

July 17, 2026

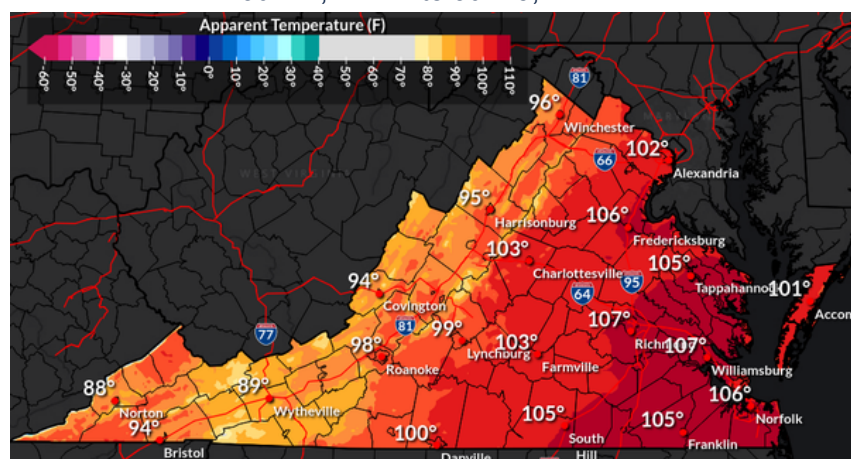
Key Takeaways

- Virginia's measles case count remained stable this week.
- The CDC has linked the cyclosporiasis outbreak to lettuce served in Taco Bell locations in 5 states. Other outbreaks remain under investigation.
- Virginia's Roanoke Drought Evaluation Region is in a drought emergency.

Key Figures

Heat Index

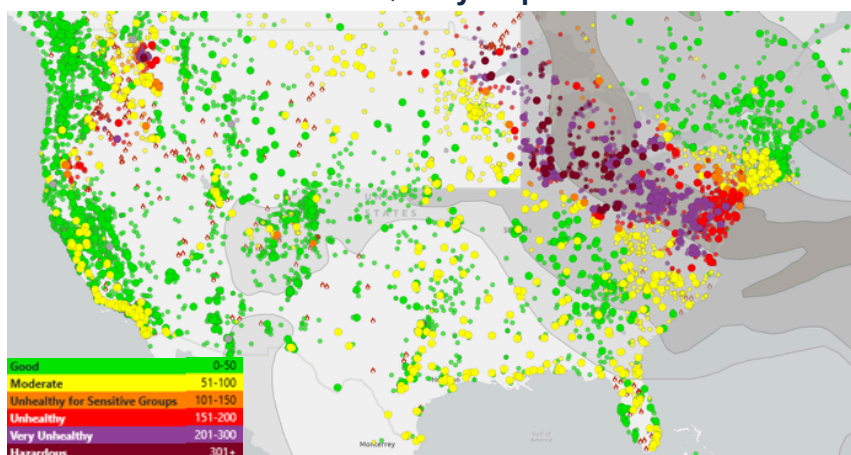
Jul 17, 11AM to Jul 20, 11AM



Virginia is in the midst of major heatwave. Heat indices are expected to top 100° in parts of the state through Sunday. Temperatures are expected to cool in the final days of July.

Image Source: [NWS](#)

Air Quality Map



Smoke from wildfires in the US and Canada is creating unhealthy and hazardous air quality from Minnesota to North Carolina. Surface smoke is expected to affect Virginia into the weekend. Image Source: [AirNow](#)

Ebola

2,535

Suspected, probable and confirmed Ebola cases reported as of Jul 16.

831

Probable and confirmed Ebola deaths reported as of Jul 16.

Measles

0

Increase in measles cases in Virginia over the past week.

29

New measles cases reported nationally in the past week.

Key Dates

July 24

The rescheduled White House Correspondent's Dinner in Washington DC.

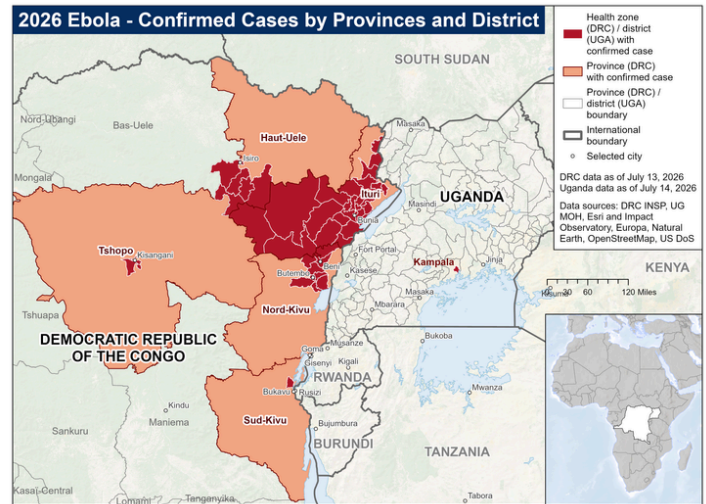
Spotlight:
Heat, Drought & Wildfires

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Ongoing Monitored Situations

Ebola

- The WHO reported 2,146 confirmed or probable cases in the DRC (2,124), Uganda (21) and France (1). The DRC also has 389 suspected cases. 798 persons have died, and 409 have recovered, for a case fatality rate of 39%. WHO modelling suggests actual cases are 2-4x higher than reported.
- The past month has seen the fastest monthly case growth since the outbreak began. It was also the fastest growing month of any Ebola outbreak. 80% of cases are outside of contact lists, with unknown transmission chains.
- Uganda discharged its last Ebola patient **Thursday**, beginning a 42-day countdown to declare the outbreak there over. Uganda had 20 cases total, 15 were imported from the DRC.
- The WHO has received 40% of the \$115 million requested to contain the outbreak. The Africa CDC called for rapid disbursement of commitments and for further contributions, particularly to strengthen protection for health workers. 112 DRC health workers have been infected in the outbreak.
- Health workers at the region's largest general hospital went on strike Wed, barricading the hospital entrance. Delayed pay continues to be the major complaint, with response workers at several facilities striking.



Ituri remains the epicenter of the outbreak, with confirmed cases also reported in North and South Kivu, Haut-Uele and Tshopo provinces.

Image Source: CDC

- A US humanitarian worker who contracted Ebola was sent to Germany for treatment. The patient is currently stable. Meanwhile, the US is requiring American citizens in the DRC to spend 21 days in a third country before returning to the US via commercial flights.

Measles

- Virginia's 2026 measles case count remained steady this week. 177 cases were reported as of Jul 16. No cases have been reported outside of Central Region since May 14.
- Nationally, the CDC reported 2,260 cases across 44 jurisdictions as of Jul 16. Pennsylvania and Oregon added 7 cases last week and Maryland added 5. No other state added more than 2 cases.

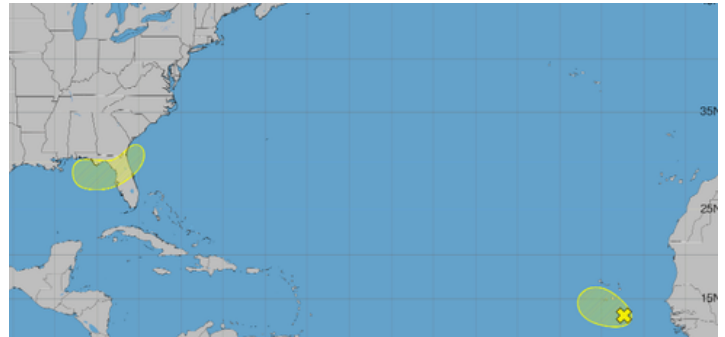
Cyclosporiasis

- Public health officials have linked the multistate cyclosporiasis outbreak to shredded iceberg lettuce served at Taco Bell locations in 5 states. The CDC recommends not eating shredded iceberg lettuce from Taco Bell locations in Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio, and West Virginia. CDC is also investigating other outbreaks and illnesses of cyclosporiasis nationally that are unrelated to this outbreak.
- The CDC has received reports of 1,695 cyclosporiasis cases and is aware of over 5,100 cases awaiting confirmation. By this time last year just 249 cases were reported. Among reported cases, 141 (9%) have been hospitalized. At least 4 states have been linked to the outbreak, including 2 states bordering Virginia (Kentucky and West Virginia).

Other News

- The USDA reported 5 New World Screwworm detections in the past week, bringing the total to 39 detections. All new detections were in Texas livestock.
- The USDA reported 9 HPAI A(H5N1) detections in dairy cattle in July, with 26 detections in the past 30 days. The latest detections occurred in Utah and Idaho, with these two states and Texas accounting for all recent cases.
- 8 school-based health clinics closed in Southwest Virginia due to funding challenges. The clinics extend Federally Qualified Health Center services into areas with limited access to primary care.
- Eaton fire evacuation shelters experienced norovirus and respiratory disease outbreaks. A review found 104 cases of norovirus, 56 of COVID-19, 29 of influenza, and 30 of unspecified respiratory illness. Isolation and infection prevention protocols were associated with case declines.

7-day Tropical Weather Outlook



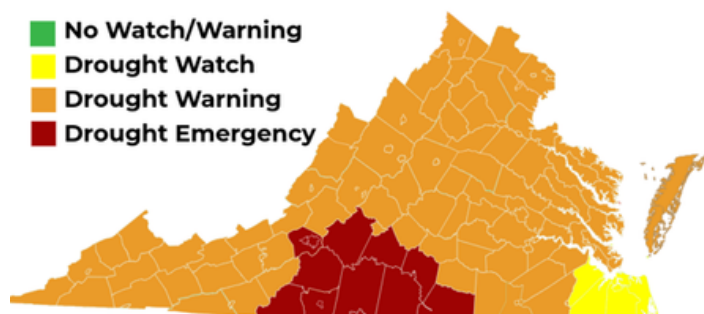
Two disturbances have a low probability of tropical cyclone formation over the next week. One is near the Atlantic seaboard. So far, Tropical Storm Arthur is the only named Atlantic storm. Although short-lived, that system caused over \$1 billion in damage.

Image Source: [NHC](#)

- The Governor's office announced \$7.3 million in disaster relief grants for Hurricane Helene recovery. \$7 million is for home repair and replacement in Giles and Washington Counties. The remainder will go to the Town of Fries for a water treatment plant backup generator.

Spotlight

Virginia Drought Advisories - Jul 15



Virginia's Roanoke Drought Evaluation Region is in a drought emergency. All 4 indicators (precipitation, groundwater, reservoir status and stream flow) are at emergency levels in the region. The Governor's office and local leaders are urging voluntary water conservation efforts. Another 8-12" of rain is needed within 30 days to end Virginia's drought.

Image Source: [GOV](#)

Heat, Drought and Wildfires

- Europe reported over 10,000 excess deaths during its heatwave in late June. Over 9,000 of those were in persons aged 65+. June was Western Europe's hottest on record, and the heatwave broke multiple temperature records.
- NOAA expects El Niño conditions to persist well into next spring, with a strong or very strong El Niño likely through winter. Virginia is in a transition zone for impacts, but El Niño tends to suppress Atlantic hurricane activity and increase the risk of major snowstorms in the winter.
- The wildfire situation in both Canada and the US is at National Preparedness Level 4 (of 5), indicating country-wide mobilization of fire response resources. In the US, over 3.67 million acres have burned, and almost 7 million in Canada. Wildfire smoke is having widespread impacts in both countries.