contracted the infection in a non-European country before arriving in Italy.

Other News

- There were **618 unsheltered individuals in Greater Richmond on Jan 22**. Of these, 363 were in year-round shelters and 255 in seasonal or overflow shelters. Extreme weather prevented an assessment of unsheltered individuals. Officials suspect at least one unsheltered individual died during January's extreme weather.
- **Kratom-related exposure reports increased 1,200% from 2015 to 2025**. There were 258 reports to the National Poison Data System in 2015, and 3,434 in 2025 - including a 'marked surge' in 2025. Multiple-substance reports were linked to the most severe outcomes.
- A **heat dome over the Southwest is moving eastward**. As of Monday, 14 states had already set new March heat records, and the US-wide record was beaten or tied on 4 consecutive days. Forecasters expect Virginia to have above-normal temperatures in the first weeks of April.

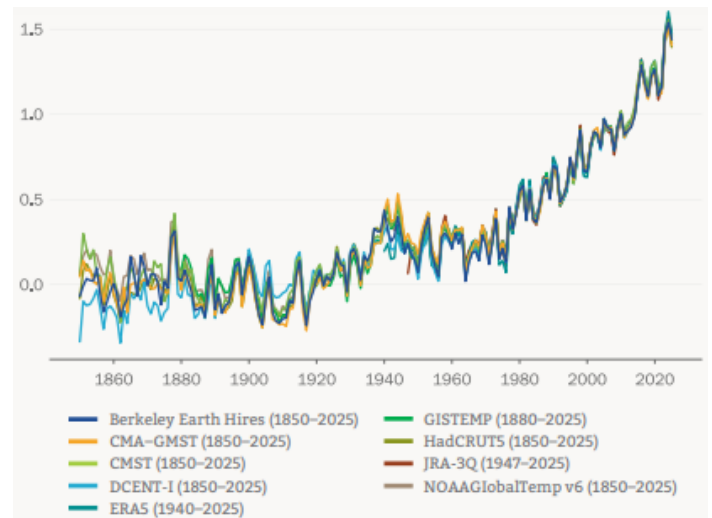
NTSB Civil Aviation Investigations with Fatalities



Despite recent incidents, deadly civil aviation incidents have been declining over the past two decades, with a notable drop-off in fatalities since 2010. Image Source: [CNN](#)

- **5 cases of Shiga-toxin E. coli were reported in Tennessee**. The outbreak is linked to raw milk. All 5 cases occurred in children, 3 of which contracted hemolytic uremic syndrome, which can cause kidney failure.
- **Opioid overdose deaths have dropped nearly 50% nationally since 2023**. The decline may be linked to drops in fentanyl supply and to treatment efforts. In Virginia, opioid overdose deaths dropped 59%.

Global Mean Near-surface Temperature



The years 2015-2025 were the hottest 11 years on record, with the past three being the hottest. Atmospheric CO₂ levels reached the highest levels in 2 million years in 2024, while methane and nitrous oxide reached levels last seen 800,000 years ago. Image Source: [WMO](#)

- A **regional airliner collided with a fire truck at a New York City airport**. 2 were killed and 41 transported to the hospital, including 10 with serious injuries. 78 runway incidents occurred at US airports from 2021 to 2025, including 26 narrowly avoided collisions and 52 incidents with a significant potential for collision.
- **The United Kingdom released a new Pandemic Preparedness Strategy**. The strategy is part of the response to the independent public UK Covid-19 Inquiry. The strategy includes £1 billion for surveillance, informatics, response plans, testing and for stockpiles of PPE, equipment and test chemicals.
- **The current acting CDC director was forced to step down** after exceeding the 210-day limit for acting directors, leaving the agency leaderless. ACIP's vice chair also stepped down after a federal judge blocked committee rulings and appointments. A year of turmoil may be affecting agency morale and capacity.