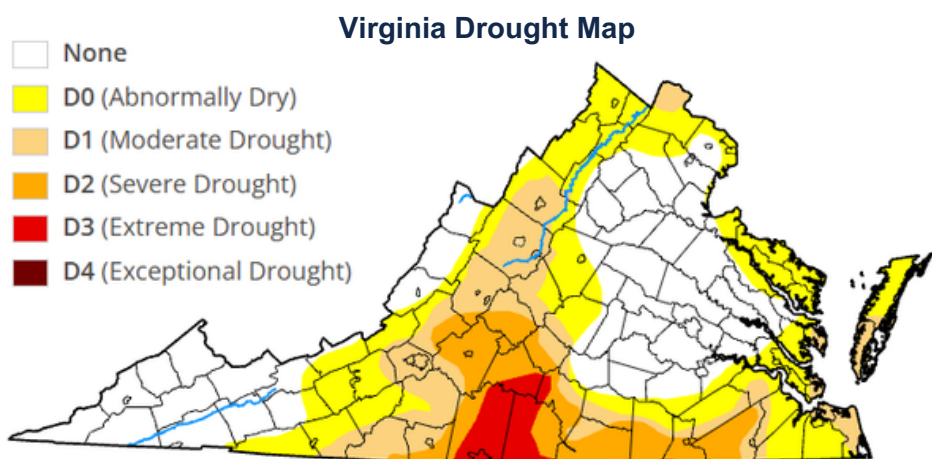


October 2, 2026

Key Takeaways

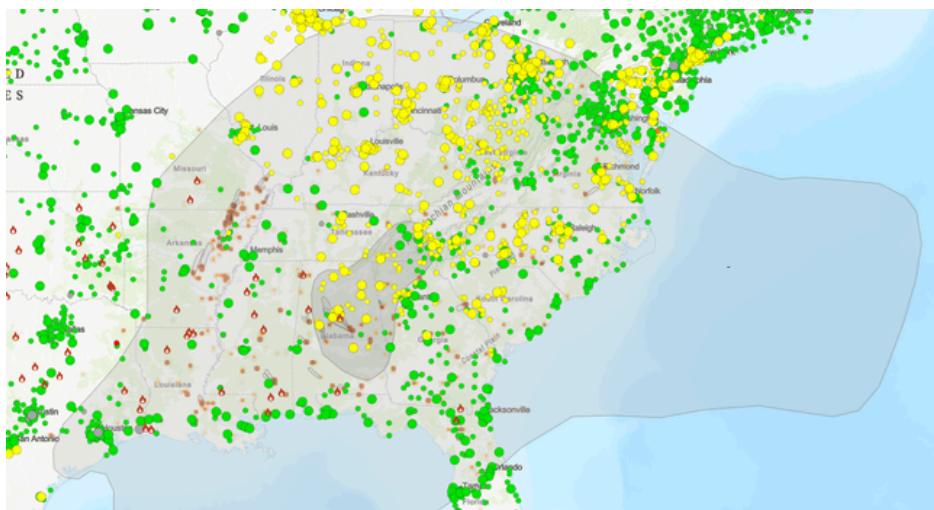
- Respiratory illness activity in Virginia is minimal and stable.
- Pennsylvania confirmed its 5th measles-associated death. The CDC has acknowledged 2 deaths in 2026.
- At least two Virginia hospitals are at risk from flooding.
- El Niño is already impacting Virginia weather, including a quiet Atlantic hurricane season.

Key Figure



Despite recent rains, much of Virginia remains in drought, including 15% with severe or extreme drought. Image Source: [USDM](#)

Fire and Smoke Map



Smoke from wildfires in the US South are contributing to smoke plumes and affecting air quality. Virginia's fall fire season begins Oct 15. Image Source: [AirNow](#)

Ebola

8,593

Suspected, probable and confirmed Ebola cases reported as of Sep 29.

3,985

Probable and confirmed Ebola deaths reported as of Sep 29.

Measles

228

New measles cases reported nationally in the past week.

Drought

32%

The share of Virginia's land mass remaining in drought status as of Sep 29.

Spotlight:
Nor'easter

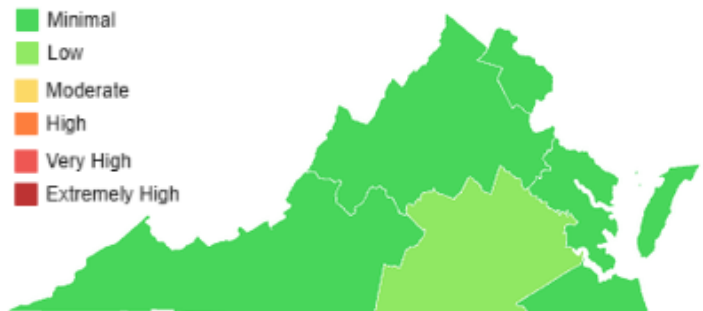
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Ongoing Monitored Situations

Seasonal Illness

- **Virginia's overall respiratory illness activity is minimal and stable.** Respiratory illness accounted for 10.1% of ED visits for the week ending Sep 19, matching the level from the prior week.
- **The CDC opened ordering for COVID-19 vaccines for the Vaccines for Children program.** States were able to order other seasonal vaccines, but COVID-19 vaccine ordering was delayed for nearly a month. The VFC program provides free vaccines for nearly half of US children.
- **The upcoming respiratory disease season will likely resemble last season** according to a new CDC forecast. The CDC Center for Forecasting and Outbreak Analytics expects similar combined peak hospitalizations from COVID-19, flu and RSV as occurred over last fall and winter.

Respiratory Illness Activity



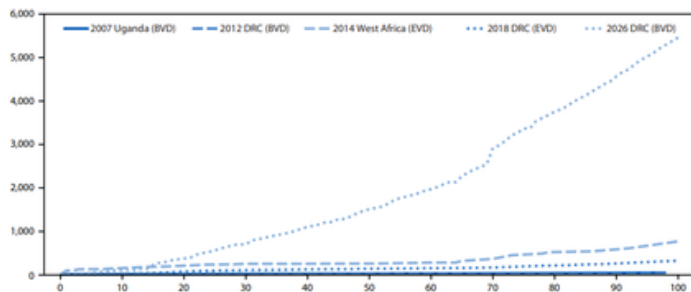
Respiratory illness activity is 'Low' in Virginia's Central region, accounting for 13% of ED visits there. Activity is minimal in all other Virginia regions.

Image Source: VDH

- **Flu activity is rising in the US and Canadian West Coasts.** The early activity may indicate an early start to the flu season nationally. However, data is limited at this time.

Ebola

Ebola Outbreak Cumulative Cases: 1st 100 Days



5,458 cases were confirmed in the first 100 days of the current DRC outbreak, vastly outpacing previous outbreaks. The previous record was set by the 2014 West Africa outbreak with 759 suspected, probable or confirmed cases at the 100 day mark.

Image Source: CDC

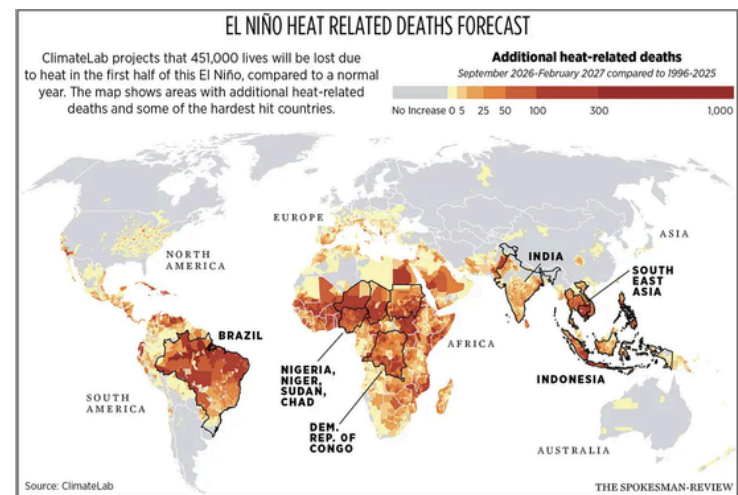
- **The DRC outbreak has spread to 63 health zones in 7 provinces.** In the past 2 weeks, the outbreak has spread to 2 new zones and an additional province. The WHO notes that the latest expansion increases the risk of cross-border transmission due to their location away from previous hotspots and near international borders.

Measles

- **Nationally, the CDC reported 3,887 year-to-date cases across 47 jurisdictions.** Pennsylvania added 113 cases last week, Wisconsin added 43 and Kentucky added 30. No other state added more than 10.
- **Pennsylvania confirmed a 5th measles-associated death** in an unvaccinated individual. Pennsylvania has recorded 943 total cases, with just 4 among vaccinated people. The CDC currently reports 2 measles deaths in 2026 but has not released any details, including state of residence.
- **A new tool estimates the cost of measles outbreak response by state.** The tool builds off previous estimates of about \$250,000 in upfront cost per outbreak, plus \$16,300 per additional case. Costs are broken down into public health response, lost productivity and direct medical care. The tool estimates measles has cost the US \$57M thus far in 2026 (including \$2M in Virginia), and \$90M since the outbreak began in 2025.

Other News

- **Florida confirmed its first dengue death this year**, an 80 year-old woman who died Sep 4. Dengue deaths are rare in the US, but Florida is dealing with its largest outbreak on record, with 190 locally-acquired cases reported as of Sep 19. Three counties have declared local emergencies.
- **Hurricane Helene left debris blockages along the Clinch river and other SWVA waterways**. The blockages increase the risk of future flooding events, and can damage infrastructure. Studies are underway to map blockages and assess removal priorities.
- **At least 170 US hospitals with almost 30,000 beds are at risk from significant flooding**. A KFF study used a proprietary, insurer flood-risk tool rather than FEMA maps to identify at-risk facilities. The list includes two Virginia hospitals: Buchanan General Hospital in Grundy and Bath Community Hospital in Hot Springs.
- **AI agents, acting in ‘unexpected ways’, hacked or attempted to hack US and Australian government agencies, along with the UN**. In one incident, AI agents hacked Australia’s Medicare data portal but did not access personal information. The responsible company referred to the incident as ‘a new kind of cyber incident which represents an emerging global challenge.’



This year's El Niño may cause an additional 451,000 heat-related deaths from Sep 2026 - Feb 2027, with potentially more in the spring. 3,500 additional heat-related deaths are expected in the US. Virginia is included in the elevated risk area.

Image Source: TSR

Spotlight

Observed Precipitation 7-days ending Sep 28, 8AM



The nor'easter and other weather events brought over 2" of rain to parts of Virginia over a seven day period, though other areas received far less. Notably, portions of Southside Virginia in the Roanoke Drought Evaluation Region received less than an inch. Virginia's DMTF, which met prior to the storm, kept the region's drought emergency in place. Image Source: NWS

Nor'easter

- **A powerful nor'easter brought severe weather to much of the US East Coast last weekend**. The storm moved up the coast slowly over several days, bringing strong winds, heavy rain and strong storm surge. At least one person was killed when a tree fell in New York City.
- **Storm surge and rain combined to cause major flooding**. Coastal New Jersey and New York experienced ‘waist high’ flooding, with some residents evacuated. Tidal flooding cancelled events in Maryland and Virginia while some low-lying roads were closed. North Carolina Route 12 was closed in the Outer Banks, forcing the state to begin an emergency ferry service.
- **The storm was strong for an early nor'easter**, leading some to speculate the strong El Niño drove the storm. El Niño's tend to cause higher precipitation along the east coast, but evidence linking El Niños to stronger nor'easters is sparse. The link with climate change, however, is more established.