

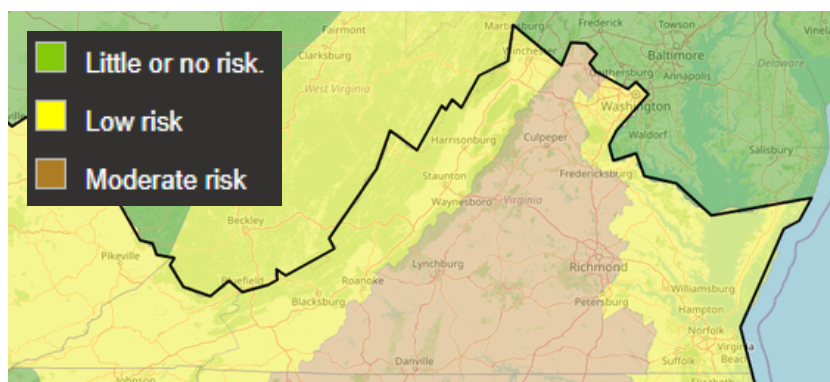
April 3, 2026

Key Takeaways

- Respiratory disease season in Virginia seems to be winding down, but gastrointestinal illness remains elevated.
- South Carolina's measles outbreak will end Apr 26 if no new cases are reported.
- The CDC has temporarily paused testing for scores of pathogens.
- Though no major incidents have occurred, threats related to the ongoing Mideast conflict remain elevated.

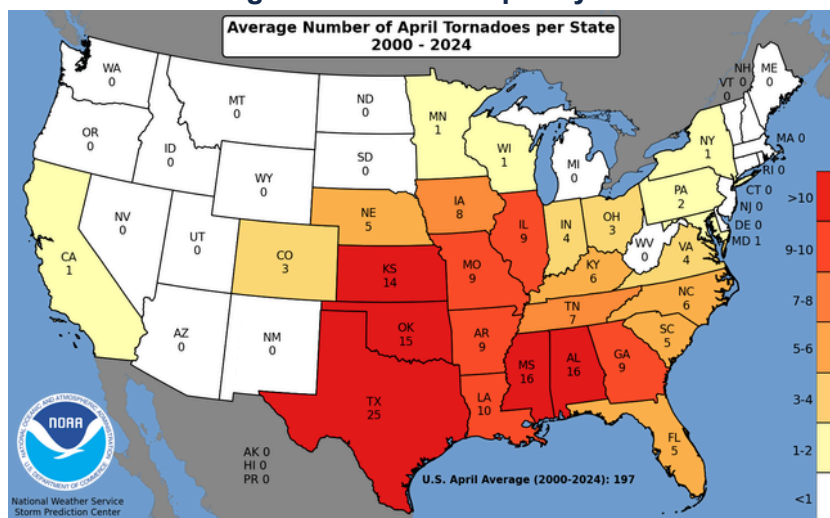
Key Figures

Significant Fire Potential Sat Apr 4



Virginia faces elevated fire risk for much of the next week.
Image Source: [NICC](#)

Average Tornadoes in April by State



Virginia averages 4 tornadoes in the month of April.
Image source: [NWS](#)

Measles

96

Measles cases confirmed nationally in the week ending Mar 26.

Seasonal Illness

Low

Overall respiratory disease activity in Virginia for the week ending Mar 28.

11.7%

The share of Virginia ED visits for respiratory illness for the week ending Mar 28.

11.0%

The share of Virginia ED visits for Gastrointestinal Illness for the week ending Mar 28.

Spotlight: Geopolitical Risks

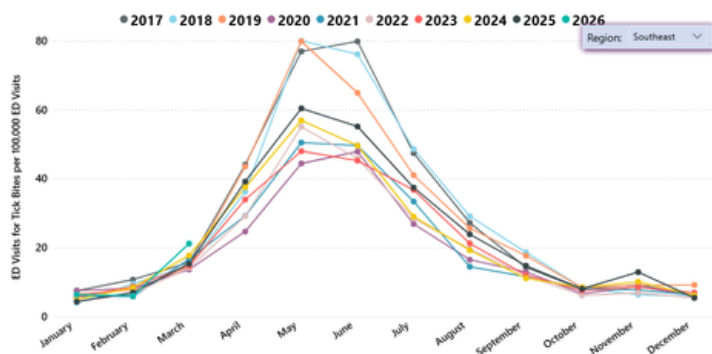
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Ongoing Monitored Situations

Measles

- The CDC reported **96 new measles cases** in the US over the past week, bringing the 2026 total to 1,671 cases across 32 US states. Canada reported 68 new cases last week. Mexico's report is delayed.
- South Carolina reported **no new measles cases** in its latest update. No one is in quarantine or isolation. If no new cases are reported the state's outbreak will officially end Apr 26 with 997 cases.
- **At least 4 detention facility employees in Texas contracted measles** in Feb. Officials listed multiple public exposure sites linked to the cases. Texas reported 5 new cases this week.
- Utah reported **60 cases this week. Arizona added 12.** Meanwhile, officials reported an exposure at O'Hare International Airport in Chicago, the 4th busiest airport in the US.

ED Visits for Tick Bites, Southeast US



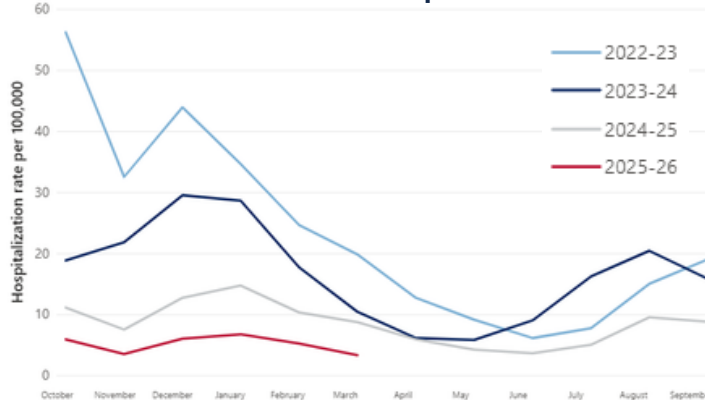
Tick bite ED visits in the Southeast US jumped to their highest March rates since at least 2017, at 21 per 100k ED visits. Image Source: CDC

Mpox

- **39 Clade Ib mpox cases were reported in Berlin, Germany between Dec 2025 and Mar 8, 2026.** Clade Ib cases quickly supplanted Clade IIb cases, which had previously predominated mpox cases in the city.
- **Since peaking in May 2025, the number of mpox cases has declined substantially in Africa.** Cases in Africa peaked at about 6,500 monthly cases in May 2025, declining to less than 1,000 in Feb 2026. Outside of Africa, cases have declined by over 50% from Sep 2025 peaks, with most cases in Europe and the Americas.

Seasonal Illness

COVID-19-associated Hospitalization Rate



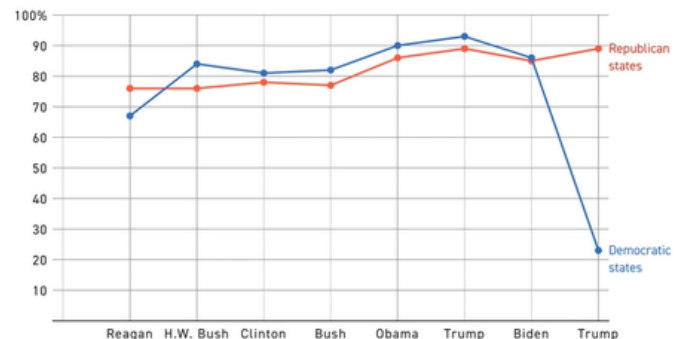
Late summer waves of COVID-19 have become the norm. Waning immunity, new variants and school calendars may all play a role in these waves. Waves have become smaller over the years. This pattern may continue. However, reduced natural and vaccine immunity, along with a new variant, may portend an earlier or larger wave in 2026. Image Source: CDC

- In Virginia, overall respiratory activity is low and trending down. Flu activity declined to 1.5% of ED visits from 1.6% a week ago. Influenza B accounts for 88% of lab reports. COVID-19 and RSV activity are 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 11.0% of ED visits, down from 11.2% last week. GI illness is above threshold in all Virginia regions except Southwest Virginia.
- **COVID-19 variant BA.3.2 (aka 'Cicada') is spreading in the US.** Although the variant contains some immune escape properties, there is no indication it is more severe than other recent variants.

Other News

- **Flights** were again halted at 5 airports due to a chemical odor at an FAA facility in Warrenton, Va. Operations resumed after firefighters confirmed there was no danger.
- The CDC has temporarily **paused testing** for more than 2 dozen pathogens, including rabies, pox viruses and fungal diseases. Some testing may resume, though **staff shortages** may impact timelines. A few specialized state labs may fill gaps in the interim.
- **Medetomidine**, a veterinary sedative, is appearing in fentanyl, increasing overdose risks. From Jul-Dec 2025, medetomidine was found in 30% of opioid tests in the US South, but was much higher in other regions. Detections increased substantially from 2023 to 2025.
- Parts of both **Covington** city and **Colonial Heights** city are under boil water advisories in separate incidents. Covington experienced a water main break Mar 25, followed by another break over the weekend. Colonial Heights experienced a water main break Apr 1. Repairs are ongoing in both incidents.

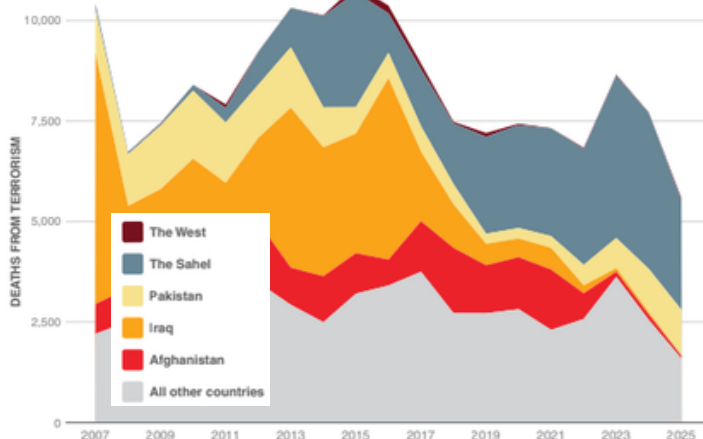
Disaster Request Approvals
by Party of Statewide Officeholders



Partisanship may be influencing federal disaster funding request approvals. When contrasted by the party of statewide office holders, approval rates varied from 23% for one party, to 89% for another. Speed of approval also varies by party.
Image Source: [Politico](#)

Spotlight

Deaths from Terrorism, 2007-2025



North and Central America was the region least impacted by terrorism in 2025. However, it was the only region to see an increase in terrorism last year. Deaths rose from 1 in 2024 to 28 in 2025, all of which occurred in the US. Image Source: [GTI](#)

Geopolitical Risks

- A major US **helium** supplier informed customers to expect supply reductions up to 50%. The company is prioritizing healthcare customers, though at least one **health research** center reported reductions. Helium **supply chains** have been disrupted by the **Mideast conflict**.
- **Conflict-linked cyberactivity** is **targeting healthcare** and other **critical infrastructure**. In addition to the attack on medical device company **Stryker**, another unnamed US healthcare company was struck by **ransomware**.
- **Islamic** and **Jewish** organizations are **increasing security** after a **string of incidents, threats,** and foiled **plots**. Meanwhile, France is increasing security across **Paris** after a foiled bomb plot targeted a US bank's offices there.