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| February 18, 2021 |

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| **[COVID 19 UPDATE - VIRGINIA NEWS](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fboard%2Fcontent%2Fenterprise%2Fvccscovid19update%2Ftag%2F4b9f3c4c-42b4-42bf-9934-1de381779cfa&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C2d40c98c0561471ade7508d8d4482492%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637492753605090601%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=QYGehgL3m6p4WEEjE%2F3yHcl73KsURhOlaZqRsj2WYCI%3D&reserved=0" \t "_blank)** |  |

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| [**Virginia Employment Commission**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2FFy3VJ11srJ7WiTPM6nbL06kpPr28ZRWFGN1T1qh7ocA%3D_177b6b3a8d7%3A2c9e49%3A53c1fe62&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C2d40c98c0561471ade7508d8d4482492%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637492753605170553%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=%2BoNMHqNJ5%2Fl1t1HCozhzOTOX2OnX0jSo%2FvRLO8T76Pg%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| [Virginia](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.vec.virginia.gov%2FUI-press-release&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C2d40c98c0561471ade7508d8d4482492%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637492753605180545%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=K%2FtaSUrkRK9pVnQBFIFyFenRh4sQZ0O0liD2SxG1cp4%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| * RICHMOND—The Virginia Employment Commission (VEC) announced that the number of continued claims filed during the February 13 filing week continued its three-month trend of small weekly changes, according to figures released today.
* For the filing week ending February 13, the figure for seasonally unadjusted initial claims in Virginia was 14,901.
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| [**Added COVID-19 testing on the way with $1.6 billion in federal money**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2Fs9CTgOD2rBeTJKl68FD0GbsxW6yVPw0NK2yeedQsWnQ%3D_177b60762a9%3A22520a%3Ace9e1be4&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C2d40c98c0561471ade7508d8d4482492%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637492753605180545%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=OceVPb8Rw1aIJUu2YfmnQL8XgQG5zMzF0oa4%2Bq5bW1A%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| [Virginia Mercury](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.virginiamercury.com%2F2021%2F02%2F18%2Fadded-covid-19-testing-on-the-way-with-1-6-billion-in-federal-money%2F&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C2d40c98c0561471ade7508d8d4482492%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637492753605190541%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=9vvU3w%2FaMCp2Eind7tATpY5eGyEHz%2BF1PH8Zgzpx2Xc%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| * WASHINGTON — The Biden administration is directing $1.6 billion to bolster COVID-19 testing nationally, including money to expand testing in schools and homeless shelters, boost supplies needed for testing and analyze results to more quickly identify new strains of the virus.
* Dr. Anthony Fauci, an infectious disease expert at the National Institutes for Health and a top Biden adviser, reiterated Wednesday that the administration believes teachers should be prioritized for receiving vaccines, but that reopening schools for in-person classes does not need to wait until every teacher has been vaccinated.
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| [**Nonprofit Retraining Initiative Reaches 1,300 Enrolled**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2Fs9CTgOD2rBeTJKl68FD0GbsxW6yVPw0NK2yeedQsWnQ%3D_177b5efac96%3A206244%3Acf1bdd44&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C2d40c98c0561471ade7508d8d4482492%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637492753605190541%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=x%2BuUwScwVCb4XrJrNTWOl%2BIVz%2BLKnRBRpeRtY2fHObY%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| [Daily News-Record](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.dnronline.com%2Fnews%2Flocal%2Fnonprofit-retraining-initiative-reaches-1-300-enrolled%2Farticle_a09cb679-8906-5782-ab5e-eee6c13c2504.html&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C2d40c98c0561471ade7508d8d4482492%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637492753605200534%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=8vzUwh%2FbageSmSe6EtH8IXh27DTzFk5%2BkkNiOW6fJt8%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| * On Oct. 30, Gov. Ralph Northam announced a new program, Re-Employing Virginians, to help pay for workers impacted by the pandemic to get retrained for jobs in high-demand fields, such as manufacturing.
* Virginia Ready is similar but also different than a litany of similar programs that have cropped up recently to re- or upskill recently unemployed workers to fill in-demand jobs across the commonwealth, said Caren Merrick, CEO of Virginia Ready Initiative.
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| [**Governor Northam Unveils Statewide COVID-19 Vaccine Pre-Registration System**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2FFy3VJ11srJ7WiTPM6nbL06kpPr28ZRWFGN1T1qh7ocA%3D_177b1c11bb0%3A152d268%3A508f2dd4&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C2d40c98c0561471ade7508d8d4482492%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637492753605200534%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=EbZK0rPrKCjL1fHBZh9XXOGNh6ScUnpSPRwCsO4rXXg%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| [Virginia](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.governor.virginia.gov%2Fnewsroom%2Fall-releases%2F2021%2Ffebruary%2Fheadline-892800-en.html&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C2d40c98c0561471ade7508d8d4482492%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637492753605210527%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=wKZ3gLNenQFXPCaZwJvLZumwCdt3x7ku3IsaGIohhJM%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| * Virginia’s new website and call center are designed to streamline vaccine pre-registration by bringing disparate processes from local health departments together under one unified system.
* The Commonwealth’s new, centralized system allows individuals to easily pre-register for the free vaccine, confirm that they are on the wait list, and learn more about Virginia’s vaccination program.
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| [**Virginia lawmakers weigh bill to forgive overpayments by state’s unemployment insurance program**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2Fs9CTgOD2rBeTJKl68FD0GbsxW6yVPw0NK2yeedQsWnQ%3D_177b1787f96%3A14e3cfb%3A5d9f2e26&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C2d40c98c0561471ade7508d8d4482492%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637492753605210527%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=fnnQIJMva7ShBj2HFh%2Ba6bl8fe0ZbLDm8i8LbgxEGik%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| [Virginia Mercury](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.virginiamercury.com%2F2021%2F02%2F17%2Fvirginia-lawmakers-weigh-bill-to-forgive-overpayments-by-states-unemployment-insurance-program%2F&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C2d40c98c0561471ade7508d8d4482492%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637492753605210527%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=UXgDhRbNAv%2BKcyhuKXbgUO2R09xRUJ%2F7U9rSGHmEpYQ%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| * A proposal that would halt efforts to claw back millions of dollars in unemployment benefits mistakenly paid to out-of-work Virginians is advancing in the General Assembly — one of the only surviving measures aimed at addressing the state’s struggle to administer jobless benefits amid the pandemic.
* Three months later, when the commission realized its error, a letter arrived informing him that his benefits had been cut off and he would be required to pay back the $3,750 he’d received.
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| [**Opinion: Change to Pell grant options will serve Virginia community colleges**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2Fs9CTgOD2rBeTJKl68FD0GbsxW6yVPw0NK2yeedQsWnQ%3D_177b1753610%3A14daffa%3Ace9e1be4&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C2d40c98c0561471ade7508d8d4482492%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637492753605220527%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=TVHUqOucEhu2v6hjmub0X%2BgDkEpDLDNyx1sU8hL9EZE%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| [pilotonline.com](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.pilotonline.com%2Fopinion%2Fcolumns%2Fvp-ed-column-dubois-0217-20210216-tc7hhqanknbt7iiu7yhd6jt3sy-story.html&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C2d40c98c0561471ade7508d8d4482492%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637492753605220527%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=sLhltHl%2BCjM7RbnqbsYCyeiTde4gDNSS%2F793mxSN%2Bd4%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| [Extending Pell grants availability to inmates will make post-secondary education available to Virginians who will benefit from it, Glenn DuBois, chancellor of Virginia's Community Colleges, writes.](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2Fs9CTgOD2rBeTJKl68FD0GbsxW6yVPw0NK2yeedQsWnQ%3D_177b1753610%3A14daffa%3Ace9e1be4&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C2d40c98c0561471ade7508d8d4482492%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637492753605230525%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=j1GSGZH8mtLkrYVsUY5jrMVqIjbmVpJs8%2FbylJ73iys%3D&reserved=0)  |  |

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| [**Virginia Feb. 17 COVID-19 update: 2,284 new cases, 38 new deaths; metrics still trending down overall**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2FFy3VJ11srJ7WiTPM6nbL06kpPr28ZRWFGN1T1qh7ocA%3D_177b11f174b%3A147fed3%3A1c749858&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C2d40c98c0561471ade7508d8d4482492%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637492753605230525%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=Y3enXUmBOzvJ7I2TrxJt5voTSslRVxQ1XD7pJI1WsMM%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| [WAVY.com](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.wavy.com%2Fnews%2Fhealth%2Fcoronavirus%2Fvirginia-feb-17-covid-19-update-2284-new-cases-38-new-deaths-metrics-still-trending-down-overall%2F&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C2d40c98c0561471ade7508d8d4482492%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637492753605240511%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=d%2FcPNTQzzzQy0ZZgIHotU1rLISOyEJZycpsqhDQO2KM%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| * New deaths ( +38, 7,075 total), back down recently (20 per day 7-day average, at 54 a week ago)
* Deaths and hospitalizations are also coming down, though Virginia still is reporting high death numbers — with 38 new deaths reported Wednesday.
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| [**FEMA Deploys Response Team to Virginia to Support COVID-19 Vaccinations | FEMA.gov**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2FFy3VJ11srJ7WiTPM6nbL06kpPr28ZRWFGN1T1qh7ocA%3D_177b11e7e94%3A146a533%3A89b4b6a6&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C2d40c98c0561471ade7508d8d4482492%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637492753605240511%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=6DUhY6zU2D9aoaAncrxxGddTzAwjF4mmjwo0xj4lxrU%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| [| FEMA.gov](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.fema.gov%2Fpress-release%2F20210216%2Ffema-deploys-response-team-virginia-support-covid-19-vaccinations&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C2d40c98c0561471ade7508d8d4482492%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637492753605250505%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=ocCugCkVeXznzoEepZR1O4HCdRgksvFyserVVo9TLYg%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| * PHILADELPHIA - FEMA Region 3 has deployed an Incident Management Assistance Team – Advance (IMAT-A) team to support vaccine efforts in the Commonwealth of Virginia.
* “FEMA is working collaboratively with the Commonwealth to provide funding opportunities that will allow the state to execute the vaccination mission,” said Janice Barlow, Acting Regional Administrator, FEMA Region 3.
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| [**Leveraging the strengths of a community to foster economic recovery | WorkingNation**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2FFy3VJ11srJ7WiTPM6nbL06kpPr28ZRWFGN1T1qh7ocA%3D_177b08c36d6%3A13cc49c%3A508f2dd4&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C2d40c98c0561471ade7508d8d4482492%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637492753605250505%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=5JSCRmTuz9KAYWHBDZmo49g%2BJCY1FakQCXMePCahdmQ%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| [WorkingNation](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fworkingnation.com%2Fleveraging-the-strengths-of-a-community-to-foster-economic-recovery%2F&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C2d40c98c0561471ade7508d8d4482492%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637492753605260497%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=qSFyJ32VOCCbliDma%2F6YKY8NESxJ0M%2F9Kt5US2x1EPk%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| * “As a major employer that recruits from multiple community colleges, we appreciate the single point of access that CCWC will provide to implement regionally focused training programs,” says Tom Cosgrove, Newport News Shipbuilding external affairs manager.
* The area includes three community colleges that, among other priorities, have workplace development initiatives that service local employers looking for workers in manufacturing, welding, and electrical maintenance.
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| [**SCHEV releases updated goals for higher ed in Va.**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2FPJWScc%2F4lkEqQ6JyrrO1ZjVBLh6YO03KX5MqTz5ah0A%3D_177ace878f8%3Ad4b846%3A11f5ae1e&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C2d40c98c0561471ade7508d8d4482492%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637492753605260497%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=I5HQPCno5IvqpPpGe91BFvn1HeJhlPDgYfx%2F4NBoYmw%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| [Virginia Business](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.virginiabusiness.com%2Farticle%2Fschev-releases-updated-goals-for-higher-ed-in-va%2F&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C2d40c98c0561471ade7508d8d4482492%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637492753605270494%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=C9MgZFaMSvXsiM1zZLSGw1%2FSJUQpCkxDeT6K%2FehMbx8%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| [The State Council of Higher Education (SCHEV) on Tuesday released an updated statewide strategic plan, which focuses on making higher education more “equitable, affordable and transformative.”](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2FPJWScc%2F4lkEqQ6JyrrO1ZjVBLh6YO03KX5MqTz5ah0A%3D_177ace878f8%3Ad4b846%3A11f5ae1e&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C2d40c98c0561471ade7508d8d4482492%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637492753605270494%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=Dmi7sAN%2BrhcgJZCPWmmyQSDzaU%2BNO5y1tI446Deiv2k%3D&reserved=0)  |  |

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| [**Coronavirus update: Over 12 percent of Virginia's population vaccinated with at least first dose; Statewide pre-registration system opens**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2Fa7ygYK4H%2BO92hOf1WNl7nib1addh8vp%2BrvFuRIia7o8%3D_177ab855091%3Aaa8b31%3A11f5ae1e&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C2d40c98c0561471ade7508d8d4482492%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637492753605280488%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=XU5frFSr3sTZKUVkPeIDV6%2FnffnS5Vwjz3UwQ2Mxzho%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| [8News](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.wric.com%2Fnews%2Fvirginia-news%2Fcoronavirus-update-over-12-percent-of-virginias-population-vaccinated-with-at-least-first-dose-statewide-pre-registration-system-opens%2F&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C2d40c98c0561471ade7508d8d4482492%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637492753605280488%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=LqggnU476QWJLFd78VY1nmctG8xwS0f51CiUJ5tCi6o%3D&reserved=0" \t "_blank) |  |
| * The Virginia Department of Health is reporting 1,770 new COVID-19 cases, bringing the total number of cases to 553,308.
* VDH is reporting that a total of 1,399,221 COVID-19 vaccines have been administered as of Feb. 16.
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| [**Governor Northam Announces $524 Million in New Funding for Virginia Rent Relief Program**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2FFy3VJ11srJ7WiTPM6nbL06kpPr28ZRWFGN1T1qh7ocA%3D_177ac52eb10%3Afe1ed1%3Ace9e1be4&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C2d40c98c0561471ade7508d8d4482492%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637492753605290485%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=5LQEwJQ4scs8Uprw413e5Hqw%2B8py89SBnciqsEsundc%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| [Virginia](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.governor.virginia.gov%2Fnewsroom%2Fall-releases%2F2021%2Ffebruary%2Fheadline-892766-en.html&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C2d40c98c0561471ade7508d8d4482492%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637492753605290485%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=Uy1%2Bq01fK5TCCvn0aVqHFnpi%2FV8m0MCpopfMxi58N2U%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| * ARLINGTON —Governor Ralph Northam today announced $524 million in new federal funding to help keep Virginia families in their homes amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.
* The Virginia Rent Relief Program (RRP) is funded through the Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA) program included in the recent federal stimulus package and will assist households and landlords with rent payments to avoid eviction.
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| [**Governor Northam Announces Additional General Fund Resources from Mid-Session Reforecast**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2FFy3VJ11srJ7WiTPM6nbL06kpPr28ZRWFGN1T1qh7ocA%3D_177a7b7b187%3Ab9e4ec%3A508f2dd4&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C2d40c98c0561471ade7508d8d4482492%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637492753605300481%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=72iW3Tnt0ffIk76ThCzGlF1rQQQqfXTl9SengXZEUGo%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| [Virginia](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.governor.virginia.gov%2Fnewsroom%2Fall-releases%2F2021%2Ffebruary%2Fheadline-892741-en.html&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C2d40c98c0561471ade7508d8d4482492%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637492753605300481%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=vYxBjxBcdm56i9LcgoWdPRACTZ0rSRRabydqJsm4P5g%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| * RICHMOND— Governor Ralph Northam today sent a letter to the General Assembly Money Committees announcing that a final mid-session revenue analysis shows Virginia’s tax revenues continue to strengthen.
* Governor Northam provided these additional revenues at a meeting with the Money Committee chairs this morning.
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| [**'Get Skilled, Get a Job, Give Back': Governor Northam highlights free community college initiative**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2Fa7ygYK4H%2BO92hOf1WNl7nib1addh8vp%2BrvFuRIia7o8%3D_177a74dcd23%3A3ecf83%3A11f5ae1e&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C2d40c98c0561471ade7508d8d4482492%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637492753605310474%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=R2qpEJ5tzZnDhVn3u3b9xt%2BTzIktdPUVsRzZN7fmNJA%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| [8News](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.wric.com%2Fnews%2Feducation%2Fget-skilled-get-a-job-give-back-governor-northam-highlights-free-community-college-initiative%2F&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C2d40c98c0561471ade7508d8d4482492%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637492753605310474%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=FJsfTiwX0Oxz0DYKw4mzTF4pmkhnN1MpCse3FPdTx6w%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| * (WRIC) -- Governor Northam visited The Kitchens at Reynolds Community College where he gave a speech highlighting his ‘Get Skilled, Get a Job, Give Back," or "G3" initiative.
* The program is designed for low- and middle-income students at Virginia's 23 community colleges.
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| [**Some Virginia hospitals are nearing 100% ICU capacity and running out of beds, even as COVID hospitalizations decline**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2Fs9CTgOD2rBeTJKl68FD0GbsxW6yVPw0NK2yeedQsWnQ%3D_177a5f6a447%3A9bc764%3A508f2dd4&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C2d40c98c0561471ade7508d8d4482492%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637492753605330461%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=yU9pOQ8gBnTjkT%2FzUlQEfa%2FHxYkzubHsk%2BzmEoKeSSE%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| [Richmond Times-Dispatch](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Frichmond.com%2Fnews%2Flocal%2Fsome-virginia-hospitals-are-nearing-100-icu-capacity-and-running-out-of-beds-even-as%2Farticle_76633a3b-7bbd-51ec-9516-bedb17c91b79.html&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C2d40c98c0561471ade7508d8d4482492%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637492753605330461%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=D5Kx5GqLsM6%2B2j5h7QpeDxGOEBS6l7OF%2BmS1xalaByE%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| [St. Francis is at 98% capacity, and none of its dozen staffed ICU beds are available. Sixty-two percent of its ICU patients are trying to survive the virus. One in four patients in the hospital has COVID-19.](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2Fs9CTgOD2rBeTJKl68FD0GbsxW6yVPw0NK2yeedQsWnQ%3D_177a5f6a447%3A9bc764%3A508f2dd4&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C2d40c98c0561471ade7508d8d4482492%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637492753605340454%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=mv8Y34gR4idC3nWSM9ynEQfuy8i6iOrWvC4sWMRDsqU%3D&reserved=0)  |  |

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| [**COVID 19 UPDATE - NATIONAL NEWS**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fboard%2Fcontent%2Fenterprise%2Fvccscovid19update%2Ftag%2F0f68eda4-2573-46f6-8be9-71d09e2f03fe&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C2d40c98c0561471ade7508d8d4482492%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637492753604890719%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=025MfQUAiKCecqfSavAsrT4nGOpun8naDe7KxUCWYYY%3D&reserved=0) |

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| [**ACE Report Offers Recommendations for Mental Health Task Forces**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2FFy3VJ11srJ7WiTPM6nbL06kpPr28ZRWFGN1T1qh7ocA%3D_177b5bf9a33%3A1d9a40%3A5d9f2e26&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C2d40c98c0561471ade7508d8d4482492%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637492753604960671%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=ve88R82eBlP0auqN03Q6HAz8hYSPOmzGBzqfWdr6gec%3D&reserved=0) |
| [American Council on Education](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.acenet.edu%2FNews-Room%2FPages%2FACE-Report-Offers-Recommendations-for-Mental-Health-Task-Forces.aspx%3F_cldee%3DamFuZHJlQHZjY3MuZWR1%26recipientid%3Dcontact-4c58d80d8514eb118130005056866fb1-f9bddfd511e54962a75a1ace5c3b1fe0%26utm_source%3DClickDimensions%26utm_medium%3Demail%26utm_campaign%3DDigest%26esid%3Dd1c892c9-a26c-eb11-8135-005056866fb1&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C2d40c98c0561471ade7508d8d4482492%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637492753604960671%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=Anqkm3k4v4EujuRMw2XDrGrI1jK4ALLPHM4Gb8EPjKc%3D&reserved=0) |
| * Overall, the report explores what institutions should consider when convening their own mental health task forces, offering suggestions around issues related to scope and purpose, structure, campus resources, and communication.
* Focus on the overall campus culture and climate to promote, improve, and foster positive mental health and well-being for all community members.
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| [**The Changing Landscape of Credential Offerings**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2FFy3VJ11srJ7WiTPM6nbL06kpPr28ZRWFGN1T1qh7ocA%3D_177b5b6383f%3A1c6638%3Ace9e1be4&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C2d40c98c0561471ade7508d8d4482492%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637492753604970670%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=eTh1LGvAPEurGpq0OtzXJhW237uNlHI6TlPltM%2B9aeA%3D&reserved=0) |
| [The EvoLLLution](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fevolllution.com%2Fprogramming%2Fcredentials%2Fthe-changing-landscape-of-credential-offerings%2F&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C2d40c98c0561471ade7508d8d4482492%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637492753604970670%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=PZxAzOhEL5Jj18YzLSmnu7Cf5G19XTRPNZQWrxmpPjM%3D&reserved=0) |
| * In this interview, Anthony Carnevale discusses the change we’re seeing in non-degree credentials, what to consider before creating a new offering, and how to illustrate its value in your messaging.
* Evo: In 2019, they found that 50% of American adults considering an education enrollment were looking at alternative credentials or non-degree programs.
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| [**US life expectancy dropped a full year in first half of 2020, according to CDC**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2Fs9CTgOD2rBeTJKl68FD0GbsxW6yVPw0NK2yeedQsWnQ%3D_177b58ac585%3A19241d%3Ace9e1be4&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C2d40c98c0561471ade7508d8d4482492%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637492753604980667%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=tS%2FJF76K7tiuKYQT1%2B8FNr2EAt8P7o3NiKEFnBKzEW8%3D&reserved=0) |
| [CNN](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cnn.com%2F2021%2F02%2F18%2Fhealth%2Flife-expectancy-fell-pandemic%2Findex.html&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C2d40c98c0561471ade7508d8d4482492%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637492753604980667%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=ffGFjPFwjdyR7vJqAqO2T9e9HoKwA5Mv7XoahH45Yv0%3D&reserved=0) |
| * Life expectancy in the US dropped a full year in the first half of 2020, according to a report published Thursday by the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Center for Health Statistics. Experts say that Covid-19 was a significant factor contributing to the decline.
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| [**Weekly jobless claims rise to 861,000 vs. 773,000 expected**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2Fs9CTgOD2rBeTJKl68FD0GbsxW6yVPw0NK2yeedQsWnQ%3D_177b587f510%3A190603%3Ac36d4234&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C2d40c98c0561471ade7508d8d4482492%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637492753604990662%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=j48EfumKLdHlzNu1TyVdrHjkiMoS%2FpQ25UUJZqiVkbM%3D&reserved=0) |
| [NBC News](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.nbcnews.com%2Fbusiness%2Fbusiness-news%2Fweekly-jobless-claims-rise-861-000-vs-773-000-expected-n1258221&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C2d40c98c0561471ade7508d8d4482492%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637492753604990662%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=zPYOHLwT4gm1vtiG97K4bQpMfxEHB7H2ko%2BhBC%2Be%2BFo%3D&reserved=0) |
| * Manufacturing data showed factory output is almost back to pre-pandemic levels, producer prices increased by the most since 2009 and retail sales for January soaring by 5.3 percent from the previous month, buoyed by consumers spending their stimulus checks.
* Last week's initial jobless claims soared to 861,000, despite more states and cities lifting restrictive business measures amid a decline in the number of coronavirus cases.
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