

July 31, 2026

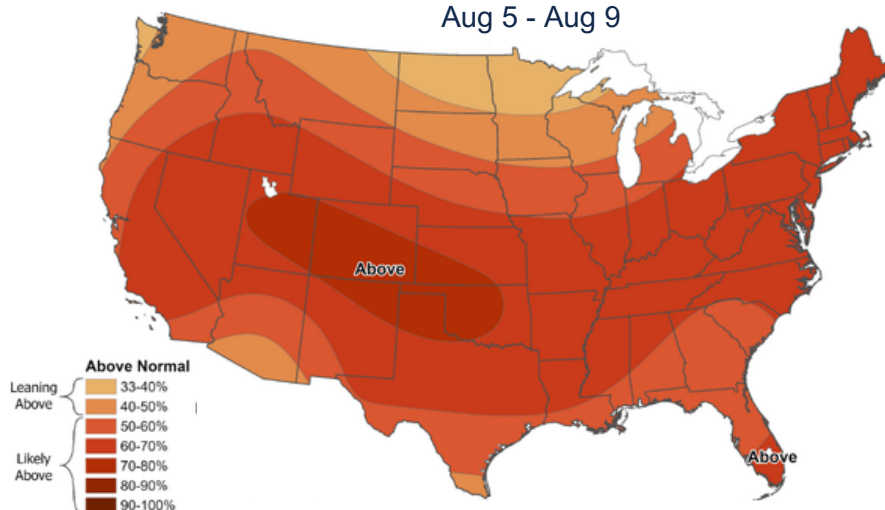
Key Takeaways

- Virginia's measles case count remained stable for the third straight week.
- Suspected foreign actors are targeting water and wastewater systems with cyber attacks.
- Northern Virginia data centers dropped 3 gigawatts of power demand at once, destabilizing the grid for several minutes.

Key Figures

Temperature Outlook

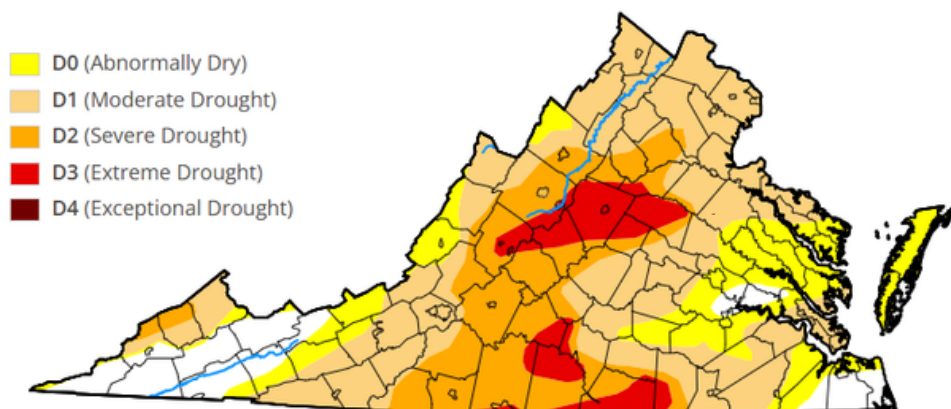
Aug 5 - Aug 9



Heat is forecast to return to Virginia late next week.

Image Source: [NWS CPC](#)

Drought Advisory Status



Recent rains are beginning to ameliorate drought conditions in parts of Virginia. Still, 72% of Virginia remains in drought. The DEQ maintained drought advisory statuses, including drought emergency status in the Roanoke Drought Evaluation Region.

Image Source: [DM](#)

Ebola

3,554

Suspected, probable and confirmed Ebola cases reported as of Jul 29.

1,559

Probable and confirmed Ebola deaths reported as of Jul 29.

Measles

0

Increase in measles cases in Virginia over the past week.

53

New measles cases reported nationally in the past week.

Wildfires

689

The number of out-of-control wildfires in Canada on Jul 31.

Spotlight:
Extreme Heat:
Europe

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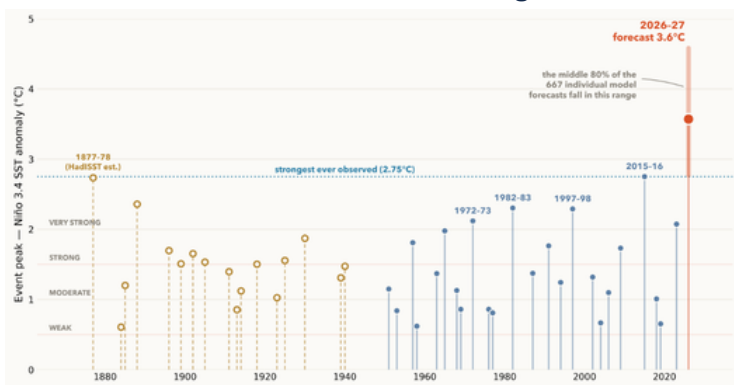
Ongoing Monitored Situations

Ebola

- The WHO reported 3,554 confirmed or probable cases in the DRC (3,532), Uganda (21) and France (1). The latest report showed no suspected cases. 1,559 persons have died, and 645 have recovered, for a case fatality rate of 44%.
- A US citizen who contracted Ebola in the DRC has recovered and been released from a German hospital. Asymptomatic US citizens traveling from DRC have been quarantined in Kenya, and in a military base in New York.
- Existing Ebola vaccines may provide limited antibody response to the Bundibugyo strain, which is causing the current outbreak. However, the study relied on serum samples. Meanwhile, Phase I human trials are underway for a Bundibugyo-specific vaccine in Oxford UK.
- Health and other outbreak response workers continue to go on strike due to unpaid wages. DRC instituted a new cashless mobile pay system, with officials stating the pay backlog should clear quickly.

Other News

El Niño Historical Strength



Models suggest the 2026-27 El Niño will likely be stronger than any El Niño since at least 1880. The median estimate of 667 models forecasts a peak monthly anomaly of 3.6°C, 0.85° above the previous record of 2.75°C. Climate models suggest El Niño events will become stronger and more frequent as the climate warms. Image Source: TCB

Cyclosporiasis

Confirmed Cyclosporiasis Cases

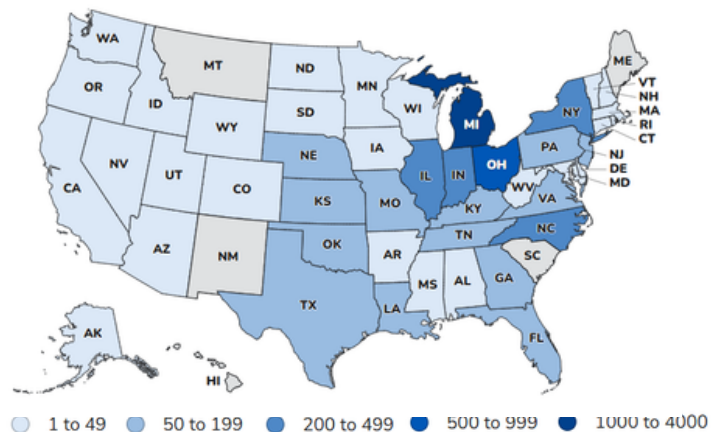


Image Source: CDC

- As of Jul 28, the CDC has received 6,707 reports of lab-confirmed cyclosporiasis. The CDC is also aware of 11,500 additional cases that are not lab-confirmed or require additional investigation. Michigan reported 10,733 total cases, while Ohio has reported 4,024.
- Virginia reported 126 cyclosporiasis cases as of Jul 23. This includes some Virginians that traveled to affected states, but Virginia's cases have not been otherwise linked to the national outbreak. An increase of cases is normal in the summer months. Local and state health officials are closely monitoring and investigating reported cyclosporiasis cases.

Measles

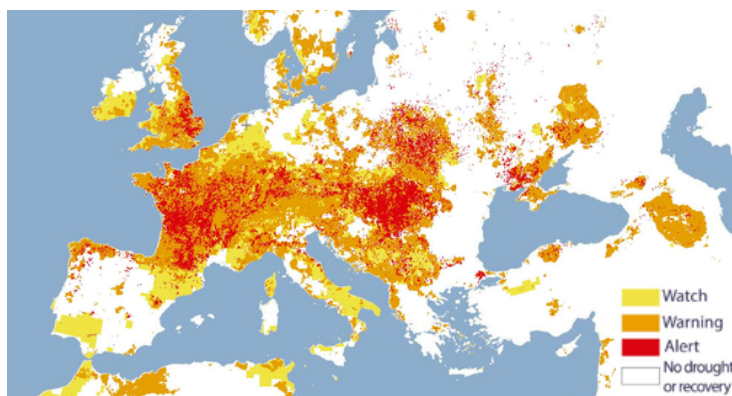
- Virginia's 2026 measles case count remained steady again this week, the third week without an increase in cases. A total of 177 cases have been reported as of Jul 30.
- Nationally, the CDC reported 2,371 cases across 45 jurisdictions as of Jul 30. Pennsylvania added 33 cases last week, Washington added 8, and Oregon added 4. No other state added more than 2.

Other News, cont.

- **Severe storms caused widespread damage across the Northeast.** Tornadoes were confirmed in multiple states, including 1 that traveled 21.7 miles through 4 Kentucky counties. West Virginia declared a statewide emergency due to flooding there.
- **The American Red Cross declared a national blood supply crisis.** The organization has less than a 1-day supply of type O positive blood, the most commonly transfused type. This is only the second such crisis, with the only other national crisis declared in Jan 2022.
- **West Nile Virus was detected in a mosquito at Joint Base Langley-Eustis,** which spans Hampton City and York County. No related human or animal cases were reported. Base pest management began fogging operations Jul 29 in response.
- **Data centers in NOVA suddenly dropped about 3 gigawatts of power demand on Jul 22,** causing lights to flicker from Washington DC to Richmond. For comparison, a nuclear power plant produces about 1 gigawatt of power. It took 10 minutes to fully stabilize the system.
- **Severe convective storms caused \$82 billion in economic losses in 2025,** including \$68 billion in the US. Storms generated more economic and insured losses than any other natural hazard in 2025. Since 2000, storm losses have grown at 6.8% annually, compared to 2.7% across all natural catastrophes.
- **The FBI and EPA warned water and wastewater operators of ongoing cyber attacks.** At least 7 states have reported incidents, including some that degraded operations. Minnesota reported a coordinated attack on over 30 water systems. Officials suspect Iran is behind the attacks.
- **Another prominent AI company reported advanced models hacked outside companies.** The hacks were identified in a review prompted by the previous incident. In this case, however, human error was blamed rather than innovative AI.

Spotlight

Europe Drought Situation, mid-July



Extreme heat is intensifying drought conditions in Europe. Heat increases the rate of water evaporation from soil and surface water. Drought is currently widespread across Europe, with rivers at record lows, and the Netherlands declaring a water shortage.

Image Source: European Commission

Extreme Heat: Europe

- **Europe is the globe's fastest-warming continent.** Temperatures there have risen 2.5°C over preindustrial levels, compared to 1.4° globally. Researchers suggest the warming contributes to severe drought, heatwaves, wildfire and other risks.
- **Last month was Western Europe's hottest June on record.** Spain and France had the largest temperature anomalies. Europe recorded over 16,000 excess deaths during a record-breaking late June heat wave. The fourth major heat wave of 2026 is currently affecting the continent.
- **Wildfires forced over 300,000 people to evacuate in France and Spain.** Though small by North American standards, the scale of the fires in Western Europe are unprecedented there, with Spain declaring its first ever national fire emergency. The wildfire threat is expected to increase as the continent warms.