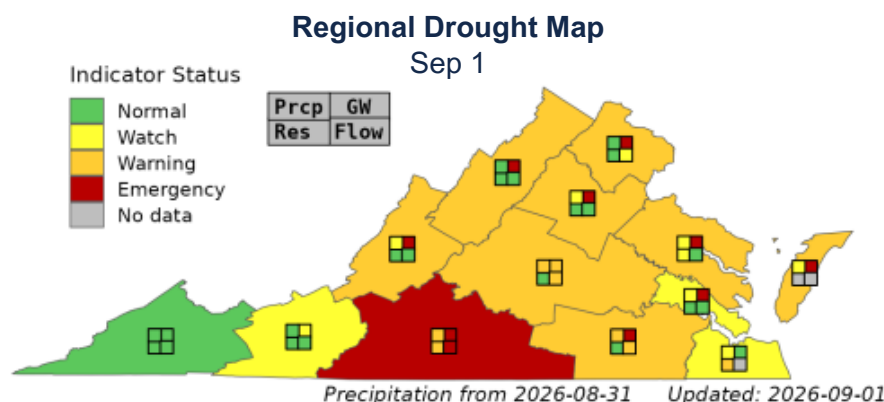


September 11, 2026

Key Takeaways

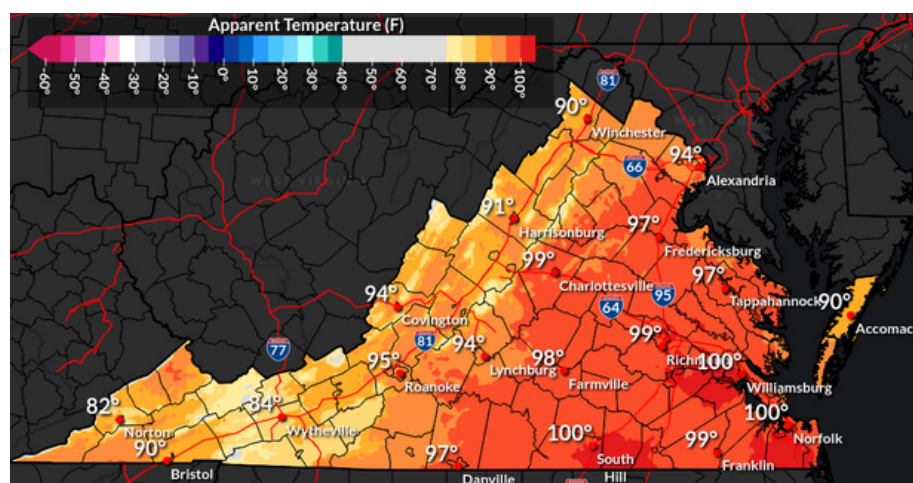
- Respiratory illness activity in Virginia is minimal but trending up.
- Rapid AI development is increasingly raising concerns, including dire warnings from AI company staff and officials.
- Today is the 25th anniversary of the 9.11.2001 attacks, directly impacting New York, Virginia and Pennsylvania. The Governor's Office ordered flags at half-staff to commemorate victims and first responders.

Key Figures



Virginia's Drought Monitoring Task Force returned the Big Sandy Drought Evaluation Region in Southwest Virginia to 'normal conditions' - the first normal status region since Apr 16. Roanoke remains in drought emergency status, and groundwater levels are in emergency status in 8 other regions. Image Source: DEQ DMTF

Max Heat Index, Fri 11 AM to Mon 11 AM



The heat index will remain elevated in much of the state this weekend, including hitting 100°F in some spots. Image Source: NWS

Ebola

7,108

Suspected, probable and confirmed Ebola cases reported as of Sep 7.

3,270

Probable and confirmed Ebola deaths reported as of Sep 9.

Measles

160

New measles cases reported nationally in the past week.

Drought

35%

The share of Virginia's land mass remaining in drought status as of Sep 8.

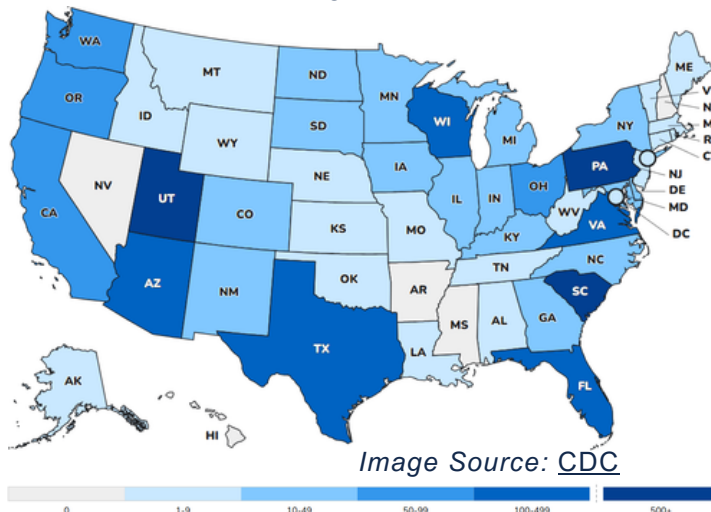
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Ongoing Monitored Situations

Measles

- **Nationally**, the CDC reported 3,294 year-to-date cases across 47 jurisdictions. Pennsylvania added 80 cases last week, Wisconsin added 45 and New York added 11. No other state added more than 7. The CDC still reports 0 measles deaths in 2026.
- The CDC estimates that 2.6% of US children under 18 have an **immunosuppressive condition**, based on insurance claims from 2012-2017. 6.2% of US adults age 18-64 are also immunosuppressed. Measles outbreaks are complicating decisions about **return to school** for parents of these children, and for adult college students.

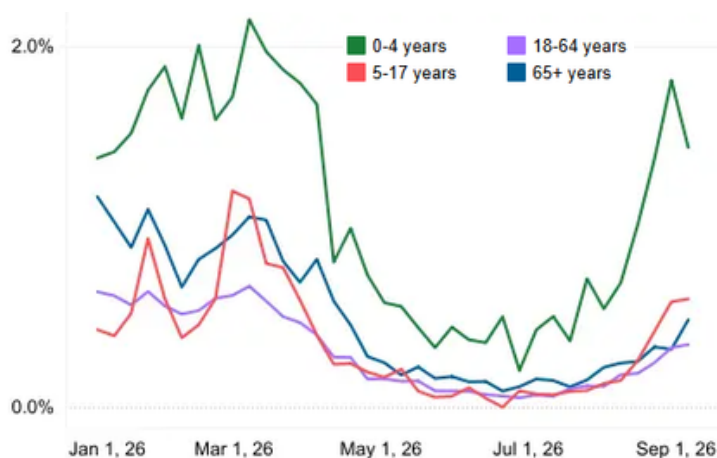
Measles Cases 2026
Among Residents



Seasonal Illness

- **Virginia's** overall respiratory illness activity is **still minimal and trending up**. Respiratory illness accounted for 9.5% of ED visits for the week ending Sep 5, up from 8.5% the prior week.

ED Visit Share for Diagnosed COVID-19
Virginia



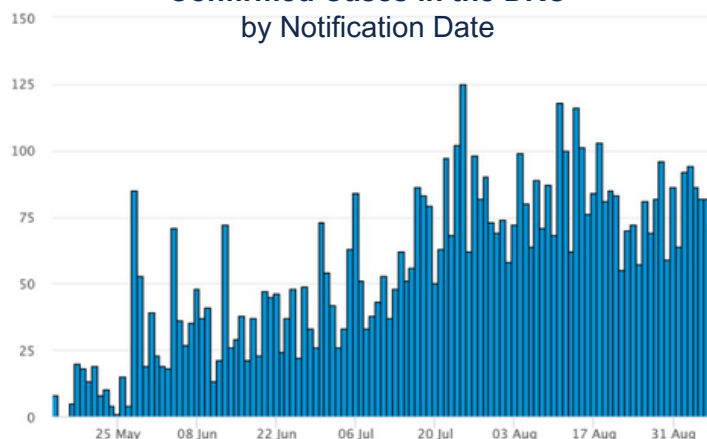
The share of diagnosed COVID-19 at ED visits in Virginia has increased among all age groups over the past several weeks.

Image Source: [VDH](#)

Ebola

- **WHO** officials estimate the **response needs an additional 5,000 health workers** to staff an additional 1,600 beds in the DRC. Currently, there are 1,400 treatment beds and 4,000 health workers across 59 treatment centers. The number of international organizations able to run clinics is also reduced due to earlier **global donor** funding cuts.

Confirmed Cases in the DRC
by Notification Date



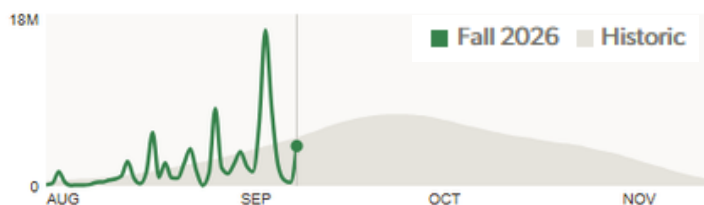
The number of confirmed cases has flattened in the DRC. However, the outbreak continues to expand geographically, affecting 61 health zones across 6 provinces. Response teams are monitoring almost 25,000 contacts, with an 85% success rate.

Image Source: [WHO](#)

Other News

- The Towns of Purcellville and Quantico issued **boil water advisories** after main water line breaks in separate incidents. Quantico's break occurred on the Marine Corps Base, but also affected the on-base town for civilians. Repairs are complete, but testing continues following the loss of pressure.
- Florida is experiencing an 'unusual increase' in **locally-acquired dengue cases** centered in Tampa Bay. 111 cases have been reported and 1 death is under investigation. 16 mosquito pools across 6 counties have tested positive for dengue.
- Drought caused some European countries to **shut down significant shares of power generation** in August. Reduced nuclear plant operations and shutdowns caused Hungary to lose 40% of its capacity, France over 33%, and Romania 20%. Nuclear plants generate 28% of Virginia's power.

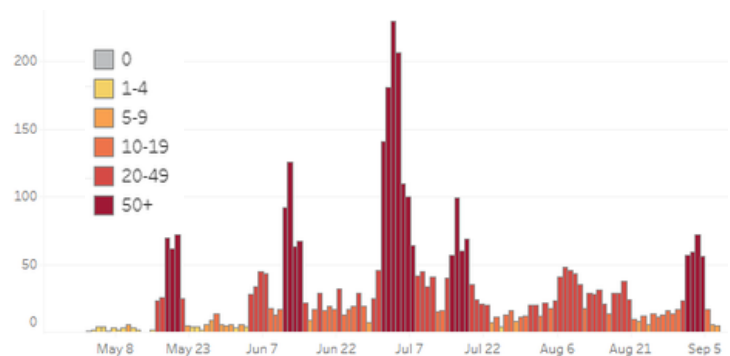
Birds in Flight, Virginia



Migration over the Atlantic Flyway is increasing, with the peak expected in late September. Wild bird migration may be associated with avian influenza dispersion. However, HPAI A(H5N1) has only been detected in 14 poultry flocks nationally in the past 30 days. Image Source: BirdCast

- 6 cases of airport malaria were reported in **Frankfurt, Germany**. 2 airport workers died. Investigators suspect mosquitoes were transported on a flight from an endemic area. A 2024 review identified 105 airport malaria cases in Europe since 1969. The US has no documented cases.
- A cargo plane overshot its runway in Miami, **striking several cars on a nearby road**. 5 people were killed and 5 injured, all of whom were on the ground.

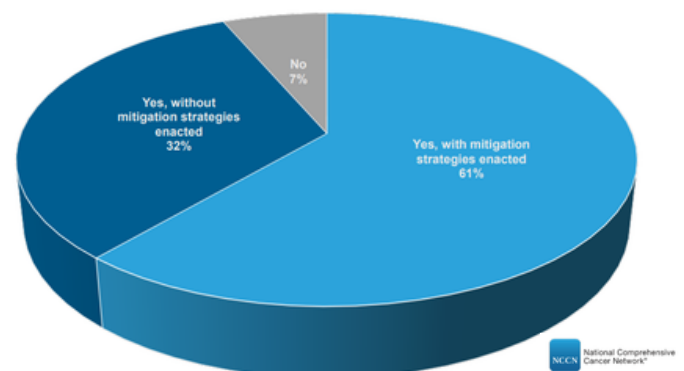
Heat-related Illness in Virginia, 2026 May 1 - Sep 7



Virginia recorded 301 Heat-related Illness visits for the week ending Sep 5. That number includes players, a coach, and multiple fans at a Richmond high school football game. Image Source: VDH

- An Anthropic researcher **caused waves** when he warned AI companies are '**gambling with our lives**' in a resignation statement. In response, an Anthropic safety lead gave a >10% chance that AI could '**kill all humans**' within the next decade. His post was shared by other AI researchers. Meanwhile, OpenAI's Chief Scientist claimed that AI companies cannot '**continue responsibly scaling at maximum speed much longer**' and a new member of Open AI's Safety and Security Committee noted the '**meaningful risk**' of '**catastrophic and irreversible loss of control in the very near term.**'

Cancer Center Drug Adequacy



All 31 cancer centers in a recent survey reported shortages of at least 1 drug, 27 reported shortages of 2 or more drugs. 7% report not being able to meet patient needs. Image Source: NCCN