

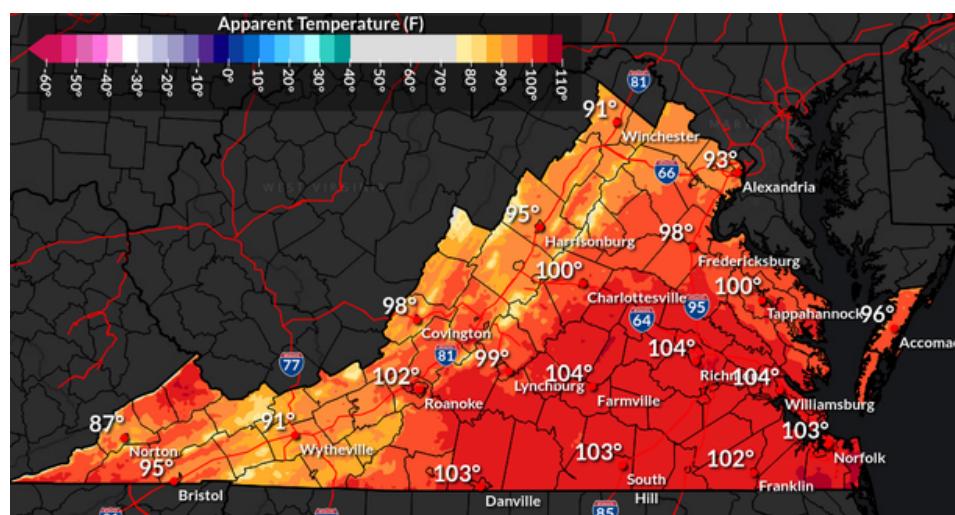
August 14, 2026

Key Takeaways

- Virginia has not reported an outbreak-associated measles case since Jun 29, surpassing two 21-day incubation periods without a reported case.
- July was the hottest month ever recorded in the contiguous US, while global seas and Europe also hit new heat records.
- VDH reiterated its commitment to evidence-based vaccine recommendations.

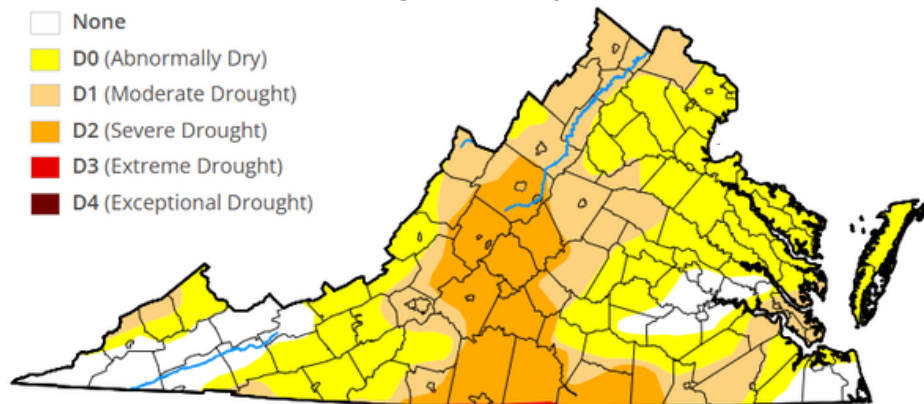
Key Figures

Maximum Heat Index
Fri 11:00 AM to Mon 11:00 AM



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

Drought Intensity Map



Drought continues to ease across Virginia. However, 18% of the state remains in severe or extreme drought. Image Source: [USDM](#)

Ebola

4,588

Suspected, probable and confirmed Ebola cases reported as of Aug 11.

2,131

Probable and confirmed Ebola deaths reported as of Aug 11.

Measles

101

New measles cases reported nationally in the past week.

Drought

44%

The share of Virginia's land mass remaining in drought status as of Aug 11.

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Ongoing Monitored Situations

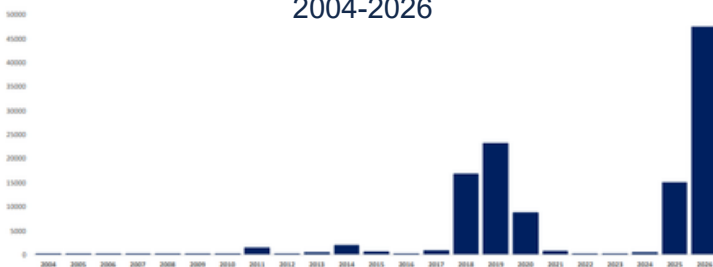
Ebola

- The [WHO](#) reported 4,588 confirmed or probable cases in the DRC (4,566), Uganda (21) and France (1). 2,131 people have died, and 937 have recovered, for a case fatality rate of 46%.
- The Africa CDC is planning a broad rollout of [vaccines](#) targeting the Zaire strain of Ebola. Test tube and animal studies suggest it may have some limited effectiveness against the Bundibugyo virus in the current outbreak. The WHO and Africa CDC are also working on efficacy trials, but these may become moot as Phase 3 trials for Bundibugyo-specific vaccines may begin next month.

Measles

- [Virginia](#) has not reported an outbreak-associated measles case since Jun 29, surpassing two 21-day incubation periods without a reported case. 154 outbreak-associated cases have been [recorded](#), all among people who were unvaccinated or with unknown vaccination status. 4 people were hospitalized.
- [Nationally](#), the CDC reported 2,556 cases across 47 jurisdictions as of Aug 13. Pennsylvania added 64 cases last week, Ohio added 16 and Maryland added 4. No other state added more than 3.

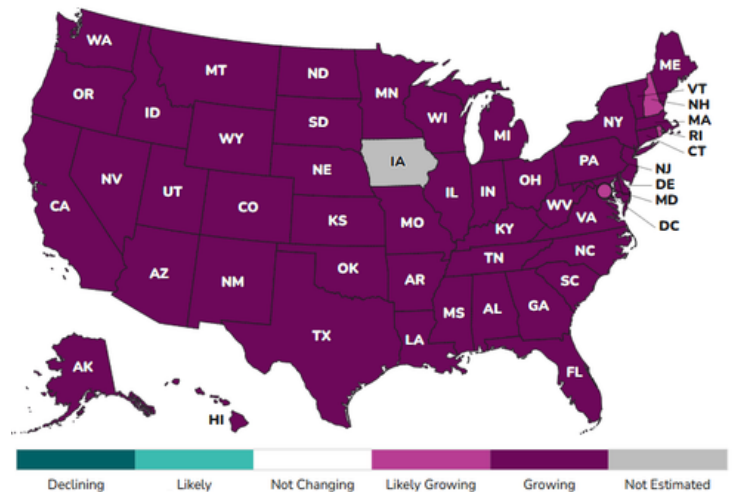
Confirmed Measles Cases, Americas Region
2004-2026



Through Jul 18, the Americas Region saw 47,459 confirmed measles cases in 2026. This is 8x more cases recorded at this time last year, and more annual cases reported since at least 2004. Guatemala (32,371), Mexico (12,255) and the US (2,260) reported the most cases. Image Source: [PAHO](#)

Seasonal Illness

COVID-19 Epidemic Trend



Respiratory virus activity is very low nationally, but the CDC reports COVID-19 activity is growing or likely growing in all reporting jurisdictions. [Virginia](#) reports minimal and stable COVID-19 activity.

Image Source: [CDC](#)

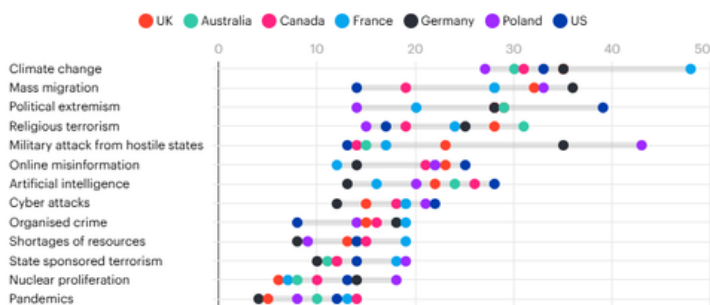
Cyclosporiasis

- As of Aug 11, the CDC has received 13,895 reports of lab-confirmed [cyclosporiasis](#). The CDC is also aware of 10,455 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 13,909 total cases, [Ohio](#) has reported 5,445 and [Indiana](#) 1,983. The outbreak appears to be [slowing](#).
- Public health officials are investigating a [Salmonella outbreak](#) linked to jalapeños. The CDC has reported 345 cases and 36 hospitalizations across [27 states](#), including 2 cases in Virginia. Jalapeños from Sinaloa, Mexico and distributed by Coast Citrus Distributors have been [recalled](#).

Other News

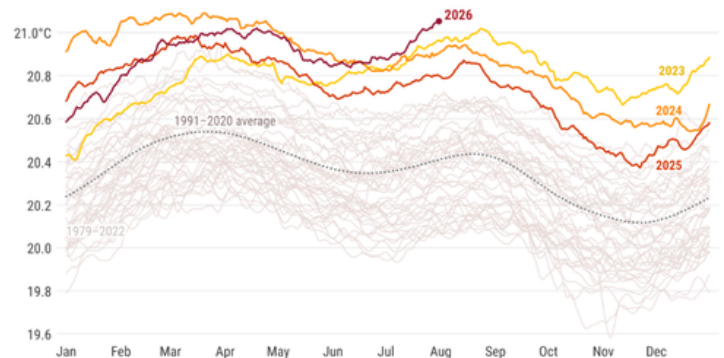
- **July was the hottest month ever recorded for the contiguous US.** The CONUS-wide average was 76.9°F, 3.3°F above the 20th-century average. All states ranked in the warmest 3rd for their July temperature records. Similarly, Western Europe had its hottest June-July period on record, the third consecutive month of 'exceptional' heat there.
- **The US Northwest is experiencing a record-breaking wildfire season.** Nationally, 46,469 wildfires have burned over 6.5 million acres in 2026, 129% and 155% of the 10-year averages, respectively. Smoke from US and Canadian wildfires continues to blanket the country, affecting air quality where it dips to the surface.
- **VDH reiterated its commitment to evidence-based vaccine recommendations** after the White House issued an Executive Order with its own recommendations. Multiple medical and public health organizations issued statements criticizing the Executive Order.
- **Researchers used AI to create 16 new functional viral genomes** able to reproduce in bacteria and infect other bacteria. These viruses can only infect bacteria and pose no threat to humans, but add to growing concerns of biosecurity risks from AI.

Biggest Global Threats



In a seven-nation survey, respondents identified climate change, mass migration, and political extremism as the largest global threats, while pandemics were considered the least concerning threat. Among US respondents, political extremism, climate change and artificial intelligence were the biggest perceived threats. Image Source: YouGov

Global Sea Surface Temperatures



July 2026 saw the highest average global sea surface temperature ever recorded for July, partly fueled by El Niño conditions which are still developing. Global surface air temperatures were the joint-second warmest for July, tied with July 2024 and behind the record set in July 2023.

Image Source: Copernicus

- **3 million gallons of raw sewage spilled into a Portsmouth intersection and nearby Hull Creek.** The flow from a burst pipe lasted about 11 hours and reached 3-4 feet high. Sewage was pumped out and hauled away by truck. In a much smaller incident, about 45,000 gallons of sewage spilled into Fishing Creek near Lynchburg.
- **Mpx has waned on the African mainland, but the island nation of Madagascar is dealing with a large clade 1b outbreak.** The WHO reports nearly 3,000 cases there. The country received 60,000 vaccine doses through the end of July, but estimates 1 million people are at risk, so has begun fractional dosing - splitting a single dose into fifths.
- **NOAA increased its forecast for a below-normal Atlantic hurricane season to 75%,** up from 55% in its May outlook. NOAA now predicts 7-13 named storms, 2-6 hurricanes, and 0-2 major hurricanes. So far there have been just 3 short-lived tropical storms. However, two of those storms made landfall on the Gulf Coast, causing significant damage.