



The Ministry of Health,
Wellness and Social
Services

Dominica
Meteorological
Service

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Dominica Health-Climatic Bulletin

The Dominica Health-Climatic Bulletin offers an integrated overview of recent climate conditions, a three-month climate outlook and the potential health implications for the upcoming three-month period. Produced jointly by the Dominica Meteorological Service and the Ministry of Health, Wellness and Social Services, the bulletin aims to inform and support the people of Dominica in managing climate-related health risks.

LOOKING BACK (MAY TO JULY 2026) HEALTH RECAP

- **Dengue:** During the reporting period, one hundred and twenty-one (121) suspected cases of dengue were reported, of which three (3) were laboratory-confirmed. Of the confirmed cases, two (2) were identified as dengue virus serotype 3 (DENV-3) and one (1) as serotype 2 (DENV-2). Dengue remained an important climate-sensitive concern island-wide as Dominica's wet season brought warmer, more humid conditions ideal for *Aedes aegypti* breeding.
- **Leptospirosis:** Four (4) suspected cases and an additional two (2) laboratory-confirmed cases of leptospirosis were reported. The risk of exposure to contaminated water and soil across the island increased as rainfall and flooding events increased. The introduction of in-country real-time PCR testing has strengthened the island's capacity for early detection and response.
- In May, a national health workshop brought together Dominica's health, agriculture and environmental sectors to strengthen preparedness for zoonotic diseases.
- **Saharan Dust:** Respiratory health concerns, particularly for people with asthma and other respiratory conditions, increased. Residents are encouraged to monitor advisories and take protective measures.



Saharan Dust Episode (June 1, 2026) north of Dominica
Photo Credit: Keshia Dubique

- **Heat:** Heat-related illness and injuries remained key health risks for vulnerable communities.

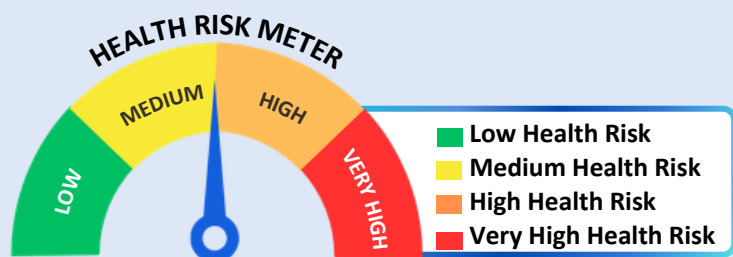
LOOKING BACK (MAY TO JULY 2026) CLIMATE RECAP

- **Rainfall:** The island transitioned into the wet season, but rainfall accumulations were below average. Totals ranged from 500–1200mm in the central elevated regions, 300–500mm in northern communities and 100–300mm elsewhere. Three significant dry spells occurred, with the longest lasting 18 days across western to southern areas.
- **Temperatures:** Generally warm, with 19 hot days recorded on the west coast ($\geq 32.9^{\circ}\text{C}$) and 5 on the east coast ($\geq 31.5^{\circ}\text{C}$). Nights were occasionally warm with 25–28 nights when temperatures were $\geq 25.0^{\circ}\text{C}$ on the west and $\geq 25.7^{\circ}\text{C}$ on the east. These increased into July particularly during high Saharan dust events.
- **Saharan Dust:** Significant dust intrusions resulted in periods of moderate to poor air quality across Dominica.
- **Hurricane Season:** Activity remained below normal, with two named storms recorded by the end of July (Arthur and Bertha).

CURRENT SEASONAL OUTLOOK SEPTEMBER TO NOVEMBER 2026

- **Rainfall:** Less than usual totals expected (*High Confidence*). Typical totals ~400–1000mm, higher in elevated areas.
- **Wet Days:** ~38–68 possible.
- **Flash Flood Potential:** Extremely high. At least 5 to 9 excessive rainfall events are possible (at least 30mm in 24 hours).
- **Drought:** Drought conditions likely by the end of November.
- **Temperatures:** Expected to be warmer than usual for the season (*High Confidence*). Usual: Highs ~31–33°C, Lows ~23–24°C. Chances of heat impacts are moderate during hot spells.
- **Saharan Dust:** Episodes possible during the season.

What are the Health Implications for September to November 2026?



The Health Risk Meter provides an indication of the potential level of health risk associated with the three-month climate outlook. Respiratory illness, gastrointestinal illness, vector-borne illness, non-communicable diseases, and well-being and mental health are colour coded to indicate your potential exposure to these health risks.

RESPIRATORY ILLNESS

Advisory: Extremely high flash flood potential raises the risks of mold growth, worsening asthma and allergies. Cooler nights and Saharan dust episodes may trigger respiratory infections and flare-ups.

Preventive Measures: Practice good hand hygiene, keep indoor areas clean and well ventilated, limit outdoor activity during dusty conditions, wear a mask when needed and avoid close contact with sick individuals. Seek early medical attention to reduce illness burden.

VECTOR-BORNE ILLNESS

Advisory: Increased rainfall, even when the overall season is below normal, can create temporary mosquito breeding sites.

Preventive Measures: Maintain enhanced surveillance for dengue and other mosquito-borne diseases. Remove stagnant water, cover water storage containers and use mosquito repellents and protective clothing.

GASTROINTESTINAL ILLNESS

Advisory: An increase in gastroenteritis cases is possible due to contamination of water sources during periods of heavy rainfall and flash flooding.

Preventive Measures: Boil and treat drinking water, practice hand hygiene, sanitize surfaces and properly dispose of garbage.

NON-COMMUNICABLE DISEASES (NCDs)

Advisory: Warmer than usual temperatures and frequent hot spells increase risks of heat stress and dehydration.

Preventive Measures: Stay hydrated and rest in shaded areas. Limit outdoor activities during peak heat hours. Monitor children, the elderly and ill persons for heat stress.

WELL-BEING AND MENTAL HEALTH

Advisory: Temperatures reaching approximately 31–33°C increase the risk of heat-related illness during the hottest part of the day.

Preventive Measures: Stay hydrated. Limit strenuous outdoor activities during the hottest part of the day. Provide additional protection for older persons, children, outdoor workers, and persons with chronic illnesses.

We welcome your feedback, questions or comments regarding this Bulletin.

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For more climate information
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Your Health is Your Responsibility

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DISCLAIMER

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