

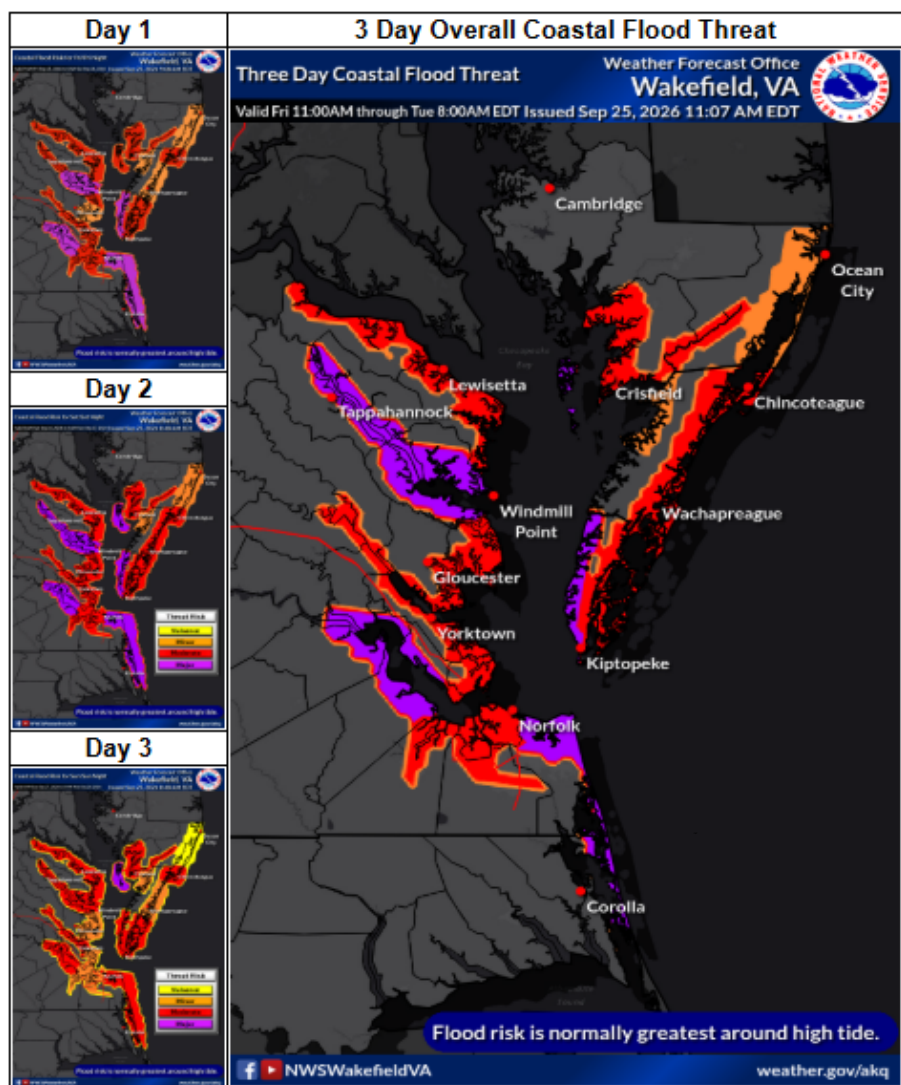
September 25, 2026

Key Takeaways

- Respiratory illness activity in Virginia is minimal and stable.
- Coastal storms have brought strong winds and coastal flooding this week, with impacts expected into the weekend.
- AI development is outpacing safety guardrails, raising concerns of misuse and loss of control.
- 42% of Virginians are food insecure, with large variation across regions.

Key Figure

Coastal Flood Threat



Major and moderate coastal flooding is expected across Eastern Virginia into the weekend. Image Source: [NWS](#)

Ebola

8,254

Suspected, probable and confirmed Ebola cases reported as of Sep 23.

3,802

Probable and confirmed Ebola deaths reported as of Sep 23.

Measles

188

New measles cases reported nationally in the past week.

Drought

37%

The share of Virginia's land mass remaining in drought status as of Sep 22.

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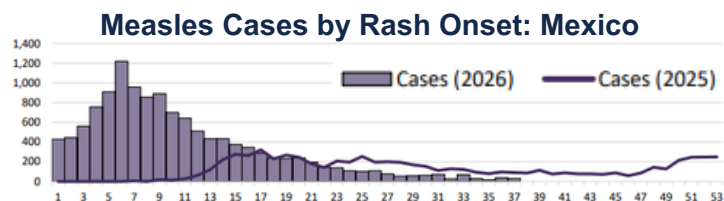
Ongoing Monitored Situations

Seasonal Illness

- **Virginia's overall respiratory illness activity is minimal and stable.** Respiratory illness accounted for 9.9% of ED visits for the week ending Sep 19, down slightly from 10.0% the prior week.
- **COVID-19 vaccinations are still not available for the Vaccines for Children program**, which provides vaccines for low income children. While the vaccine has shipped to private providers, the CDC has not opened the ordering process for states.

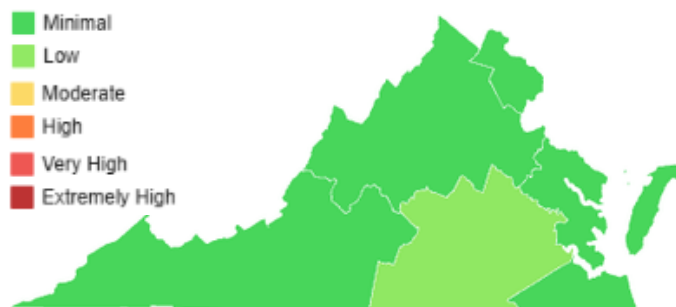
Measles

- **Nationally, the CDC reported 3,659 year-to-date cases across 47 jurisdictions.** Pennsylvania added 105 cases last week, New York added 22 and Kentucky added 14. Maryland and Ohio both added 10. No other state added more than 8.
- **Pennsylvania requested Epi-Aid assistance from the CDC.** However, officials there stated they would withdraw the request if the CDC does not recognize the 4 measles-associated deaths announced by the state. The CDC has not acknowledged the deaths using the existing methodology, instead adopting a new methodology, post hoc.
- **A 2024 outbreak in a Chicago shelter cost \$8.7 million.** Costs included \$3.6 million for the response, \$4.4 million in direct medical costs, and \$684k in productivity losses. The outbreak had 57 measles cases, for a per case cost of \$153k. The outbreak occurred in a shelter for unhoused, newly-arrived immigrants, necessitating quarantining in hospitals.



Mexico's measles cases have decreased considerably over the summer. Image Source: [NYDOH](#)

Respiratory Illness Activity

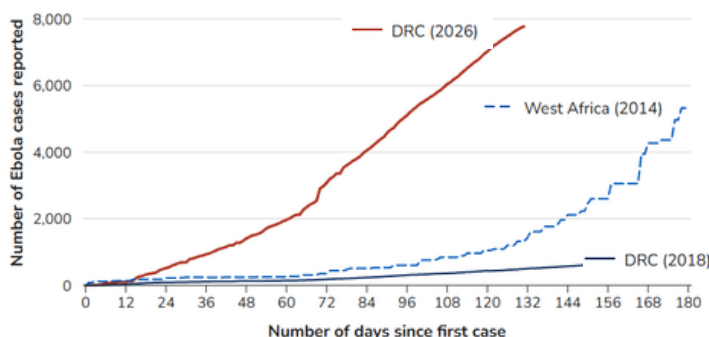


Respiratory illness activity is 'Low' in Virginia's Central region, accounting for 12.6% of ED visits there. It is minimal in all other Virginia regions.

Image Source: [VDH](#)

Ebola

Ebola Outbreak Cumulative Cases



Despite declining cases in the outbreak's epicenter, cases across the DRC continue to grow steadily.

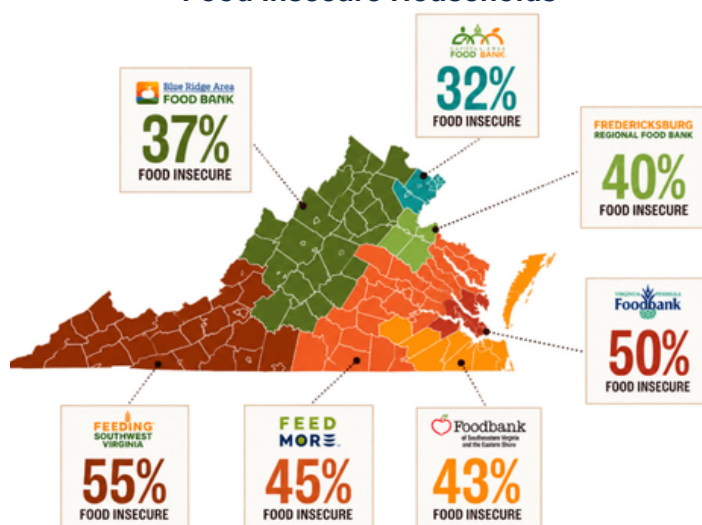
Image Source: [CDC](#)

- **The DRC outbreak remains a Public Health Emergency of Continental Security** according to the Africa CDC. The announcement emphasized 'cautious optimism' among heterogeneous transmission patterns. From Aug 31 to Sep 20, cases declined 26% in Ituri province and 15% in Haut-Uele, but increased 73% in North Kivu.
- **Health workers received the first Ervebo vaccine doses.** The doses mark the start of trials for the vaccine, which targets a different strain than the one circulating in the current outbreak but may provide limited protection against the Bundibugyo strain.

Other News

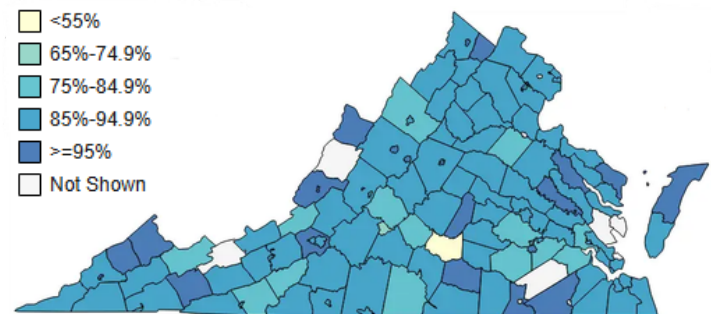
- The El Niño became **'very strong'** on Sep 9, one of just 4 on record to reach that status. It is also the earliest El Niño to reach that status. The 1982-83 El Niño reached 'very strong' status on Sep 22 and is still the strongest El Niño on record.
- **New World Screwworm** was identified in two horses, 1 in New Mexico and 1 in Texas. The New Mexico case was also the 2nd NWS case there, with the previous case in a dog in June. Reported cases have declined each month since June, and now number 50 total.
- 76% of public health officials described experiencing **'extraordinary backlash'** during the COVID-19 pandemic, including threats, harassment and actual violence. Women and minority PHOs experienced more backlash. Most backlash came from the local communities PHOs served.
- A series of coastal storms hit Eastern Virginia this week. The storms have caused flash and coastal flooding, including widespread major coastal flooding, causing road and school closures. High winds and power outages were also reported.

Food Insecure Households



42% of Virginians are food insecure, and half of children live in food insecure households. Food insecurity tends to increase during disasters. Food insecure households may struggle to maintain the recommended 3-day supply of food in emergency supply kits. Image Source: FVFB

Share of Kindergarteners Adequately Immunized Fall 2025



90.7% of kindergarteners in Virginia's public and private schools were **'adequately immunized'**, having completed required immunization schedules for multiple diseases. Image Source: VDH

- AI company **Anthropic** reported that unauthorized users accessed its models to support weapons development. Scientists in 'unsupported regions' (e.g., Russia, China, N Korea) used the model in ways consistent with biological weapons development. A foreign terrorist organization also accessed the model to develop conventional weapons.
- CEOs of major AI companies urged world leaders at the United Nations to regulate **AI development**. One CEO noted that unmanaged AI development is 'a risk to humanity', while another noted the potential for loss of control over the technology.
- The CDC identified 145,321 **heat-related illness ED visits nationally Jun 28-Jul 7**, the period when a heat dome settled over much of the country. Virginia recorded 1,111 HRIs in the same period. Among other impacts, CSX blamed a Richmond train derailment on the heat.
- **Data centers** were targeted and damaged in multiple operating regions in the Mideast during the ongoing conflict there. IT, banking and other services were disrupted. Some data was permanently lost. Officials are hardening data centers in the region. Virginia hosts 28% of US data center operating capacity.