

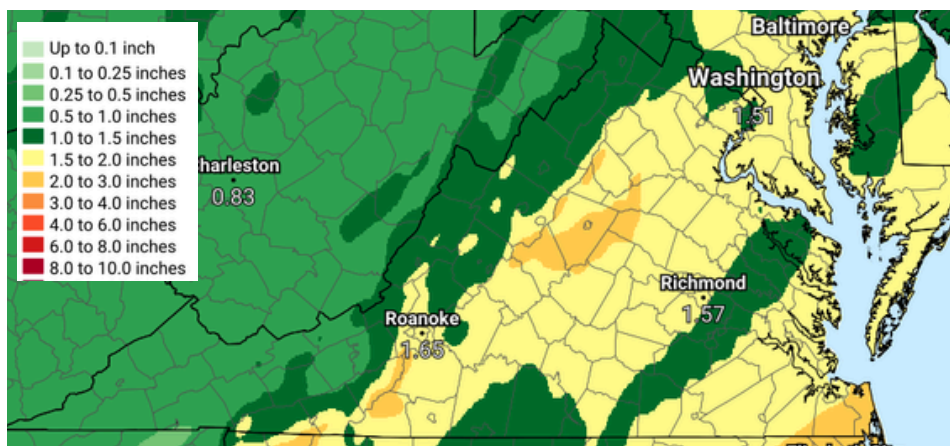
October 9, 2026

Key Takeaways

- Respiratory illness activity in Virginia is low and stable.
- Remnants of Hurricane Isaias will affect Virginia this weekend. Follow local weather stations for the latest forecasts and alerts.
- The Governor's Office convened Virginia's first Unified Readiness Summit.
- A lack of transparency has allowed speculation surrounding a Russian lab worker's death to persist.

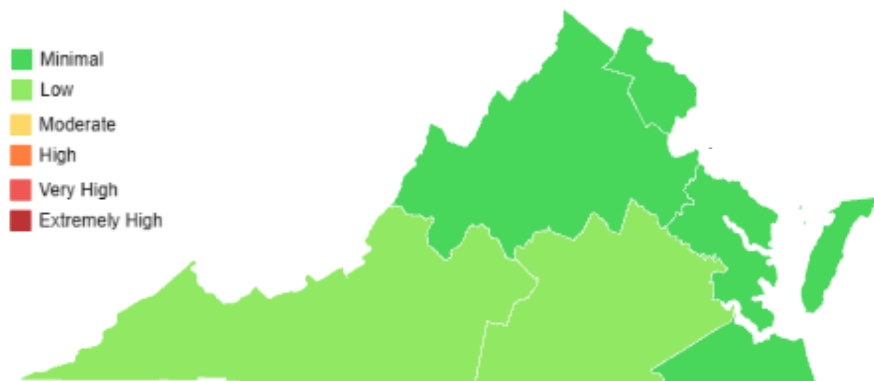
Key Figures

Hurricane Isaias Rainfall Forecast



Hurricane Isaias has formed in the Gulf, the first hurricane of the 2026 Atlantic season. As its remnants move inland rain and wind, along with marginal risks of flash flooding and severe weather, will affect Virginia over the weekend. Image Source: [NHC](#)

Respiratory Illness Activity



Respiratory disease activity is low in Virginia's Southwest and Central Regions, and minimal in Eastern, Northern and Northwest Regions
Image Source: [VDH](#)

Measles

193

New measles cases reported nationally in the past week.

Drought

34%

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

Seasonal Illness

Low

Overall respiratory illness activity in Virginia.

Key Dates

Oct 15

Virginia's fall fire season begins.

Oct 17

Nationwide free speech events planned.

Nov 3

Nationwide general elections.

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Ongoing Monitored Situations

Seasonal Illness

- **Virginia's** overall respiratory illness activity was updated to low but remains stable. Respiratory illness accounted for 10.4% of ED visits for the week ending Oct 13, up from 10.3% the prior week.
- Analysts suggest flu season may **begin early this fall**. Test positivity is high for this time of year, and flu activity is growing (44) or likely growing (3) in 47 states and Washington DC.

Measles

- **Nationally**, the CDC reported **4,080 year-to-date cases across 47 jurisdictions**. Pennsylvania added 142 cases last week, New York added 19 and Iowa added 17. No other state added more than 3. The CDC still reports 2 deaths.
- **Pennsylvania's outbreak topped 1,000 cases**, reaching 1,105, the highest count for any state in 35 years. Pennsylvania now accounts for over a quarter of the US' 2026 cases. By comparison, South Carolina's 2025-26 outbreak had 997 total cases. Texas' 2025 outbreak had 762.
- **New York declared an emergency due to the ongoing measles outbreak**. In addition to the state's 108 cases, the declaration cited the Pennsylvania outbreak, which is affecting some counties bordering New York. It is the first state declaration since cases began surging in 2025.

Measles Cases, 2026

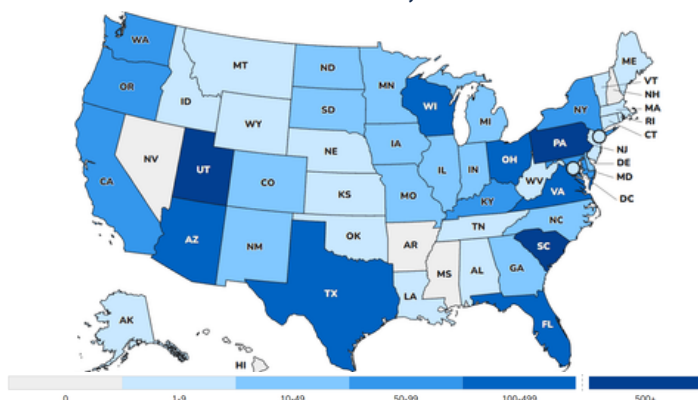
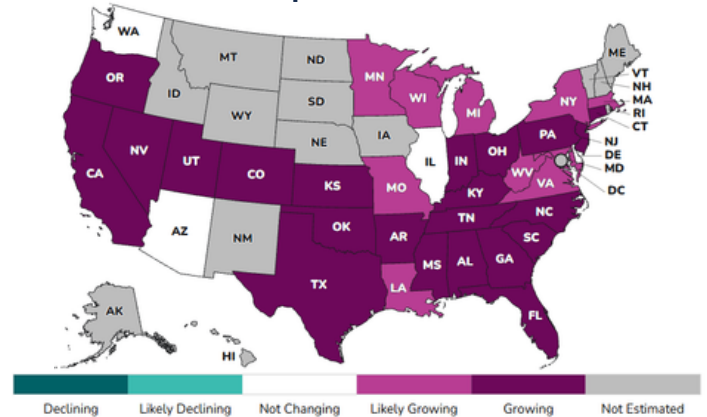


Image Source: [CDC](#)

RSV Epidemic Trend



In addition to flu, RSV activity is growing or likely growing in most US states.

Image Source: [CDC](#)

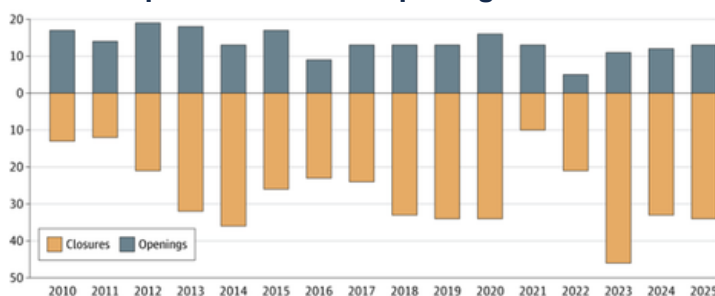
Ebola

- **Kenya confirmed its first Ebola case and death**. The patient was ill for a month before traveling by road to Uganda and taking a flight to Nairobi. It is unclear how he got through health screenings. 10 people are in quarantine, and officials are tracing 57 other contacts.
- **The WHO reports 9,245 confirmed, probable and suspected cases across 4 countries**. 4,209 people have died, for a case fatality rate of 48%. One humanitarian worker was medically evacuated to the Netherlands. Numbers have been declining, but Africa CDC officials cautioned that this may be partly due to underreporting.
- **Conflict, distrust and response team strikes continue to hamper the response**. Soldiers searching for weapons burned a camp with a transit center for infected patients. 19,000 people fled. A local politician was killed after urging Ebola prevention measures on a radio broadcast. Some response workers have not been paid for months.
- **The CDC is closing offices in Angola and South Sudan, both of which border the DRC**. CDC offices in 4 other border countries are not affected. The US' health policy stance, intended to wean countries off US assistance and prevent case importation, are a shift from previous heavy US involvement in Ebola outbreak response.

Other News

- The FDA concluded its investigation of the Cyclosporiasis outbreak linked to iceberg lettuce on Oct 2. The outbreak ended Sep 11. The FDA detected *Cyclospora* at two farms that provided recalled lettuce distributed by Taylor Fresh Foods.
- The death of a Russian lab worker from pneumonia has raised concerns. The patient worked in an anti-plague research facility. Despite official reassurances, Russia's lack of transparency and history of bioweapons research has allowed weakly sourced rumors to persist. The WHO noted it cannot make a full risk assessment without more information, while CDC's director stated the risk to the US is 'extremely low'.

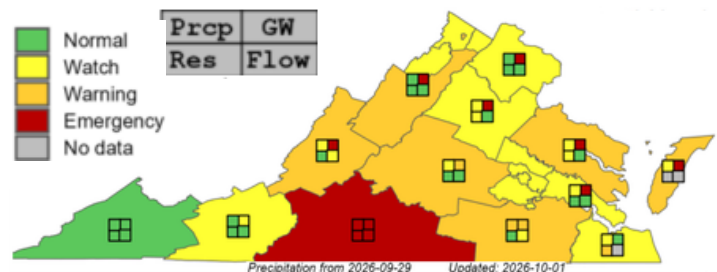
Hospital Closures & Openings in the US



From 2011 to 2025, twice as many hospitals closed (432) as opened (216) in the US, for a net loss of 216 hospitals and 24,399 beds. Safety net, non-teaching, smaller and for-profit hospitals are more likely to close. Closure rates did not differ between urban and rural hospitals, but new hospitals are more likely to open in urban areas. Image Source: [JAMA](#)

- Virginia's Unified Readiness Summit brought together 1,000 state and community leaders, representing 30 sectors, to enhance preparedness and resilience. The summit discussed solutions to challenges raised at 7 Regional Readiness Summits. The first-of-its-kind summit supports collaboration among sectors and leadership before a disaster occurs.
- The share of Virginia's homeless students living in hotels or motels increased from 15.9% to 21.5% over a 4-year period. Hotels are an option for families with some income, but with poor credit, lack of savings, or other impediments to securing long-term housing.

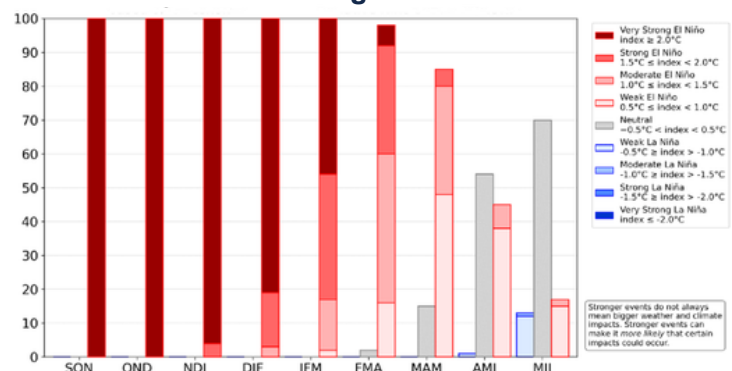
Drought Summary, As of Sept 29



The DEQ de-escalated drought warnings to drought watch advisories in the Northern Piedmont and Northern Virginia evaluation regions, and part of the Shenandoah region, covering 23 localities. However, drought warnings remain in place for all or part of 6 regions and the Roanoke region remains in a drought emergency. Only the Big Sandy region is in normal status. Image Source: [DEQ](#)

- Recent incidents in Europe and the Mideast highlight ongoing hybrid warfare and terrorism threats. A complex attack targeting an UK air base housing US military aircraft was foiled when locals reported suspicious vehicles. 2 men were also arrested at another UK base housing US and NATO intelligence operations. In the Mideast, passengers and flight crew prevented a pilot from intentionally crashing an Israel-bound flight from Dubai.

El Niño Strength Probabilities



The El Niño is likely to remain very strong into February, and may persist well into spring. Virginia lies in between historic effect areas, making the impact from any particular event on the state difficult to forecast. Image Source: [NWS](#)