

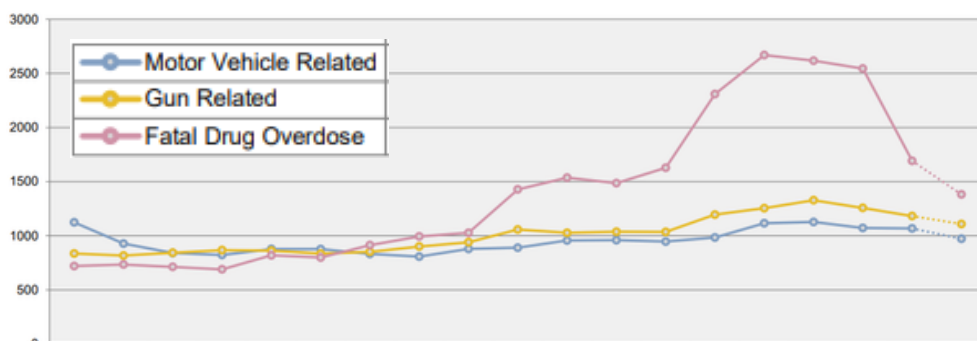
May 8, 2026

## Key Takeaways

- Gastrointestinal illness remains above threshold in Virginia. Nationally, rotavirus and common cold viruses are increasing.
- Virginia reported 2 new measles cases over the past week, along with a separate potential exposure at Dulles International Airport.
- NERC released a Level 3 alert, its highest, following several incidents involving data centers that affected the electric grid.
- The CDC reported 9 clade I mpox detections since Mar 2026, all travel-related.

## Key Figures

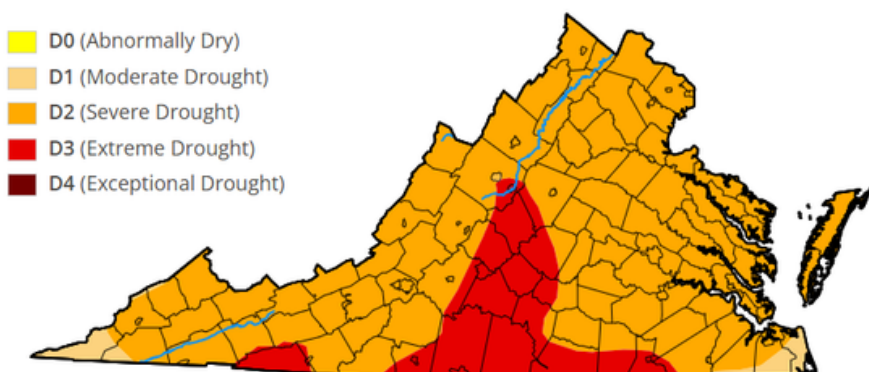
**Top 3 Methods of Unnatural Death, Virginia**



Though it remains the leading method of unnatural death in Virginia, fatal overdoses continue a decline that began in 2022. Preliminary numbers suggest overdose deaths in 2026 were at their lowest level since 2015.

Image Source: [VDH](#)

**Drought Intensity, May 5**



97% of Virginia is experiencing severe drought, including 18% experiencing extreme drought. Image source: [NWS](#)

## Measles

**28**

Measles cases confirmed nationally in the week ending May 7.

**10,150**

Measles cases confirmed in Mexico in 2026, surpassing the 10,000-case threshold this week.

## Fatal Overdose

**18.3%**

The decrease in fatal drug overdoses in Virginia from 2024 to 2025 (preliminary).

**53.7%**

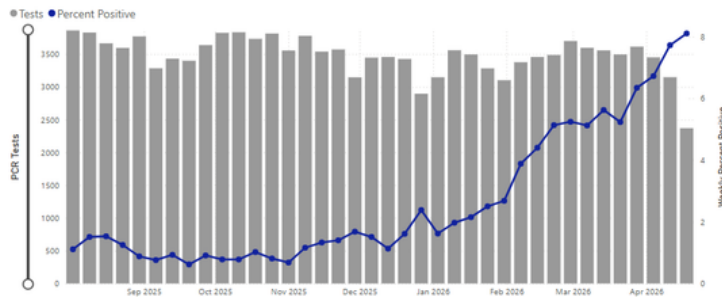
The share of Virginia fatal overdoses caused by fentanyl in 2025 (preliminary).

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## Ongoing Monitored Situations

### Seasonal Illness

**Rotavirus Weekly Test and Percent Positivity**  
CDC NREVSS - National



Nationally, norovirus and rotavirus test positivity remains elevated. Rotavirus positivity has had an upward trend over the past several weeks.

Image Source: [CDC](#)

- In Virginia, overall respiratory activity is minimal and stable, accounting for 9.6% of ED visits. Flu, COVID-19 and RSV activity are all low and stable. **Nationally, respiratory illness activity is very low.** However, test positivity for common cold viruses (RV/EV) is increasing.
- Gastrointestinal illness is above threshold in Virginia, accounting for 10.7% of ED visits, up from 10.6% last week. GI illness is above threshold in Central, Eastern and Northern Virginia. Rotavirus activity is elevated in Virginia, but is similar to trends seen in 2024.

### Mpox

- The CDC reports **9 clade I mpox detections since Mar**, compared to 11 over the previous 14 months. 17 cases were people with recent travel, including the 9 most recent cases. 3 California cases from Oct 2025 included local transmission that was genetically linked to a travel-related case.

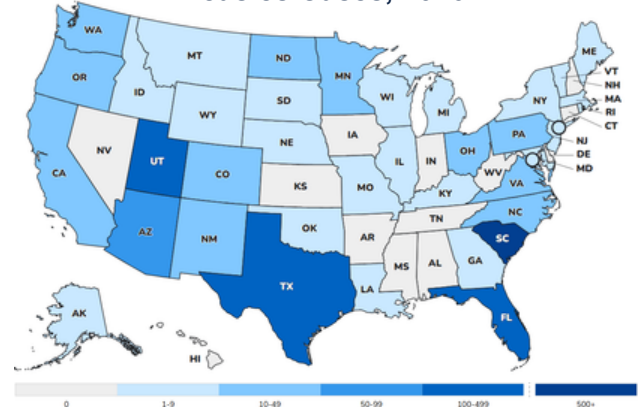
### Other News

- **15 stolen chemical spraying drones were recovered** in New Jersey. The drones were missing for 34 days between Mar 24 and Apr 27, raising concerns of weaponization.
- **Several zoos were evacuated nationally due to hoax calls** alleging bomb threats and active shooters. The calls follow a high-profile disturbance at an animal research facility in Wisconsin last week.

### Measles

- The CDC reported **28 new measles cases in the US over the past week**, bringing the 2026 total to 1,842 cases across 37 US states and Washington, DC. Canada reported 37 new cases last week. Mexico added 361 cases, and has now surpassed 10,000 cases in 2026.
- Virginia is investigating a potential measles exposure at Dulles International Airport during the late evening and early morning hours of Apr 23 and 24. The out-of-state resident had traveled internationally. Also, 2 more cases were reported in Northwest Virginia after cases and potential exposure sites were reported there in late April.
- Utah added **8 new cases last week** and Arizona added **4**. No other state added more than 3 cases.
- The US is 'nearing the loss of its elimination status' according to an analysis in the *Lancet*. The US has already missed 4 of 7 indicators for maintaining its elimination status, and is unlikely to meet the other 3 when PAHO reviews its status in November.

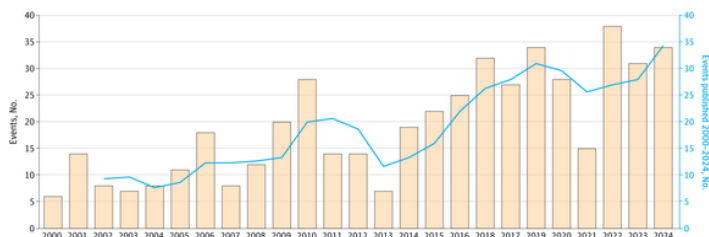
**Measles Cases, 2026**



5 US states have reported over 50 measles cases this year (South Carolina, Utah, Texas, Florida & Arizona). Image Source: [CDC](#)

**Other News**

**Hospital-based Shootings, US**



*Hospital shootings have increased more than 6% per year since 2000. Shootings occur primarily in large hospitals, urban hospitals, and in the South.*

*Image Source: [JAMA](#)*

• **Hospitals' community health needs assessments are unlikely to reference climate-related health risks.** Although rates were low nationally, hospitals in the South and Midwest, and those serving climate-vulnerable communities, were less likely to identify climate risks.

• **A man fired at US Secret Service agents in Washington, DC**, injuring a bystander. Statements and actions indicate the man may have been targeting US elected officials.

• **FEMA is rehiring around 200 employees let go earlier this year.** The specialized Cadre of On-Call Response/Recovery staff are being recalled ahead of the FIFA World Cup and hurricane season.

• **A series of severe weather events have hit parts of the US.** Last week, softball-sized hail struck parts of Missouri, while Texas and Mississippi had tornado outbreaks.

• **Federal health agencies are not publishing some vaccine-related studies.** Last month, the CDC did not publish a report on COVID-19 efficacy in its flagship MMWR. The FDA did not publish several studies supporting the safety of COVID-19 and shingles vaccines. These and other actions may be undermining trust in federal public health agencies.

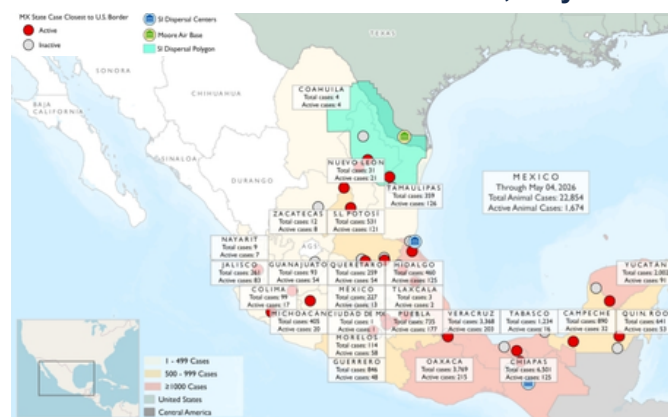
• **The Virginia DWR reported 126 Chronic Wasting Disease detections** during the 2025-26 deer hunting season. All detections occurred within existing disease management areas.

• **A hantavirus outbreak on a cruise ship has garnered widespread attention**, but it poses extremely low risk to the American public. 3 people have died, while the ship doctor is among several ill patients. A flight attendant is also being tested for the virus. Multiple passengers disembarked in remote St Helena after the first death, including some now being monitored in the US. VDH is monitoring one person, currently in good health. Passengers likely contracted the Andes strain of the virus in Argentina before departing. Though rare, the Andes strain is the only hantavirus strain with documented human-to-human transmission, a low risk likely accentuated by the ship setting.

• **A train derailed on the West Virginia side at the border between Giles, VA and Mercer, WV.** Though some of the 13 cars contained hazardous materials, only 2 containing soybean oil leaked. The leak was fully contained, including precautionary efforts in Virginia.

• **The North American Electric Reliability Corp (NERC) issued a 'rare' Level 3 alert related to data centers.** The alert follows several incidents requiring emergency action from grid operators, and includes specific actions operators must take to ameliorate the threat.

**New World Screwworm Status, May 5**



*Texas' Agriculture Commissioner issued a 'strong alert' after New World screwworm was identified in Coahuila, Mexico. Although there have been detections closer to the border, this detection was at a higher latitude and north and west of the Rio Grande Valley. NWS is not currently present in the US.*

*Image Source: [USDA](#)*