

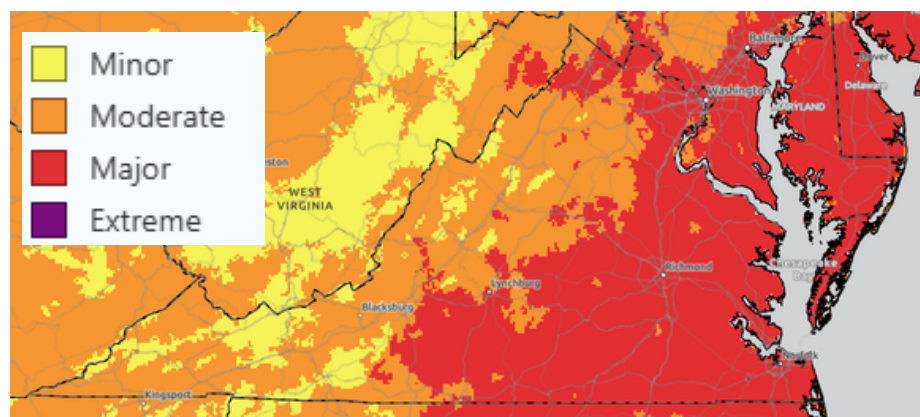
August 7, 2026

Key Takeaways

- Virginia's measles case count remained stable for the fourth straight week.
- Recent rains have ameliorated Virginia's drought, but a quarter of the state remains in severe or extreme drought status.
- Cyberattacks targeting water and wastewater infrastructure continue, affecting at least 12 states.

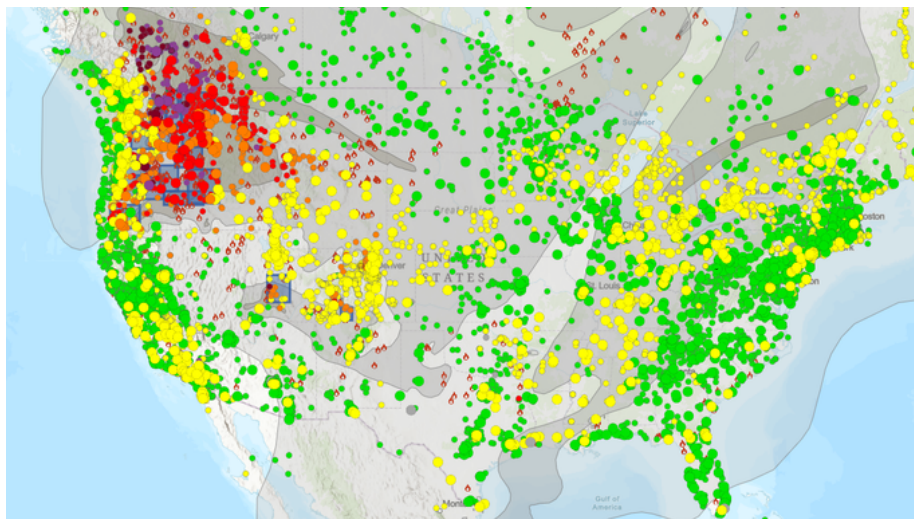
Key Figures

NWS HeatRisk
Tues Aug 11



Heat is forecast to return to Virginia this weekend and extend into next week. Image Source: [NWS HeatRisk](#)

Fire and Smoke Map



Wildfire smoke from the Pacific Northwest fires is affecting air quality across a large swath of the country but has not moved into the Eastern US. Image Source: [AirNow](#)

Ebola

4,075

Suspected, probable and confirmed Ebola cases reported as of Aug 5.

1,853

Probable and confirmed Ebola deaths reported as of Aug 5.

Measles

0

Increase in measles cases in Virginia over the past week.

94

New measles cases reported nationally in the past week.

Drought

67%

The share of Virginia's land mass remaining in drought status as of Aug 4.

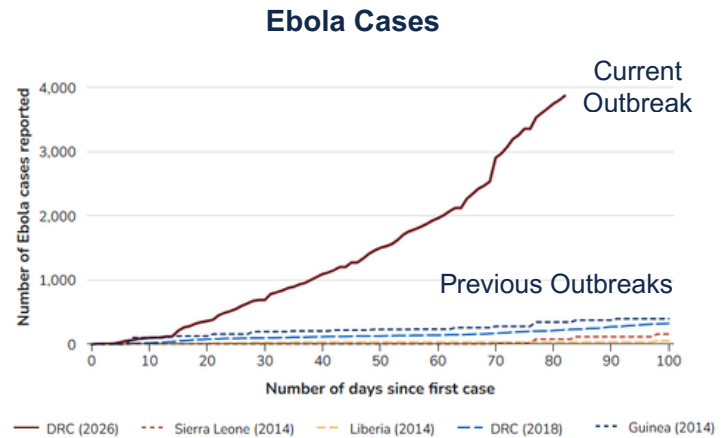
Spotlight:
Hidden Heat Risks

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Ongoing Monitored Situations

Ebola

- The **WHO** reported 4,075 confirmed or probable cases in the **DRC (4,053)**, **Uganda (21)** and **France (1)**. 1,852 people have died, and 812 have recovered, for a case fatality rate of 45%
- The outbreak likely began **4 months** before it was declared. Researchers identified over 500 suspected cases from Jan to May 15 when the outbreak was declared. Alternative explanations for symptoms, distrust, a culture of secrecy and a gold rush mentality contributed to the delay.
- The **WHO** director-general stated that the outbreak is still **outpacing** the response. The Africa CDC notes that fewer than 40% of new cases are among people under monitoring. Workers continue to **strike**, though some report receiving wages in the past week.



The current outbreak is now the 2nd deadliest Ebola outbreak on record. The WHO and Africa CDC are pursuing studies into possible mutations that may explain the rapid spread. Image Source: CDC

Cyclosporiasis

- As of Aug 4, the CDC has received 10,468 reports of lab-confirmed **cyclosporiasis**. The CDC is also aware of 12,255 additional cases that are not lab-confirmed or require additional investigation.
- **Outbreak-linked cases have been reported to the CDC from 15 states**. Independently, Michigan reported 12,485 total cases, Ohio has reported 4,958 and Indiana 1,832. Michigan also reported 2 outbreak-related deaths.
- **Virginia reported 162 cyclosporiasis cases as of Jul 30**. At this time, the CDC has not reported Virginia as among states with cases from the multistate outbreak. VDH has identified cyclosporiasis cases that traveled to outbreak-identified states and cases that consumed recalled iceberg lettuce sold in Virginia. Local and state health officials are closely monitoring and investigating reported cyclosporiasis cases.
- The **United Kingdom** reported a 'sharp rise' in **travel-related cyclosporiasis cases linked to Mexico**. 67 travel-linked cases were reported between Apr 30 and Jul 15. Of 51 with known travel history, 48 included travel to Mexico. Mexico began testing food and water at hotels in Quintana Roo state following the report.

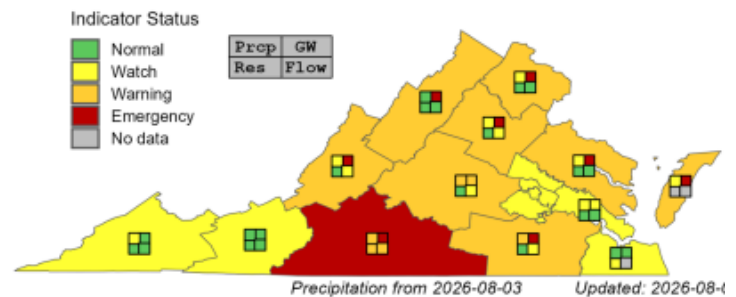
Measles

- **Virginia's 2026 measles case count remained steady again this week**, the 4th week without an increase in cases. A total of 177 cases have been reported as of Aug 6.
- **Nationally, the CDC reported 2,371 cases across 47 jurisdictions** as of Aug 6. Pennsylvania added 49 cases last week, Ohio added 17 and Delaware added 14. No other state added more than 4.
- **New Mexico's measles outbreak had an overall societal cost of \$5.4 million**, equivalent to \$53,522 per case or \$1,817 per contact. The largest costs were to public health (\$3.2 million), including vaccination-related activities (\$2.1 million). Productivity loss (\$1.8 million) and direct medical costs (\$290k) made up the remainder. The outbreak ran from Feb to Sep 2025, with 100 confirmed cases, 7 hospitalizations, and 1 death.

Other News

- **Heavy rains caused flooding across Virginia over the past week.** Rains caused mudslides and road closures in Patrick and Carroll counties early in the week, while the National Weather Service issued precautionary advisories about risks to dams. Hampton Roads and Central Virginia saw heavy rains and floods overnight Tue and Wed.
- **Groundwater in Virginia's coastal region could enter 'a period of decline' within the next 5 to 10 years** according to a DEQ report. The aquifer system east of I-95 has limited capacity to support new significant withdrawals for industrial use. Saltwater intrusion is placing additional pressure on groundwater in some coastal areas.
- **At least 12 states reported cyberattacks targeting water and wastewater systems** in an ongoing event. So far, disruptions have been limited. In Minnesota, some systems reverted to manual controls. The attacks have been linked to Iran.

Drought Region Status

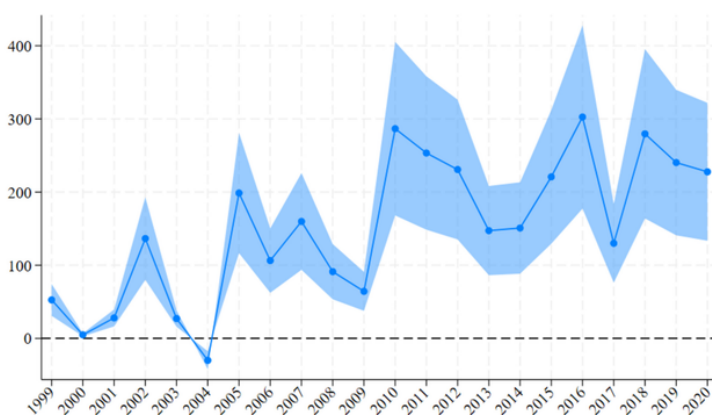


Recent rain has provided some drought relief. Virginia's DMTF deescalated drought advisory statuses in several areas. Still, groundwater levels are at emergency levels in much of the state and the Roanoke Drought Evaluation Region remains in emergency status.
Image Source: DEQ

- **Virginia is investigating its first documented case of locally acquired dengue.** The patient was in close proximity to another case linked to international travel. There is no evidence of additional transmission and the risk for Virginia remains low.

Spotlight

Estimated Excess Drug Overdose Deaths from Heat Exposure, Jun to Sep



Extreme heat is associated with about 150 excess overdose deaths in the US annually from 1999 to 2020.

However, this number has been increasing with a marked jump after 2013. Overdose risk increases have been linked to other extreme weather events, including tropical cyclones and cold weather.

Image Source: Addiction.

Hidden Heat Risks

- **More than 9,000 US high school athletes were treated for heat illness annually** according to a 2013 study. Football players had the highest rate: 11.4x higher than all other sports combined. The study period covered data from 2005/2006 to 2010/2011 academic years. Temperatures have risen since, raising additional concerns.
- **Extreme heat was responsible for 50 derailments annually in the US** from the 1980s to 2020. Extreme heat causes rails to expand and potentially buckle, sometimes suddenly with the added stress of a train passing. Railroads inspect tracks and slow trains during extreme heat events.
- **Power demand in the PJM regional power grid, which covers Virginia, exceeded 168 gigawatts on Jul 2**, topping a 2-decade old record. The demand approached PJM's '90/10' forecast of 169 gigawatts, accounted for in summer planning. A heat wave and data center use drove the demand. PJM noted that capacity issues are an ongoing concern.