

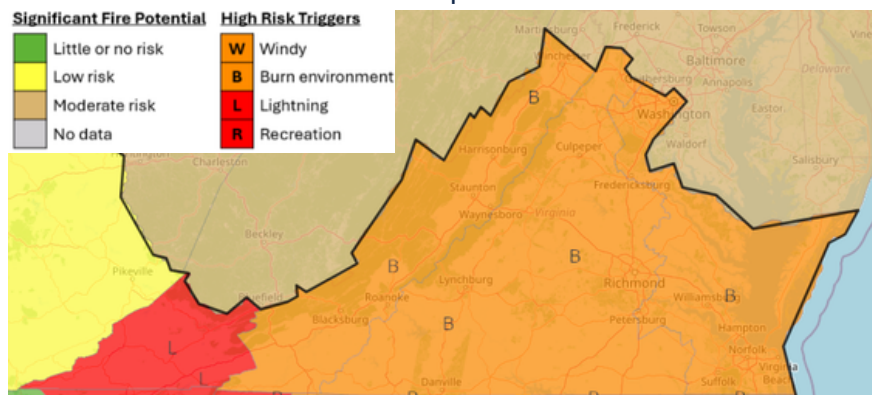
April 17, 2026

Key Takeaways

- Respiratory disease is minimal in Virginia, but gastrointestinal illness remains elevated.
- HeatRisk is moderate for parts of Virginia on Sat, but will diminish over the rest of the week. Fire conditions and drought will persist across the state.
- The first 3 months of 2026 were the hottest on record for the continental US.
- Cyberactivity and shortages related to the Mideast conflict continue, but with limited impact so far.

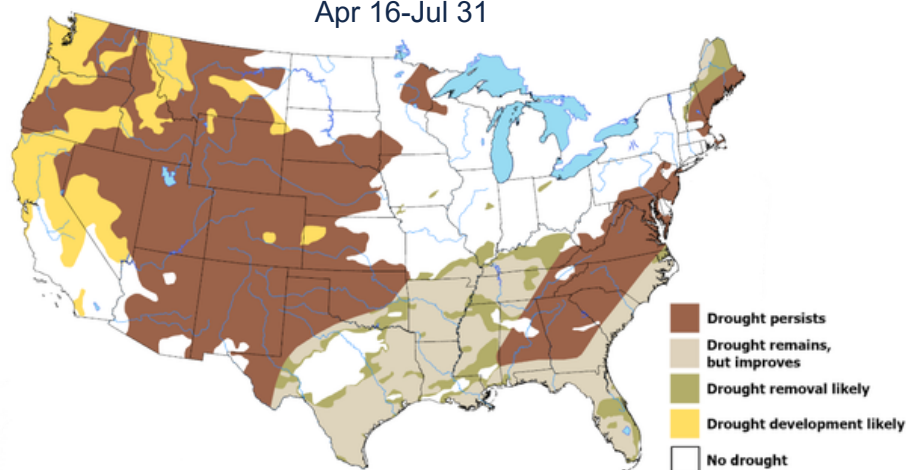
Key Figures

Significant Fire Potential
 Sat Apr 18



Virginia faces elevated fire risk over the next week, including high risk for some areas on Sat. Image Source: [NICC](#)

Seasonal Drought Outlook
 Apr 16-Jul 31



Despite rain forecast for Sun, drought conditions are expected to persist in Virginia through the end of July. Image source: [NWS](#)

Measles

34

Measles cases confirmed nationally in the week ending Apr 9.

Heat & Drought

9.35°F

Mar 2026 temperature anomaly above the 20th Century norm, for the continental US.

78%

Share of the continental US experiencing drought conditions.

Key Dates

Apr 21

Statewide special election.

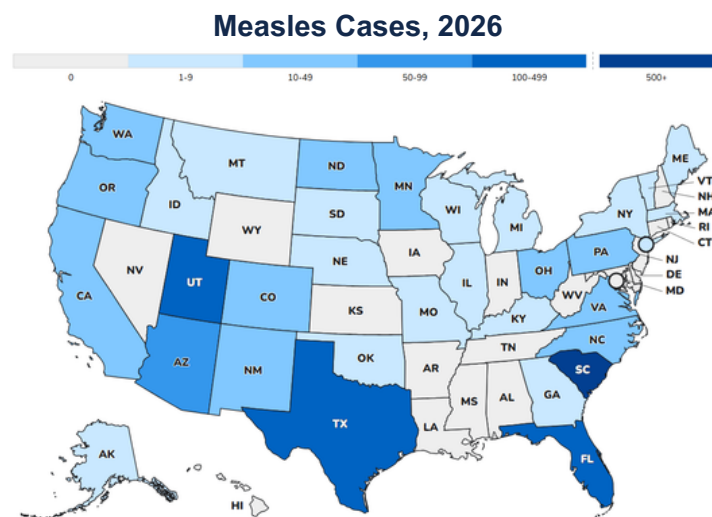
Apr 30

Virginia's spring fire season ends.

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

Ongoing Monitored Situations

Measles

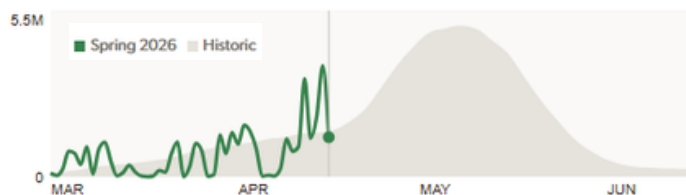


Four states have had over 100 measles cases in 2026: South Carolina (667), Utah (414), Texas (180) and Florida (130). Image Source: [CDC](#)

- The CDC reported **34 new measles cases in the US over the past week**, bringing the 2026 total to 1,748 cases across 32 US states. [Canada](#) reported 56 new cases last week. [Mexico](#) reported 341.
- **No state reported more than 6 new cases this week.** Utah posted just 6 cases. [South Carolina](#) has not reported any additional cases. The outbreak there is set to end officially on Apr 26.

Avian Influenza

Birds In Flight, Virginia

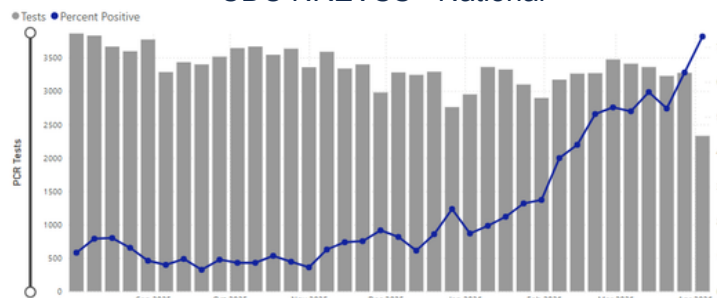


Bird migration is expected to accelerate across Virginia in the next couple of weeks, and peak in mid May. Image Source: [BirdCast](#)

Seasonal Illness

- In [Virginia](#), overall respiratory activity is minimal and trending down, accounting for 10.1% of ED visits. Flu activity declined to 0.7% of ED visits from 1.3% a week ago and is trending down. COVID-19 activity is trending down, and RSV activity is stable.
- **Nationally**, respiratory illness activity is very low. COVID-19, Flu and RSV activity are all declining across US. However, test positivity for common cold viruses (RV/EV and HMPV) is increasing.
- **Gastrointestinal illness** is above threshold in [Virginia](#), accounting for 10.6% of ED visits, down from 10.8% last week. Despite being above threshold statewide, GI illness is at or below threshold in all Virginia regions.

Rotavirus weekly test and percent positivity CDC NREVSS - National



Nationally, norovirus and rotavirus test positivity remains elevated. Rotavirus positivity had a distinct upward trend over the past couple of weeks.

Image Source: [CDC](#)

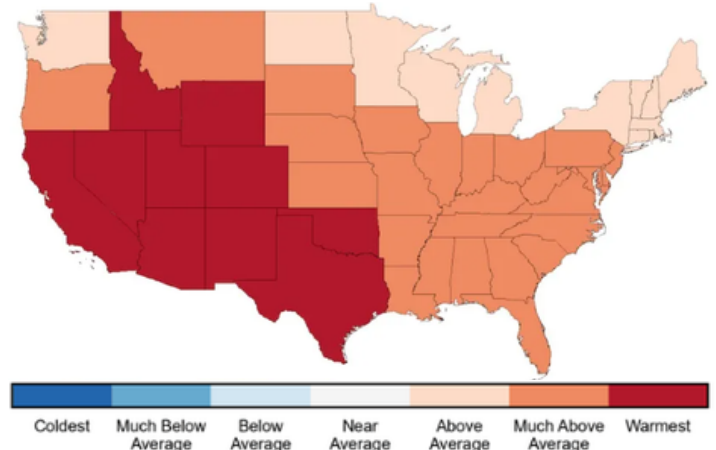
- **Bovine H5N1 virus adapted to receptors in cattle.** The genetic change increases the spillover risk to pigs, sheep, and horses, but has no effect on its ability to spread to or among humans or birds.
- [China](#) reported two new human H9N2 avian influenza cases, bringing the 6-month total there to 16. [Taiwan](#) reported its first human H7N7 avian flu case.

Other News

- An ongoing hacking campaign related to the **Mideast conflict is targeting US critical infrastructure**. According to a CISA advisory, government, water, wastewater and energy sectors have been affected, with some victims experiencing operational disruptions.
- **South Korea and Japan are preparing for a medical supply shortage** driven by the Mideast conflict. Naphtha, a petrochemical ingredient in plastics, may affect production of IV bags, catheters, medical gloves, syringes, bottles and other medical supplies. Current stockpiles in those countries should last months, but a prolonged conflict could create shortages.
- **The California home of a prominent AI CEO was attacked twice in two days**, while an anti-data center message was left at a shooting targeting the home of an Indiana City-County Councilor. No injuries were reported. Some experts are raising concerns about potential backlash to rapid AI development.

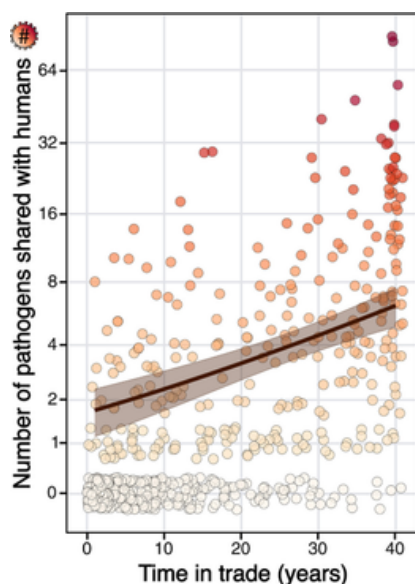
- **24 Virginia localities were designated as drought disaster areas by the USDA**. Farmers in the designated counties are eligible for federal assistance. According to the US Drought Monitor, all of Virginia is experiencing drought or abnormally dry conditions, with much of the state in severe drought.

Mar 2026 Temperature Rank
Since 1895



Mar 2026 was the hottest March on record in the continental US, beating the previous record by 0.45°F, set in Mar 2012. It was also the sixth driest March across the continental US. More than a third of the country is experiencing severe to exceptional drought. Hot weather and drought are expected to continue in the US this spring. Image Source: NOAA

Live Market Animal Trade



Live-animal market species share 1.5 times more pathogens with humans than those traded solely as food products. 41% of live market species shared at least one pathogen with humans, compared to just 6.4% in other species. Time in the live market trade is the strongest predictor of shared pathogen count, with each decade in trade adding one shared pathogen on average. Image Source: Science

- **Extensively drug-resistant (XDR) Shigella infections are increasing in the US**. The share of resistant Shigella isolates with XDR increased from 0% in 2011 to 8.5% in 2023. Although generally not deadly Shigella bacteria are easily transmissible and can spread resistance genes to other enteric bacteria. Immunocompromised and other vulnerable groups may also be at risk.
- **Post-storm heat waves may be the fifth major tropical cyclone hazard**, adding to the traditional wind, storm surge, heavy rain and tornados. The chances of hurricanes occurring during high heat are increasing, and homes are no longer built for natural cooling, increasing the risk from power outages and clean-up exertion.