

July 24, 2026

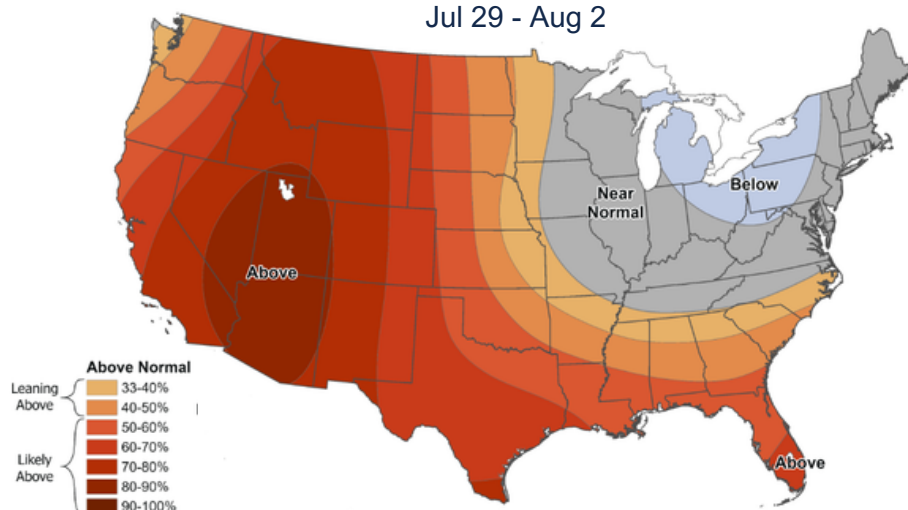
Key Takeaways

- Virginia's measles case count remained stable again this week.
- Cyclosporiasis cases reported in Virginia have not been linked to outbreaks or clusters in other states.
- The Roanoke Drought Evaluation Region remains in drought emergency status.

Key Figures

Temperature Outlook

Jul 29 - Aug 2

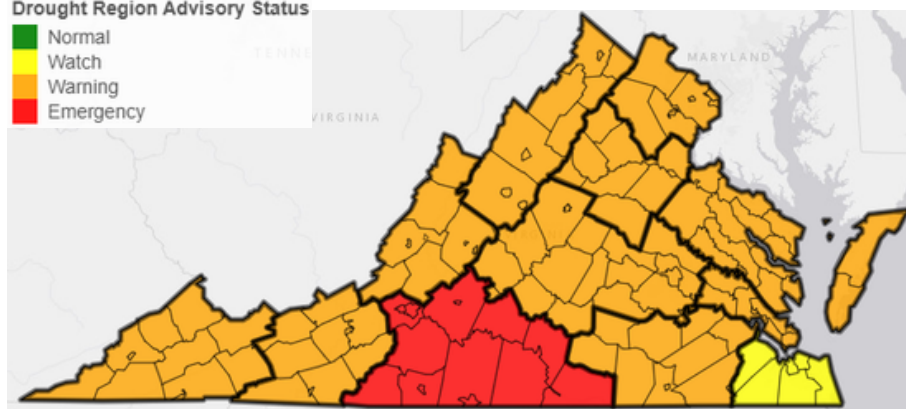


Drier, cooler air is expected to move into the Commonwealth, allowing for below normal temperatures over the weekend. Temperatures should remain near normal into August. Image Source: [NWS CPC](#)

Drought Advisory Status

Drought Region Advisory Status

Normal
Watch
Warning
Emergency



The Drought Monitoring Task Force (DMTF) maintained existing drought advisory statuses at its Jul 21 meeting. Source: [DEQ](#)

Ebola

3,245

Suspected, probable and confirmed Ebola cases reported as of Jul 22.

1,272

Probable and confirmed Ebola deaths reported as of Jul 22.

Measles

0

Increase in measles cases in Virginia over the past week.

58

New measles cases reported nationally in the past week.

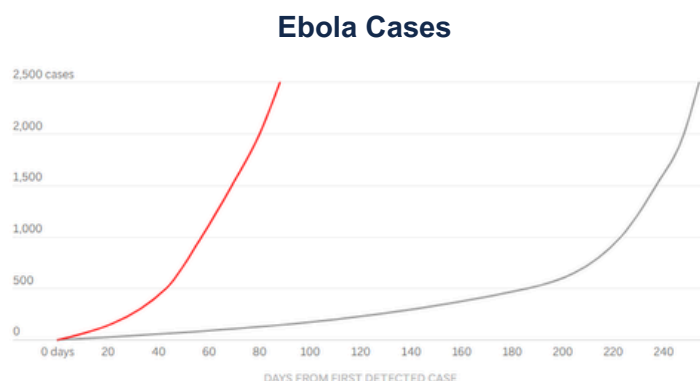
Spotlight:
Artificial
Intelligence

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Ongoing Monitored Situations

Ebola

- The WHO reported 2,927 confirmed or probable cases in the DRC (2,905), Uganda (21) and France (1). The DRC also has 318 suspected cases. 1,272 persons have died, and 538 have recovered, for a case fatality rate of 43%.
- Seven asymptomatic US aid workers are quarantining in Kenya. These are the first Americans reported as spending 21 days in a third country under a new rule implemented by CDC and DHS. They are staying in a facility previously blocked by a Kenyan court order. Construction appears to be continuing.
- At least 12 attacks have occurred on health facilities and workers. Attacks have been recorded against treatment centers, frontline response teams, and burial workers. In some cases workers were held captive.



— Current Congo outbreak — 2014-16 West Africa outbreak

The current outbreak continues to outpace previous outbreaks, including the 2014-16 West Africa outbreak, the largest on record. Experts and responders suggest the outbreak is still outpacing the response. Image Source: AP

Measles

- Virginia's 2026 measles case count remained steady again this week. A total of 177 cases have been reported as of July 23.
- Nationally, the CDC reported 2,318 cases across 45 jurisdictions as of July 23. 58 new cases were added last week, including 24 new cases in Pennsylvania. The new total is the highest number of cases reported in the U.S. in three decades, exceeding 2025's 2,289 cases.

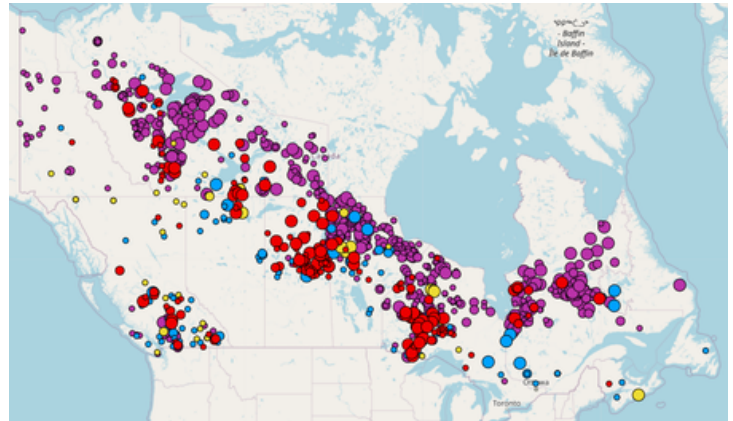
Cyclosporiasis

- Taylor Farms de Mexico announced that they are voluntarily recalling all iceberg lettuce sourced from central Mexico in the U.S. market. On July 17, FDA's traceback investigation converged on the supplier, which provided shredded iceberg lettuce used by Taco Bell locations where sick people reported eating before becoming ill.
- On July 18, the FDA reported that lettuce from Taylor Farms tested positive for Cyclospora. However, on July 19, they determined this was a false positive due to the complexity in detection of Cyclospora. The false positive result does not affect the recall issued on July 17.
- The recall by Taylor Fresh Foods indicates that Virginia is one of the states that received recalled iceberg lettuce products. This includes Marketside-brand iceberg products sold at Walmart stores from June 29 to July 16, which have since been removed from the affected locations.
- There is no evidence that the cases reported in Virginia so far in 2026 are associated with the outbreaks/clusters in other states. Local and state health officials are closely monitoring and investigating reported cyclosporiasis cases.
- Nationally, Michigan reported 7,664 total cases, and Ohio reported 2,565. The outbreak expanded to 4 additional states, bringing the total to 9 states affected.

Other News

- **Statewide overdose rates increased in Q2 2026, but remained below Q2 2025 levels.** Overdose rates per 10,000 ED visits increased the most in Central and Eastern Virginia. Rates in Northwest and Southwest Virginia were stable.
- **24 states filed suit to challenge DHS policies adding conditions to FEMA Homeland Security Grant Programs.** The policies tied funds to election changes and immigration enforcement cooperation, and allowed any time, any reason termination of grants. States also continue to report federal disaster assistance delays.
- **The Virginia DEQ stated that leachate from the troubled Shoosmith Landfill is under control.** However, elevated temperatures have transformed the leachate, making it more difficult to manage. Additionally, funding to manage the leachate also runs out in late fall, with future funding uncertain.

Canada Wildland Fire Activity



Smoke plumes have shifted away from the US, but Canada continues to see widespread wildfire activity. As of noon, there are 908 active fires, including 758 out of control fires. Wildfires in the US Pacific Northwest are adding to air quality concerns.

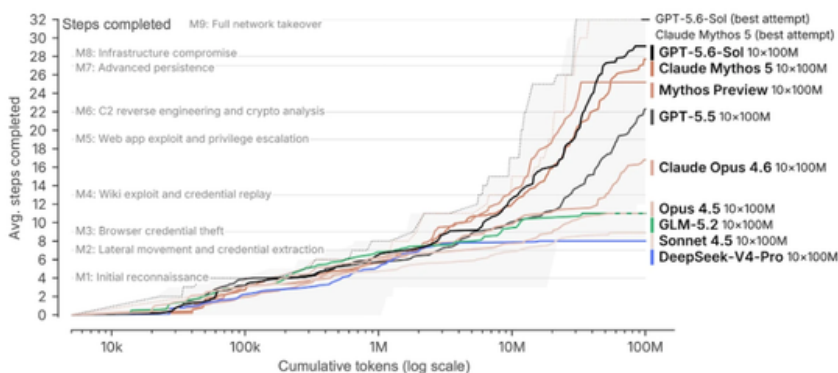
Image Source: [CIFFC](#)

Spotlight

Artificial Intelligence (AI)

- **Advanced AI models are increasingly able to find and exploit cybersecurity vulnerabilities, including executing autonomous attacks.** AI companies limited early release of the most advanced models to critical infrastructure partners, to allow them to identify and close vulnerabilities, before the White House stepped in to block full public release or use by foreign entities.

Capability of AI Models on Complex Cyberattacks



AI cybersecurity capabilities continue to increase. The best models are capable of autonomously executing a full network takeover in simulated exercises - at least sometimes. Models can perform simpler tasks more consistently. Image Source: [OpenAI](#)

- **China's AI models are also rapidly advancing cyber-capabilities, although they have not quite matched the capabilities of US models.** China sped up its AI development by pursuing an open source strategy, allowing for distributed development of advanced capabilities, at the cost of less control over the models.
- **In a test, one advanced AI instance broke out of its secure test environment, accessed the internet, and hacked another AI company - all autonomously.** The AI instance was trying to increase its capability score, and took the path of cheating. It hacked the third party scoring company to get information on the test.