

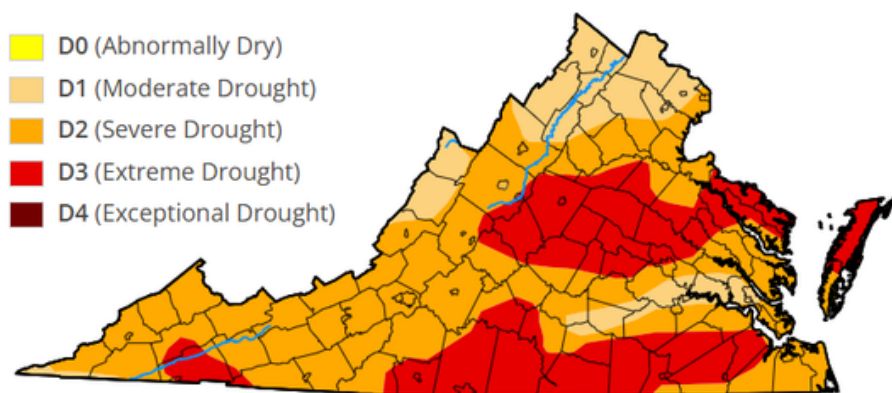
June 18, 2026

Key Takeaways

- The measles outbreak in Buckingham county continues to add cases.
- The Ebola outbreak continues to outpace the response. Top officials have expressed concern about the on-the-ground situation and response.
- Trust in public health recommendations has waned, though support for vaccines remains robust.

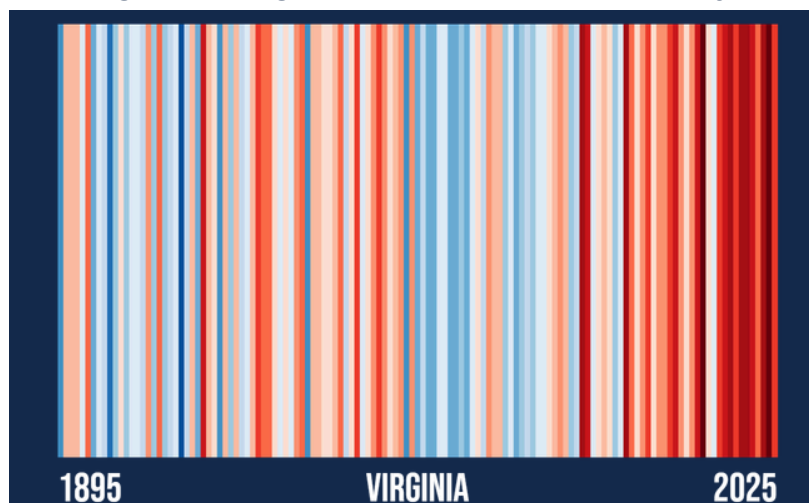
Key Figures

Drought Intensity, Jun 16



Despite recent rainfall, all of Virginia remains in drought, with about a third in extreme drought. Image Source: [USDM](#)

Virginia Average Annual Temperature Anomaly



Blue lines represent years cooler than the 20th century average, while red lines are warmer. The 21st century has been particularly warm. 2024 was Virginia's warmest year, 3.3°F above the average.

Image Source: [Climate Central](#)

Ebola

856

Suspected and confirmed Ebola cases in the DRC and Uganda as of Jun 15 (DRC) and Jun 17 (Uganda).

199

Probable and confirmed Ebola deaths in the DRC and Uganda as of Jun 15 (DRC) and Jun 17 (Uganda).

Measles

18

New measles cases reported in [Virginia](#) in the past week.

Heat

384

Virginia emergency department visits for [heat-related illness](#) in the week ending Jun 14.

Key Dates

June 19

[Sail250](#) begins in Norfolk.

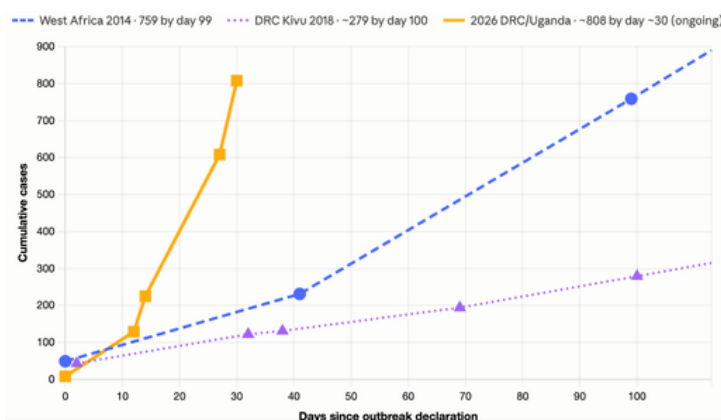
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Ongoing Monitored Situations

Ebola

- The WHO reported 856 confirmed cases and 199 deaths in the DRC and Uganda. All new cases and deaths were reported in the DRC, which also has 235 suspected cases. However, the true scale of the outbreak remains uncertain, as testing remains limited and data issues complicate reporting.
- The African CDC reports that just 4,000 of 33,000 known contacts are being actively monitored due to a lack of capacity. Safe burial and decontamination teams have just 15% of needed staff, and 7% of vehicles. Shortages of medical and other supplies are also persisting.
- The Africa CDC warned the outbreak could be the worst in history, if not contained very soon. Earlier in the week, the WHO director-general relayed he is 'really worried' after observing conditions during his second visit to the affected area. Currently, the largest outbreak on record occurred in West Africa from 2014-2016, accounting for 28,600 reported cases.
- The risk to American travelers and the public remains low, according to the CDC. There have been no cases or contacts reported in the United States.

Cumulative Cases, Major Outbreaks



Despite limited detection, testing, and reported capacity, cases in the current DRC outbreak are far outpacing those reported in previous large outbreaks.
Image Source: YLE

- **US plans to establish an isolation unit in Kenya remain uncertain**, though talks are continuing and the unit is under construction. A Kenyan court temporarily suspended the unit opening, with the next court date scheduled for Jun 23. Kenyan protests against the facility have resulted in at least 3 deaths.

Measles

- Virginia reported 129 measles cases in 2026 as of Jun 11. 106 are associated with the Buckingham county outbreak, with no cases reported outside of Virginia's Central region since May 14. 99% are unvaccinated or have unknown vaccination status, while 6% have been hospitalized.
- The CDC reports new measles cases in the US tomorrow. As of June 11, the CDC reported 2,073 cases across 40 jurisdictions. As of Jun 11, South Carolina had the most cases (690), followed by Utah (490), Texas (182) Florida (141), and Virginia (110).

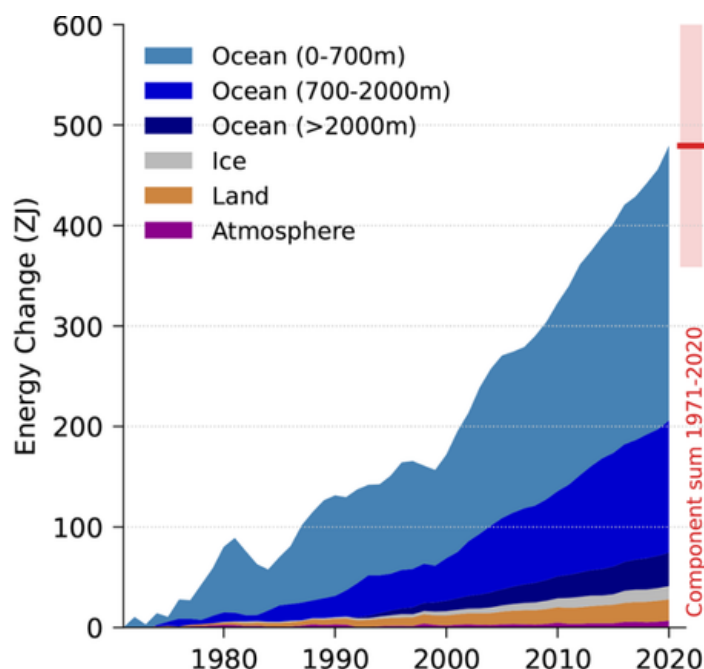
Other Situations

- The USDA is reporting an additional HPAI A(H5N1) detection in Idaho cattle. There have been 36 detections in US dairy cattle in the past 30 days. The majority of detections (33) occurred in Idaho, but Utah (2) and Texas (1) also had detections.
- The CDC activated a Level 3 (lowest level) emergency response to New World Screwworm. The USDA confirmed 3 new cases in the US this week, bringing the total to 12. All cases have been in domestic animals (cattle, goats, sheep and a dog). 1 case is in New Mexico, with the other 11 in Texas.

Other News

- A tent collapse killed 1 and injured 22 in **Bedford county, VA**. Strong winds from storms brought down the tent, which was designed to host 1,500 people. Damaging storms impacted most of Virginia over the past week.
- Virginia experienced extreme heat for several days late last week. Cooling centers opened across the state. As of Jun 14, Virginia has had 918 ED visits for heat-related illness, higher than the year-to-date average of 516.
- America's Poison Centers reported a 'concerning rise' in diphenhydramine cases among teenagers. Diphenhydramine is a common ingredient in over-the-counter allergy and sleep medications. Cases among teens increased 32% to 13,284 in 2025, and have more than doubled over the first 5 months of 2025.
- Short-lived Tropical Storm Arthur became the 1st named storm of the 2026 Atlantic Hurricane Season. Texas issued a disaster declaration as Arthur spread severe weather and heavy rain along the Gulf Coast. Severe weather and heavy rain is expected across the South as Arthur's remnants move inland.

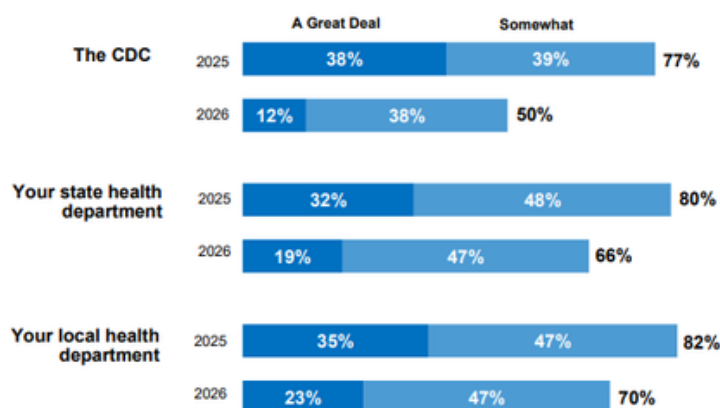
Earth Heat Inventory



Oceans have absorbed the greater majority of excess heat from global warming. This mitigates atmospheric warming, but increases precipitation and powers tropical cyclones. Last year, oceans absorbed a record amount of heat.

Image Source: Copernicus Institute

Trust in Public Health Recommendations



Just 50% of respondents trust CDC recommendations in a recent survey, down from 77% last year. Trust in state (66%) and local (70%) health departments is higher, but also down from 2025. Support for vaccines remains strong, with 77% sharing support for school vaccine requirements. Image Source: Harvard

- Law enforcement disrupted a planned attack on a Freedom 250 event at the White House. The plan involved explosive-laden drones and firearms. The plot was discovered just days before the event but it is unclear how advanced the planning was.
- Testing found no hazards after the Pentagon was briefly locked down. Hazmat teams responded when a malfunctioning hazardous materials sensor alerted to the possible presence of anthrax. Occupants were ordered to shelter in place during follow-up testing.
- The CDC reported an infant botulism outbreak tied to powdered infant formula. 3 cases, all requiring hospitalization, have been reported. A previous infant botulism outbreak, also tied to infant formula, ended Mar 4, however a root cause of that outbreak has yet to be identified.