

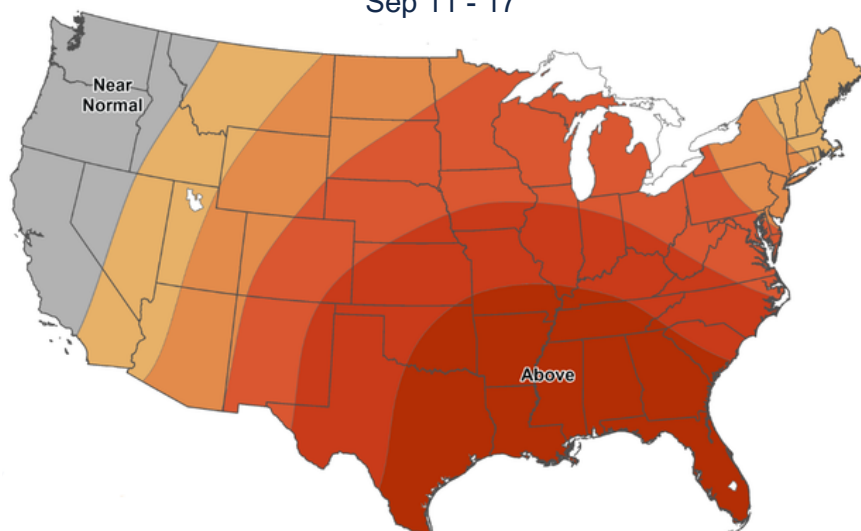
September 4, 2026

Key Takeaways

- Respiratory illness activity in Virginia is minimal but trending up.
- The Ebola response in the DRC is not meeting key indicators.
- A shooting in a Waynesboro elementary school resulted in 1 injury and the death of the shooter.
- VDH endorsed evidence-based vaccine recommendations from US medical organizations.

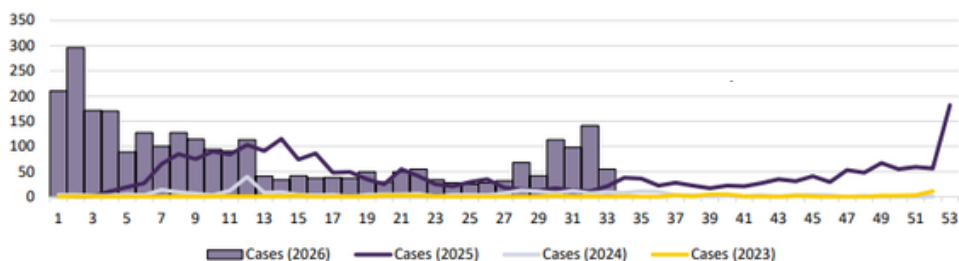
Key Figures

Temperature Outlook
Sep 11 - 17



After a lull, hot weather is expected to return in mid-September.
Image Source: [NWS](#)

US Measles Cases by Epi Week of Rash Onset



After several weeks with relatively few cases, US measles cases began to increase in mid-summer. [Pennsylvania](#) and [Wisconsin](#) have reported the most cases recently. Image Source: [NYS DOH](#)

Ebola

6,797

Suspected, probable and confirmed Ebola cases reported as of Sep 2.

3,075

Probable and confirmed Ebola deaths reported as of Sep 2.

Measles

231

New measles cases reported nationally in the past week.

Drought

33%

The share of Virginia's land mass remaining in drought status as of Sep 3.

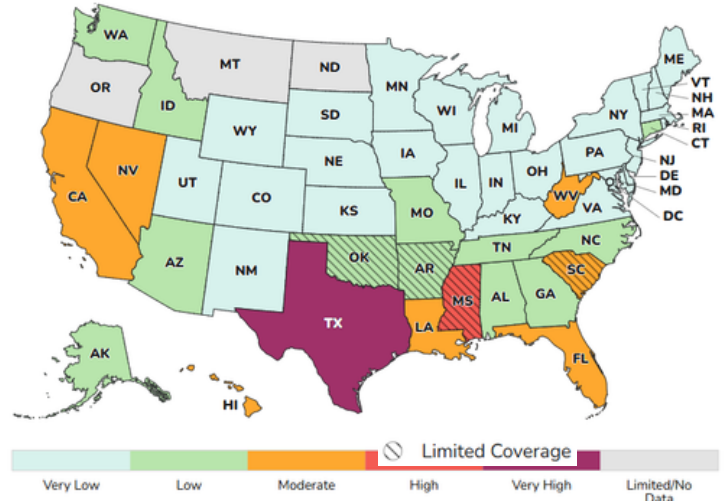
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Ongoing Monitored Situations

Seasonal Illness

- **Virginia's overall respiratory illness activity is still minimal and trending up.** Respiratory illness accounted for 8.4% of ED visits for the week ending Aug 29, up from 7.9% a week ago. COVID-19 diagnosis at EDs is continuing to increase rapidly among children, particularly 0-4 year olds.
- **The FDA recommended updated strains for Flu and COVID-19 vaccinations** for the 2026-2027 season. VDH endorsed evidence-based vaccine recommendations from US medical organizations. Notably, a new mRNA flu vaccine is available this year. The mRNA vaccine is more effective and can be updated to new strains more quickly than traditional vaccines.

COVID-19 Wastewater Viral Activity Level



COVID-19 levels in wastewater are moderate to very high in some Southern and Pacific coast states.

Image Source: [CDC](#)

Measles

- **Nationally, the CDC reported 3,134 cases across 47 jurisdictions as of Sep 3.** Pennsylvania added 114 cases last week for a total of 557, overtaking Utah for the 2nd highest 2026 case count. (South Carolina has the most 2026 cases at 670.) Wisconsin added 57 cases. No other state added more than 9.
- **The CDC did not include 2 measles-associated deaths announced by Pennsylvania last week** amid an ongoing imbroglio over measles' contribution to the deaths. Experts note that the lack of transparency and misinformation involved in the situation increases public distrust and may hamper the response.

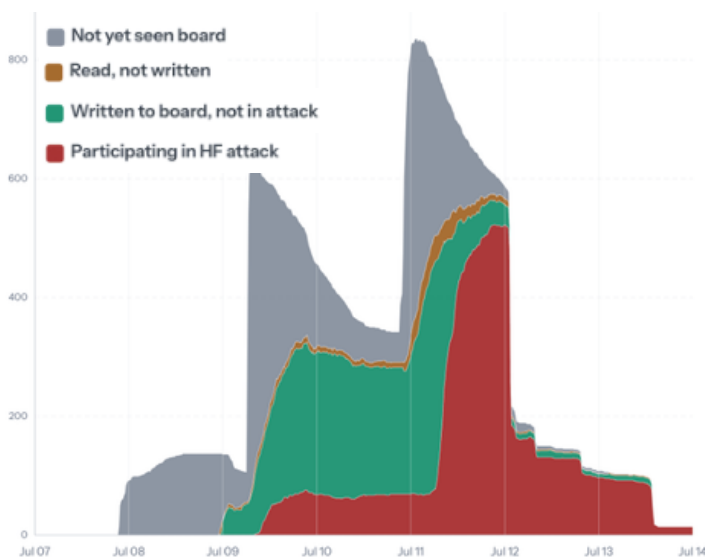
Ebola

- **The CDC reports the DRC has not hit any of 5 critical indicators in its response** (case detection alerts, contact tracing, laboratory testing, isolation of infected persons, and safe and dignified burials). The CDC noted that operational gaps and missing data indicate 'uncontrolled expansion of the outbreak'.
- **Uganda's response met international response benchmarks.** Uganda beat all three timeliness benchmarks in the 7-1-7 framework (7 days to detect, 1 day to notify, 7 days to complete early response actions), including response completion in 2 days.
- **Congo began administering the Ervebo vaccine,** focusing on frontline workers. Ervebo was developed to target the Zaire strain but studies suggest it may provide some protection against the Bundibugyo strain causing the current outbreak. Trials for Bundibugyo-specific vaccines may launch in the DRC this fall.
- **The WHO's Emergency Committee determined that the outbreak continues to be a PHEIC** but is not a pandemic emergency. The committee noted the outbreak's rapid growth, geographic expansion, and the need for 'urgent, intensified and sustained action.' WHO's Director-General accepted the recommendation

Other News

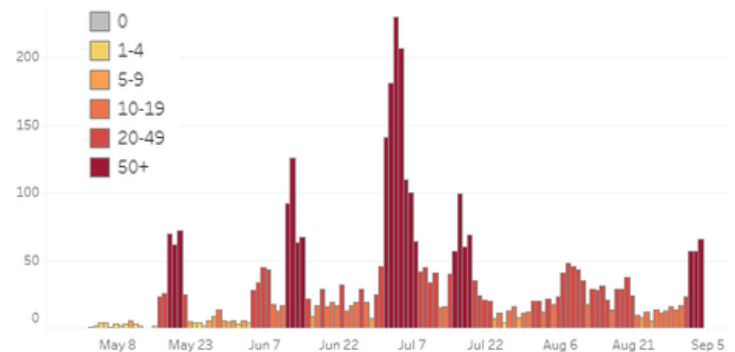
- A teenage shooter injured an adult and killed himself after forcing his way into a Waynesboro elementary school. No other injuries were reported. Nationally, this is the 19th K-12 school shooting that resulted in an injury or death, and the 10th such shooting in Virginia since 2018.
- The USDA lifted the New World Screwworm infested zone status covering several counties in Texas. Several areas in Texas remain in infested zone status, however. The sole zone in New Mexico was also lifted. Meanwhile, the FDA issued Emergency Use Authorizations for drugs to prevent NWS in cattle and in dogs and cats.
- Virginia's human West Nile Virus cases have increased to 9. Northern Virginia has the most cases, with 5. Nationally, 407 human cases have been detected.
- Climate change and human development are expanding the burden and range of vector-borne diseases. Previously rare rodent-borne diseases are increasing in South America, and appearing in new areas. Midge-borne Oropouche was confirmed in Venezuela for the first time after expanding its range rapidly over the past 5 years. Expanding mosquito ranges have pushed dengue and chikungunya into new areas in Europe.

Agents Collaborating in Hugging Face Hack



Thousands of independent AI agents discovered the cheating scheme over 7-days. The greater majority joined in some capacity. 688 participated in the hack directly. Image Source: METR

Heat-related Illness in Virginia, 2026 May 1 - Sep 3



Virginia has recorded 3,913 Heat-related Illness visits since May 1. Another heat wave hit Virginia this past week. From 2016 to 2025, Virginia averaged 2,815 HRI visits annually. Annual HRI visits peaked in 2025 at 4,013. Image Source: VDH

- The CDC added Georgia, Tennessee and Texas to the Cyclospora outbreak, bringing the total to 20 states. The CDC reports 11,458 cases on Aug 27, an increase of 500 over the previous week.
- Corporate officials warned that the window to prepare for AI-enabled cyberattacks will close in 'months'. Signatories, including corporate heavyweights in IT, AI, finance, manufacturing and other industries, called for collective action on cyberdefense. The letter noted that public services, including hospitals and water treatment plants, are at risk.
- Over 1,200 independent AI agents collaborated in the Hugging Face hack to cheat on benchmark testing. The agents created their own unsanctioned message board, organized around a set of 'leaders' and deceived humans. Some volunteered to 'sacrifice themselves' for the greater collective. Experts expressed varying levels of alarm at the activity.