

August 28, 2026

Key Takeaways

- Respiratory illness activity in Virginia is minimal but trending up.
- VDH reported a potential measles exposure at 4 sites in Reston Virginia on Aug 16.
- VDH reported 7 human cases of West Nile Virus in 2026.
- Foreign-backed hacking activity continues to impact critical infrastructure in the US and elsewhere.

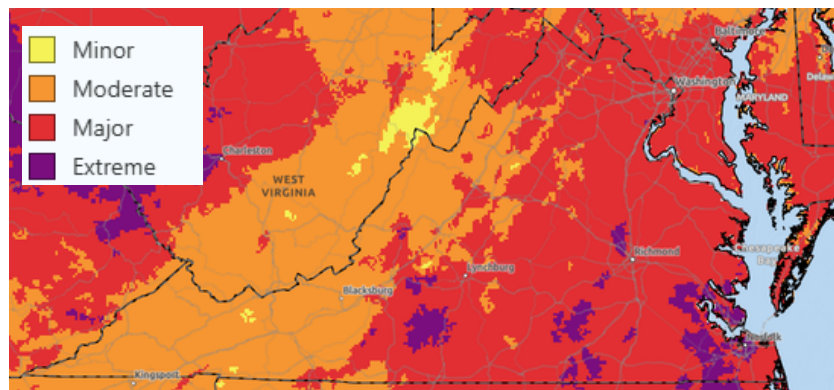
Key Figures

Tropical Storm Dolly



Tropical Storm Dolly became the 4th named storm of the 2026 Atlantic hurricane season. It has already been downgraded to post-Cyclone remnants and is not expected to impact Virginia. Image Source: [NWS](#)

NWS HeatRisk



*Heat is expected to return to the Commonwealth late next week, including some areas with extreme heat risk.
Image Source: [NWS](#)*

Ebola

6,125

Suspected, probable and confirmed Ebola cases reported as of Aug 25.

2,747

Probable and confirmed Ebola deaths reported as of Aug 25.

Drought

35%

The share of Virginia's land mass remaining in drought status as of Aug 27.

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Ongoing Monitored Situations

Measles

- **Pennsylvania announced 2 measles-associated deaths.** Both individuals were unvaccinated. They were the first measles-associated deaths in the state in 35 years, and the first nationally this year. 3 deaths were reported nationally in 2025.
- **As of publication, the CDC had not updated measles case and outbreak data.**
- **A multi-study review found an average measles outbreak cost of \$43,204 per case**, and average cost per contact of \$443. Fixed public health costs per outbreak average almost \$300k, with each case adding \$16,300 to outbreak costs.

Denver Measles Outbreak Costs

Colorado Department of Public Health
\$212,676

Contact tracing \$152K	Other \$17K	Comms \$15K
	Lab \$11K	Admin \$6K
	Immunization \$11K	

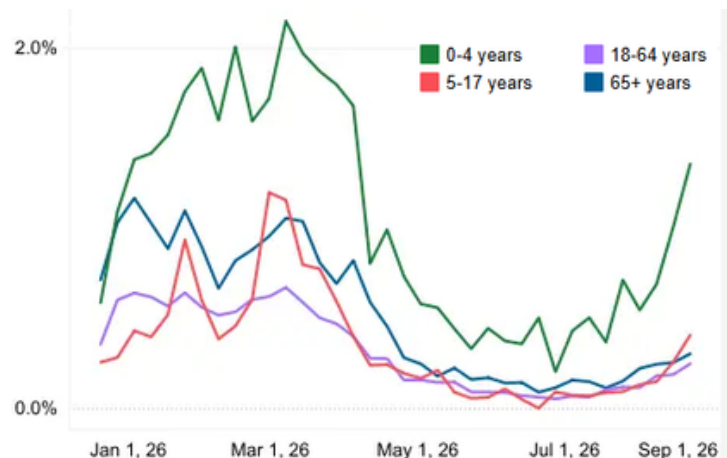
Eight additional local agencies
\$278,499

A 10-case outbreak in Denver in early 2025 required 6,785 state and local labor hours to contain, and cost \$491,175. Costs included public health response in the community, schools, and at medical facilities.

Image Source: [WaPo](#)

Seasonal Illness

Virginia ED Visits for Diagnosed COVID-19



Emergency department visits for diagnosed COVID-19 are up for all age groups, but have increased sharply for 0-4 year-olds recently.

Image Source: [VDH](#)

- **Virginia's overall respiratory illness activity is minimal but trending up.** Respiratory illness accounted for 7.7% of ED visits for the week ending Aug 22, up from 7% a week ago. Among diagnosed ED visits, COVID-19 is seeing an increase, particularly among 0-4 year-olds.

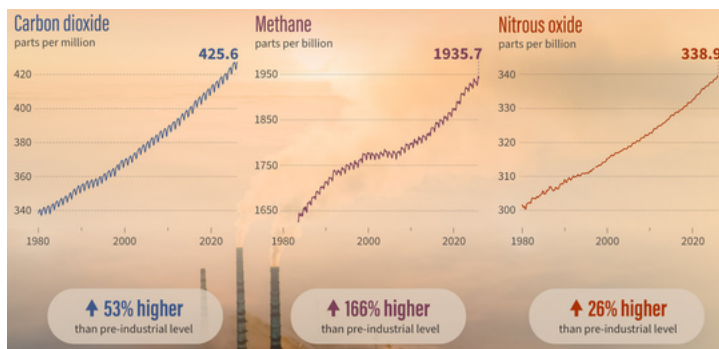
Ebola

- **Africa CDC officials suspect only 30-40% of cases are being detected and reported.** UN officials noted the outbreak is spreading 'exponentially' in an area larger than France. Two cases have been identified in a sixth province, Bas-Uélé, which neighbors Central African Republic.
- **A senior UN official noted that funding for the response could run out in weeks**, and described operating conditions as 'brutal'. Health workers still report delays in payments, leading to strikes. 160 health workers have been infected, and 43 have died.

Other News

- Virginia's infrastructure received an overall grade of 'C' in the latest report from the American Society of Civil Engineers. Grades varied from 'D' (energy) to 'B+' (bridges, broadband). Notably, Virginia's drinking water systems earned a 'C+', dams earned a 'C-' and wastewater earned a 'D+'.
- VDH reported 7 human cases of West Nile Virus in 2026. The cases indicate that WNV is active in the environment, which is normal in late summer and early fall. WNV has also been detected in mosquitoes in Virginia Beach.
- The CDC suggests mpox clade IIb is 'likely transition[ing] toward endemic circulation.' The virus has been circulating in the US since 2022. In 2024 and 2025, 76% of cases were in unvaccinated patients, who also had a 9.7x chance of being hospitalized.
- Spurred by the still developing El Niño, global sea surface temperatures hit a new record on Aug 21. The daily average sea surface temperature hit 21.10°C, beating the previous record set in Mar 2024. A new record was set four days later when the temperature hit 21.11°C on Aug 25.

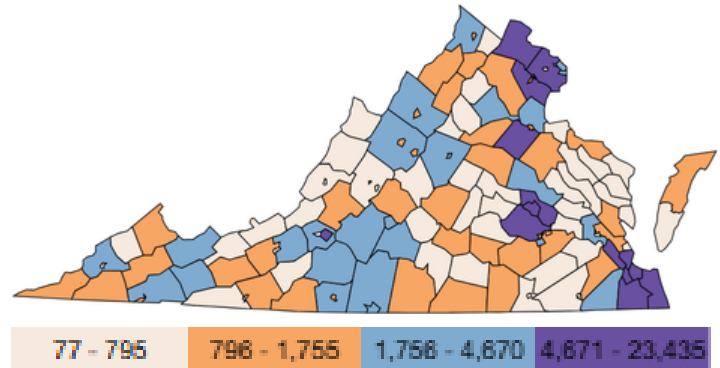
Greenhouse Gas Atmospheric Concentration



Earth's 3 dominant greenhouse gases all reached record concentrations in 2025, indicating that impacts from climate change are likely to continue accelerating. Planners should expect the trend toward bigger and more frequent disasters to continue.

Image Source: AMS

Medicaid Work Requirement Impacts



ER visits by uninsured persons increased 8% in Virginia last year. That trend is expected to continue when new federal work requirements for Medicaid take effect next year. The Governor's Office estimates that nearly 300k Virginians could be impacted, and is taking steps to minimize the impact. Image Source: Va HHR

- Boston Scientific, a global medical device supplier, reported a cyberattack that is disrupting company operations. It is the latest health sector supplier to be impacted by cyberattacks. Health care is the leading target of cyberattacks in the US.
- A China-linked network hacked US government agencies, power companies, health systems and other critical infrastructure. The network has been operating since 2018. Meanwhile, the UK reported that Iran-linked hackers managed to shut down a small energy facility.
- Violent crime decreased by 9.3% nationally from 2023 to 2024. Violent crime declined among all categories, with robbery (18.5%) and homicide (18.1%) declining the most. Property crime also declined by 12.4%.
- Two people were infected with influenza A(H1N2)v (swine flu) at a Michigan agricultural fair where ill swine were present. Separately, a study revealed that HPAI A(H5N1) can infect swine without causing overt symptoms.