

May 29, 2026

Key Takeaways

- The Ebola outbreak in the DRC continues to grow, outpacing the response. The risk to the public in Virginia remains very low.
- Virginia reported 24 additional measles cases this week, all in Central region, bringing the 2026 total to 64.
- The FIFA World Cup begins, and America's 250th Anniversary celebration begins ramping up in Virginia and Washington DC, in June.

Key Figures

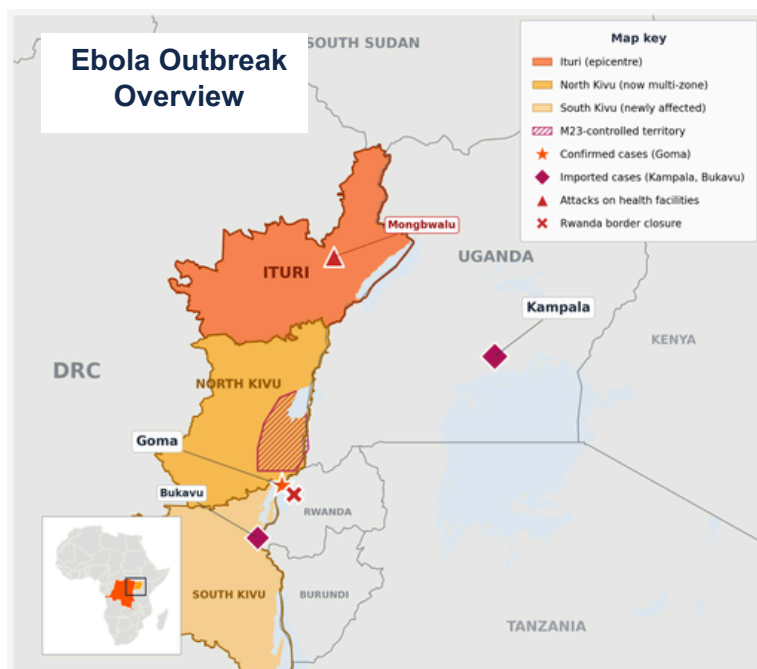
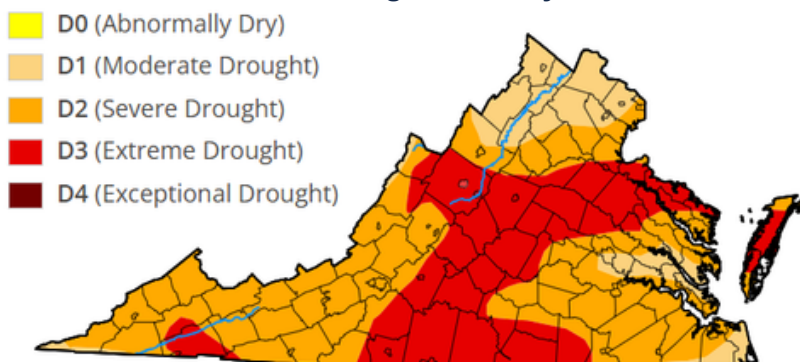


Image Source: [Direct Relief](#)

Drought Intensity



Despite recent rain, all of Virginia remained under drought conditions as of Tues, including 26% under extreme drought conditions.

Image Source: [US Drought Monitor](#)

Ebola

1,038

Suspected and confirmed Ebola cases in the DRC and Uganda as of May 29.

242

Suspected and confirmed Ebola deaths in the DRC and Uganda as of May 29.

Measles

31

Measles cases confirmed nationally in the week ending May 28.

24

New measles cases reported in Virginia in the past week.

Key Dates

June 1

The Atlantic Hurricane Season begins.

June 09

Croatia National Team arrives in Alexandria.

June 11

The FIFA World Cup begins.

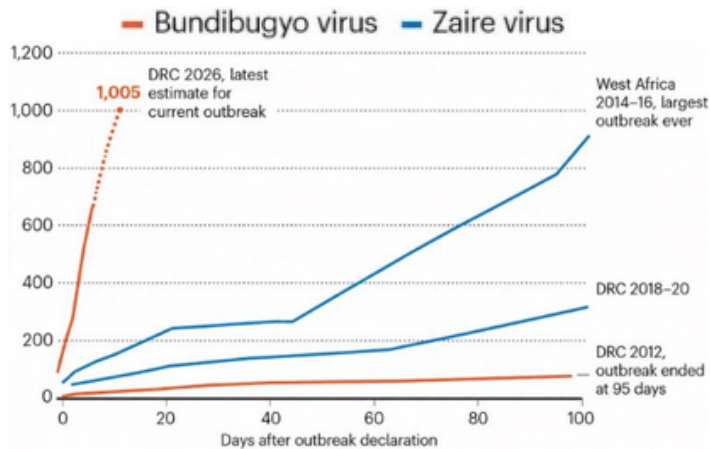
Spotlight:
Chemical & Industrial Incidents

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Ongoing Monitored Situations

Ebola

Past and Current Ebola Outbreaks
Cumulative Cases



The current Ebola outbreak is already the 3rd largest on record. It is growing much faster than previous outbreaks, including the 2013 outbreak in West Africa that caused over 11,000 deaths and lasted 2½ years.
Image Source

- The **risk** to American travelers and the public is **low** according to the CDC, while VDH rates the risk as **very low**. There have been no cases reported in the US.
- The US has **updated its Title 42 restrictions on travel from the region**. The new measure restricts entry for lawful permanent residents. Enhanced travel monitoring for people arriving from the region and entry restrictions for non-US passport holders traveling from DRC, Uganda and South Sudan remain in place.
- **US passport holders arriving from the region are routed through four airports** in Northern Virginia (Dulles), Atlanta, Houston and New York. The CDC is recruiting **staff volunteers** to scale up screening efforts.
- The **US plan to open a quarantine and treatment facility in Kenya** has been temporarily **suspended** by a court ruling there. The center had been planned for exposed or infected US citizens. Last week, several exposed or infected US citizens were transported to Germany and the Czech Republic.

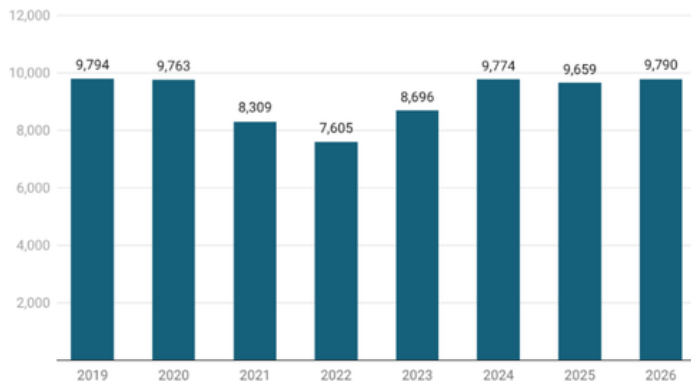
Measles

- **As of May 29, the US CDC reported 906 suspected cases**, 132 confirmed cases, 224 suspected deaths and 18 confirmed deaths. The majority of cases are in the DRC, with a handful in neighboring Uganda. **Uganda** closed its border with the DRC on Wed.
- **WHO's director-general noted that the outbreak is 'outpacing the response'**. **Experts** and **NGOs** echoed that assessment. Rising case counts, regional conflict, **displacement**, and weakened frontline health systems are raising concerns that this **dynamic** will persist. The WHO has called for an immediate **ceasefire** to facilitate containment.
- **Some patients have fled treatment centers, which have been subject to attacks**. At least 3 such attacks have been recorded, and up to 2 dozen patients have fled. **Health workers** have also faced attack and harassment. Community members attack facilities to retrieve bodies for traditional burial, a significant source of transmission, or due to **distrust and misinformation**.

- The CDC reported **31 new measles cases in the US over the past week**, bringing the 2026 total to 1,983 cases across 38 US states and Washington, DC. **Canada** reported 24 new cases last week. **Mexico's** report is delayed this week.
- **Virginia reported 24 additional measles cases this week**, all in the Central region. All of Buckingham county is considered to have a high risk of exposure during the outbreak. Potential exposures also occurred at a Farmville hospital on May 26. Virginia has expanded its **wastewater testing** for measles to about 30 sites.
- **Pennsylvania added 6 new cases last week** Outside of Pennsylvania and Virginia, no state added more than 2.

Other News

Homeless Individuals, Washington DC Area



Homelessness has returned to pre-pandemic levels in the Washington DC area according to Point-in-Time counts. The Northern Virginia localities of Alexandria, Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun and Prince William saw a combined 5% increase from 2025. Image source: [SSM](#)

- **Two more cases of hantavirus stemming from the MV Hondius outbreak were reported**, bringing the total to 13. One was a passenger from Spain, the other a Dutch crew member. No new exposures were noted. JAMA published two overviews of the outbreak, including a review of the US outbreak response post-WHO withdrawal.
- **There were 148 lab-associated outbreaks globally from 1900 to 2025**. 81 fatalities were also identified among 1,126 reported lab-associated incidents. Pathogen virulence was the primary driver of fatalities, while operational and contextual factors drove outbreaks.
- **The global average abundance of Antibiotic-Resistance Genes (ARGs) in Salmonella increased 38% from 1940 to 2023**. Climate change, by increasing heat and precipitation, is associated with a 10% increase.

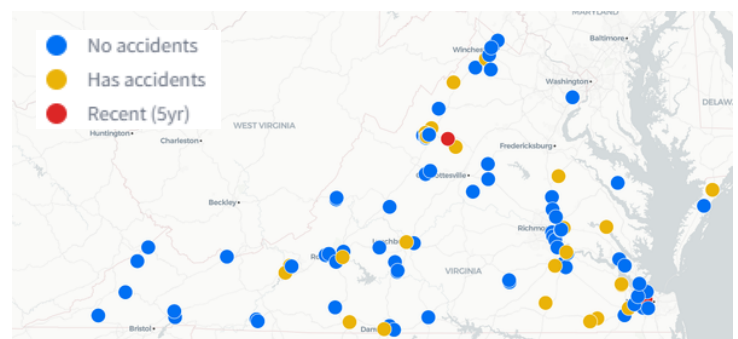
- **A multi-vehicle crash in Stafford county involving a bus killed 5 and injured 34** early this morning. 3 people have critical injuries. Six other vehicles were involved in the crash. Southbound I-95 was closed for several hours.

Spotlight

- **50,000 people were evacuated when a chemical tank overheated in California**. The tank's cooling system and valves failed, causing pressure to rise, creating both leak and explosion risks. Residents were able to return home Mon and Tue after firefighters successfully cooled the tank.
- **Paint vapors sparked explosions that killed 1 and injured over 30, including first responders, in New York City**. First responders were responding to an initial explosion when a second occurred.
- **A chemical tank ruptured at a Washington paper mill**, with 11 presumed killed. 8 people, including a firefighter, were also injured. Air and drinking water were not impacted.
- **A fire and explosion at a Maine lumber mill killed 1 firefighter and injured 12**. Other first responders were among the injured. The fire originated at the base of a silo, and failed to trigger a fire suppression system at the top. Hundreds of firefighters from dozens of departments responded to the massive fire.

Chemical & Industrial Incidents

EPA High-Risk Chemical Facilities



104 Virginia facilities participate in the EPA's Risk Management Program. These facilities make, store or use substances deemed high-risk by the EPA. 3 facilities reported accidents during the 5 years from 2021 to 2025. Of those, 2 reported multiple recent accidents. Image Source: [RMPMAP](#)