

June 26, 2026

## Key Takeaways

- The Buckingham County measles outbreak expanded to include Cumberland County. Virginia's measles case count held steady this week.
- Despite recent rains, the DEQ maintained its drought advisories and the Governor's Office urged Virginians to conserve water.
- Tropical Storm Arthur and its remnants caused 3 deaths and an estimated \$4-6 Billion in damage and loss.

## Key Figures

Temperature Outlook, Jul 1-5

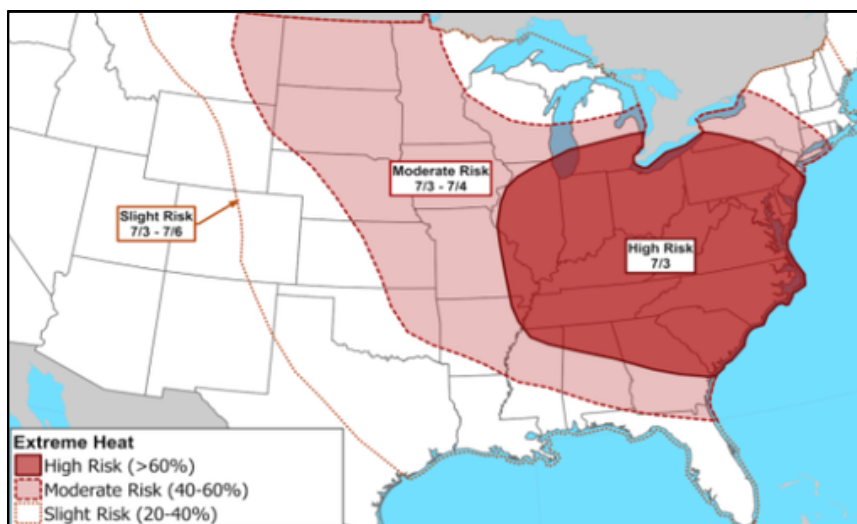
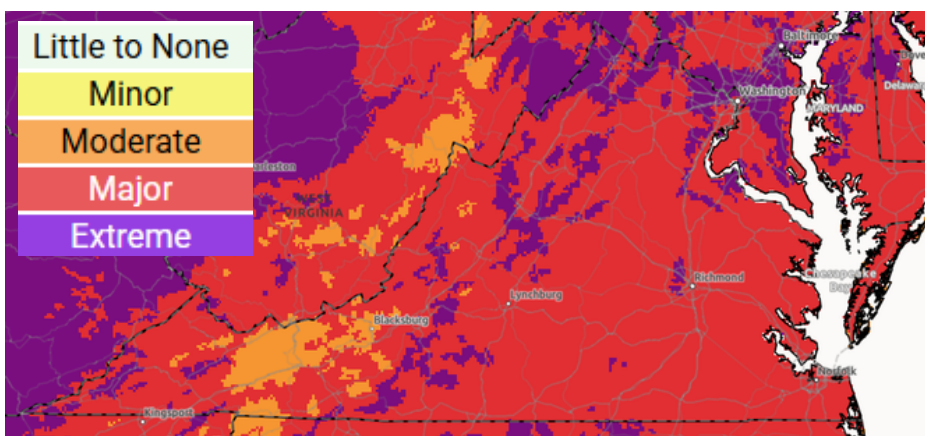


Image Source: [NWS](#)

NWS HeatRisk, Jul 2



Forecasters expect a hot Independence Day holiday this year, with major to extreme heat risk expected for much of Virginia as the holiday approaches. Image Source: [NWS](#)

## Ebola

**1,330**

Suspected and confirmed Ebola cases in the DRC and Uganda as of Jun 24.

**307**

Probable and confirmed Ebola deaths in the DRC and Uganda as of Jun 24.

## Measles

**129**

Measles cases reported in Virginia in 2026.

**30**

New measles cases reported nationally in the past week.

## Heat

**1,054**

Virginia emergency department visits for heat-related illness May 1 - Jun 21, higher than the YTD average of 723.

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## Ongoing Monitored Situations

### Ebola

- The **WHO** reported **1,176 confirmed cases and 306 deaths in the DRC and Uganda**. Uganda had 1 new case. The remaining cases and all deaths were in the DRC, which also has 154 suspected cases. 153 people have recovered. The case fatality rate is 26%.
- **WHO officials** noted some early cases occurred in urban settings, contributing to the early spread of the outbreak. Officials also noted that additional resources are moving into the area, and that community resistance is beginning to abate.
- **25 cases and 14 deaths were confirmed in at least 3 displacement camps**, with higher numbers suspected. Outbreaks could spread quickly in the overcrowded and undersupplied camps. People also leave camps in search of work and food.
- **Hunger may be driving some to leave treatment centers**. The DRC was dealing with 'acute food insecurity and emergency levels of hunger' prior to the outbreak. Food shortages also undermine contact isolation efforts.
- 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.

### Measles

- **Virginia's 2026 measles case count held steady at 129 as of Jun 25**. Additionally, no cases have been reported outside of Virginia's Central Region since May 14.
- The **Buckingham County outbreak expanded to include Cumberland County**. VDH encouraged residents and visitors to these areas to take steps to ensure they are protected against measles, including routine vaccinations. 106 of Virginia's 2026 cases are associated with the outbreak.
- **VDH reported a potential exposure event at Dulles International Airport** on Jun 17. The case was related to international travel and is an out-of-state resident.
- **Nationally**, the CDC reported **2,134 cases across 41 jurisdictions as of Jun 25**. Pennsylvania added 16 cases last week, and Utah added 9. No other state added more than 2 cases.
- **Measles has been spreading in Utah for over a year**. The milestone puts the US' measles elimination status at further risk, however it is yet to be confirmed that the state's outbreaks are related. Over 680 people have been infected there since the first outbreak began on Jun 20, 2025, though case growth has slowed recently.

#### Major Outbreaks at 4 Weeks



At 4 weeks, the current outbreak is 3x larger than the next largest by case count. It is also more widespread, affecting 32 health zones, 21 more than the next largest outbreak did at 4 weeks.

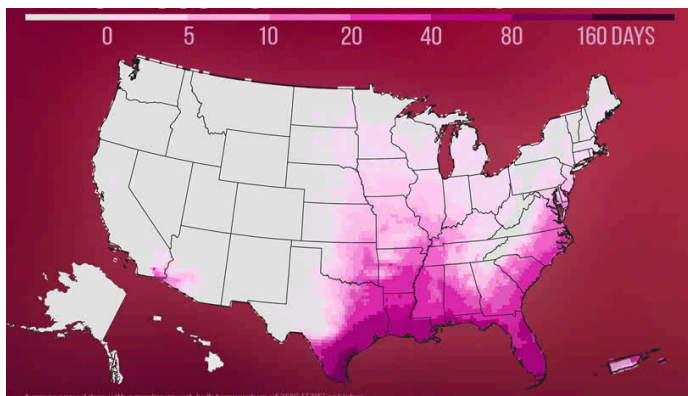
Image Source: [Africa CDC via HPQ](#)

- **France confirmed its first Ebola case** in a doctor who returned from a humanitarian mission in the DRC. Nevertheless, the risk of exportation outside of Africa is low. A recent analysis found 0.81 cases (including medically evacuated, latent, and secondary cases) per 1,000 cases at the source.
- **Kenya's Health Minister halted construction of an Ebola facility for Americans** after a court hearing. Work at the site had continued despite a previous court hearing directing its suspension.

## Other News

- The USDA confirmed 13 new cases of **New World Screwworm**, all in domestic animals (sheep, goats and cattle) in Texas. There have been no human cases in the US, and CDC rates the risk to the public and animals as 'very low'.
- The USDA reported 4 **HPAI A(H5N1)** detections in dairy cattle since Jun 15, with 38 detections in the past 30 days. New detections occurred in Idaho, Texas and Utah.
- The Governor's Office urged 'commonsense' **water conservation efforts** amid the ongoing drought. The announcement noted that Virginia is experiencing its driest period since 1941. Officials in Maryland and the Greater DC area also urged voluntary conservation.
- **Tropical Storm Arthur** and its remnants caused an estimated **\$4-6 Billion in damage and loss**. The storm dropped heavy rain across six states, including up to 29 inches on parts of Louisiana. Extreme heat accompanied the storm. At least three deaths have been blamed on the storm.
- A **boil water advisory** remains in effect for parts of **Covington City** due to a water line break. The BWA was first issued on Jun 16.

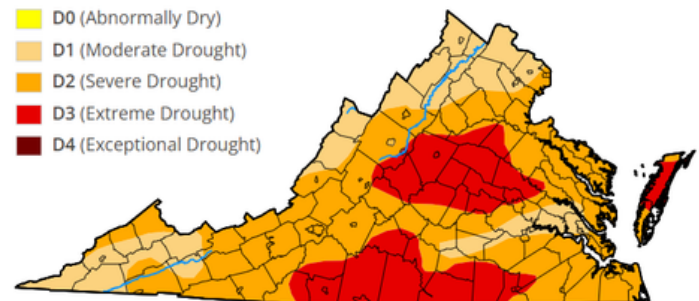
### Dangerous Humid Heat Days, 2016-2025



The number of dangerous humid heat days has more than doubled globally since the 1970s. In the US, 65% of cities have seen an increase, with the most growth in the South and Southeast. Extreme heat can have broad impacts, including on state budgets.

Image Source: CC

### Drought Intensity



Despite recent rains, all of Virginia remained under drought conditions as of Tues morning, with 78% in severe or extreme drought. The DEQ maintained its drought warnings and advisory statuses Thursday, noting that precipitation is 8.5" below normal on average statewide. Image Source: USDM

- The **Appalachian Trail** in Virginia's Shenandoah National Park is experiencing a **norovirus outbreak**. The Appalachian Trail Conservancy has received several suspected norovirus reports in Virginia beginning in May.
- **COVID-19** had the highest infectious disease burden globally from 2000 to 2022, calculated at \$63.3 trillion. The dollar-figure includes the value of disability-adjusted life-year losses, along with direct and indirect costs of acute illness for hospitalized patients. Pandemic pathogens had the highest burden overall, while dengue and cholera had the highest burden among non-pandemic illnesses.
- **Biorisks** from advanced AI models continue to **raise concerns**. Two leading AI companies urged restrictions on companies that sell synthetic DNA and RNA. One prominent AI company shared advanced models with trusted public health partners to get ahead of biological risks.
- All US citizens potentially exposed to **hantavirus** aboard the M/V Hondius completed their **42-day monitoring period**. Globally, at least one other person remains under monitoring, which is expected to end Jul 2. All 13 cases from the outbreak occurred among ship passengers, with no US persons infected. Of the 13 cases, 3 died, 8 recovered, and 2 remained in ICU as of Jun 18.