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| March 04, 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%7Cd05bfb0582a64a5a5e8f08d8df487b14%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637504849692147346%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=p3a8pJOJUKjs3uVh5v%2FfuVd7%2FdAimnh2MjkIl1a8ZGY%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_177febe3ba6%3A3c74cd%3Ab1b8d7e2&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7Cd05bfb0582a64a5a5e8f08d8df487b14%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637504849692217301%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=BRiUajrsA2GENHPSUnFR2cZz%2BhOF9u1I%2FMale70IzKE%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%7Cd05bfb0582a64a5a5e8f08d8df487b14%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637504849692217301%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=%2FfIF4lbwCfx%2FwD57jmfZPiBPHzISo%2F8DlXNJ6FX0dyI%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| * The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 748,078 in the week ending February 27, an increase of 31,519 (or 4.4 percent) from the previous week.
* For the filing week ending February 27, the figure for seasonally unadjusted initial claims in Virginia was 12,155.
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| [**Coronavirus update: Virginia's positivity rate at 6.3%; Average of 52,455 COVID-19 vaccine doses administered daily**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2Fa7ygYK4H%2BO92hOf1WNl7nib1addh8vp%2BrvFuRIia7o8%3D_177fdef43c2%3A4b69fb%3A3b4e5a67&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7Cd05bfb0582a64a5a5e8f08d8df487b14%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637504849692227292%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=tVxDaFghLVXIGkNgzlSQR3yqVmsbqVTete4wsw%2FRhOY%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| [8News](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.wric.com%2Fnews%2Fvirginia-news%2Fcoronavirus-update-virginias-positivity-rate-at-6-3-average-of-52455-covid-19-vaccine-doses-administered-daily%2F&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7Cd05bfb0582a64a5a5e8f08d8df487b14%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637504849692227292%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=82hYdup%2BhpNXw7%2Ftp3zjO%2FuNNWDXUhXFqTXyDax%2FFN8%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| * The Virginia Department of Health is reporting 1,300 new COVID-19 cases.
* (WRIC) -- Here’s the latest coronavirus update from the Virginia Department of Health for Thursday, March 4:
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| [**Jobless claims stayed flat last week in Va.**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2FPJWScc%2F4lkEqQ6JyrrO1ZjVBLh6YO03KX5MqTz5ah0A%3D_177fe39b820%3A5ace40%3A4102b450&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7Cd05bfb0582a64a5a5e8f08d8df487b14%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637504849692237288%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=ddfAsXptAo67aXhd%2B%2Fi8tCeI6f4wrgXqmTjkuS2wdDE%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| [Virginia Business](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.virginiabusiness.com%2Farticle%2Fjobless-claims-stayed-flat-last-week-in-va%2F&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7Cd05bfb0582a64a5a5e8f08d8df487b14%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637504849692237288%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=wIa9rkrED%2BA63nZ9%2BXsghIp8nUSZkKcRmoNsEQU6i4I%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| * As the state approaches the one-year anniversary of the COVID-19 pandemic’s presence here, initial jobless claims remained essentially unchanged from the previous week, according to figures released Thursday by the Virginia Employment Commission.
* During the week ending Feb. 27, 12,155 Virginians filed initial unemployment claims, compared to 11,944 from the week prior.
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| [**Editorial: Shots in arms — and continued public health precautions — are our best defense against COVID-19**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2Fs9CTgOD2rBeTJKl68FD0GbsxW6yVPw0NK2yeedQsWnQ%3D_177fe29ca1f%3A30761d%3A80fff6f0&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7Cd05bfb0582a64a5a5e8f08d8df487b14%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637504849692237288%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=TH6jQDeZgF%2BKgwbnUuK3w7gV%2FwnIC90a%2F9Hkzd7IF9g%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| [Richmond Times-Dispatch](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Frichmond.com%2Fopinion%2Feditorial%2Feditorial-shots-in-arms-and-continued-public-health-precautions-are-our-best-defense-against-covid%2Farticle_a627be05-cb29-544b-82dd-eceb9f1c4485.html&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7Cd05bfb0582a64a5a5e8f08d8df487b14%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637504849692247279%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=NGgasFjLu%2BRRowfkuF%2FmnyDNqPF7HRqDdJkgUQF3XMI%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| [On Tuesday, Texas Gov. Greg Abbott and Mississippi Gov. Tate Reeves announced they were lifting their states’ mask mandates and allowing businesses to operate at 100% capacity. “COVID-19 has not suddenly disappeared, but state mandates are no longer needed.” Abbott said, according to NBC News.](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2Fs9CTgOD2rBeTJKl68FD0GbsxW6yVPw0NK2yeedQsWnQ%3D_177fe29ca1f%3A30761d%3A80fff6f0&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7Cd05bfb0582a64a5a5e8f08d8df487b14%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637504849692247279%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=OcvfiZiCgnLd55ElEBGEyHP7aIo%2Fe85Y0xYLqs8k0sI%3D&reserved=0)  |  |

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| [**The Johnson & Johnson vaccine is here, and it's effective. But Virginia health officials worry some won't take it.**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2Fs9CTgOD2rBeTJKl68FD0GbsxW6yVPw0NK2yeedQsWnQ%3D_177fe27b73b%3A3197ad%3A9452e0f6&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7Cd05bfb0582a64a5a5e8f08d8df487b14%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637504849692257275%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=QbTQeko%2BcwjXVXv3Y1sydAwCiTNJiiUIwMz3v2IAHME%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| [Virginia Mercury](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.virginiamercury.com%2F2021%2F03%2F04%2Fthe-johnson-johnson-vaccine-is-here-and-its-effective-but-virginia-health-officials-worry-some-wont-take-it%2F&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7Cd05bfb0582a64a5a5e8f08d8df487b14%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637504849692257275%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=j1CDOa6kvqvZ5%2FGnej3SVkZLuC%2F45oWqgdeBCT4rOoE%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| * Dr. Danny Avula, the state’s vaccine coordinator, said Wednesday that Virginia’s first 69,000 doses were directed to local health departments and hospital systems that could get the shots out as quickly as possible through mass vaccination events.
* Like other health departments across the state, Richmond-Henrico (which received 5,000 doses of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine) is offering them to registered seniors through three large-scale clinics over the next week.
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| [**Virginia moving 'full throttle' with vaccines, but confusion remains**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2Fs9CTgOD2rBeTJKl68FD0GbsxW6yVPw0NK2yeedQsWnQ%3D_177fe275d57%3A31e44d%3A14bf302&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7Cd05bfb0582a64a5a5e8f08d8df487b14%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637504849692267276%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=SidANlsGGMHhnKb3kVZ3r4nYeVyHmljHs6whGMNyevM%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| [Fredericksburg.com](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffredericksburg.com%2Fnews%2Flocal%2Fvirginia-moving-full-throttle-with-vaccines-but-confusion-remains%2Farticle_556246b0-4d8b-55e6-9042-54c1cc907749.html&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7Cd05bfb0582a64a5a5e8f08d8df487b14%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637504849692267276%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=aa2lltTMG3dJSLqZdRsVE%2BwjbKIgG8CnBjOYKhSdzfk%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| * Rosa Botelho (right) takes care of her husband, Ernie, and had difficulty scheduling her second shot.
* Health districts across the state will administer an estimated 69,000 doses of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine starting Friday at mass vaccination clinics, where as many as 5,000 people can be inoculated in one day, said Dr. Danny Avula, the state’s vaccine coordinator.
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| [**Coronavirus update: A year into the pandemic, Virginia records 383 deaths**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2Fa7ygYK4H%2BO92hOf1WNl7nib1addh8vp%2BrvFuRIia7o8%3D_177f8ce461e%3A5ca173%3Ae38f1d3f&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7Cd05bfb0582a64a5a5e8f08d8df487b14%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637504849692277269%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=NCt5mgDy9zbcSPBs7G8Q7%2FMTbArHOW4Kiw6X94%2BtQwY%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| [8News](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.wric.com%2Fhealth%2Fcoronavirus%2Fcoronavirus-update-a-year-into-the-pandemic-virginia-records-383-deaths%2F&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7Cd05bfb0582a64a5a5e8f08d8df487b14%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637504849692277269%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=jKg5%2BdKenAx05vGljgDftkuVPAb6pVUIWpLkQD%2F%2FKQc%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| * The Virginia Department of Health has reported an increase of 1,549 COVID-19 cases in the last 24 hours, bringing the total number of cases in the Commonwealth to 580,108.
* VDH is reporting that a total of 2,062,403 COVID-19 vaccines have been administered as of March 3.
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| [**Virginia pharmacies will now book COVID-19 vaccine appointments via statewide system**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2FFy3VJ11srJ7WiTPM6nbL06kpPr28ZRWFGN1T1qh7ocA%3D_177f40f1140%3A972d4%3Addce6062&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7Cd05bfb0582a64a5a5e8f08d8df487b14%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637504849692287263%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=zWP0oUjWyk9b793BUxuLUqmlKuz2OQksaTsEYkgTj0M%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| [WTVR](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.wtvr.com%2Fnews%2Fcoronavirus%2Fvirginia-pharmacies-will-now-book-covid-19-vaccine-appointments-via-statewide-system&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7Cd05bfb0582a64a5a5e8f08d8df487b14%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637504849692287263%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=sSJ6%2FIGc2a%2BE30VB1aEkDwjqjkuTeriogQ920LuPde0%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| * When Walgreens first opened up COVID vaccine appointments in Virginia, Pruett was able to claim one.
* “It did take us a couple days to figure out exactly how that will work logistically,” Dr. Danny Avula, the state’s vaccine leader said.
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| [**Upskilling and reskilling the workforce may be needed post -pandemic**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2Fa7ygYK4H%2BO92hOf1WNl7nib1addh8vp%2BrvFuRIia7o8%3D_177f02ae286%3A2cdcd50%3Aa423a121&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7Cd05bfb0582a64a5a5e8f08d8df487b14%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637504849692297253%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=w5BM%2F1poEKJzMXLx4195aLb710ygni7TbNFY%2FLatw5Y%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| [8News](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.wric.com%2Fbusiness%2Fupskilling-and-reskilling-the-workforce-may-be-needed-post-pandemic%2F&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7Cd05bfb0582a64a5a5e8f08d8df487b14%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637504849692297253%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=XMlZmkLBt%2B85FYO04%2FEUU%2BSfzmpnNJJHWUpbFJZDSWk%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| * Maniaci decided to take a coding boot camp and career prep program with education provider Tech Elevator.
* "I think we are going to also have to realize that a lot of the jobs that disappeared aren't coming back,” said Virginia Senator Mark Warner.
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| [**COVIDsmart study explores impacts of pandemic on lives of Virginians**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2Fa7ygYK4H%2BO92hOf1WNl7nib1addh8vp%2BrvFuRIia7o8%3D_177f2e8c021%3A35a15b7%3Af8f12479&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7Cd05bfb0582a64a5a5e8f08d8df487b14%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637504849692307249%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=3EhZaxkNzu43QSlu7EfA%2FSrbSRgXpVB5%2Bt%2FbpTzMw8g%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| [8News](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.wric.com%2Fnews%2Fu-s-world%2Fcovidsmart-study-explores-impacts-of-pandemic-on-lives-of-virginians%2F&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7Cd05bfb0582a64a5a5e8f08d8df487b14%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637504849692307249%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=MJyqRLhA1V2EQDI2eGcMZ%2BtFWkbo2VxzpB7RjIw1VXw%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| * COVIDsmart’s anonymized results will also be sent to researchers and public health policy officials to help them identify at-risk communities that are disproportionately affected by COVID-19, the release said.
* Researchers hope participation in the survey will help participants, researchers and public health entities better understand and address the impacts of the pandemic and future health crises.
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| [**Medical providers, first responders, get expanded access to COVID-19 workers’ compensation**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2FZlfaun7gHjf%2BezBb4FuuczpsZ%2FrJH5fsT39QwuFW9Bk%3D_177e5c12bfb%3A221e72f%3Ae551f09f&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7Cd05bfb0582a64a5a5e8f08d8df487b14%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637504849692317248%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=RalU%2BEReRwrESeDkmIOHLYV5Pi2sUnrW%2B8qvLN6e6BA%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| [Virginia Mercury](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.virginiamercury.com%2F2021%2F02%2F27%2Fmedical-providers-first-responders-get-expanded-access-to-workers-compensation%2F&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7Cd05bfb0582a64a5a5e8f08d8df487b14%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637504849692317248%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=VNkzHW8Oen120oQ5VfNi%2FxY6o%2BtlQgC68Hcef1no%2Bdw%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| * Virginia’s frontline workers scored a victory on Saturday when the General Assembly nearly unanimously passed two bills making it easier for health care providers and first responders to claim workers’ compensation for contracting COVID-19 on the job.
* “For any nurse or health care provider who contracted COVID, if you can’t go back and claim workers’ compensation, it makes you feel like no one cares about you,” said Holly Zimmerman, a nurse who became severely ill from the virus in late July while working at a nursing home in Patrick County.
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| [**Governor Northam Announces Over $24 Million in Affordable and Special Needs Housing Loans**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2FFy3VJ11srJ7WiTPM6nbL06kpPr28ZRWFGN1T1qh7ocA%3D_177ef2e7435%3Ab63c1a%3A267a01d6&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7Cd05bfb0582a64a5a5e8f08d8df487b14%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637504849692327239%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=dsGCQN6KWjlmsOKxWRyDUPoYaxRopdnqIP%2BWnHecypY%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| [Virginia](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.governor.virginia.gov%2Fnewsroom%2Fall-releases%2F2021%2Fmarch%2Fheadline-893253-en.html&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7Cd05bfb0582a64a5a5e8f08d8df487b14%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637504849692327239%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=Gd5OBE10rt1rmCqWd6JnyH0Y8rvb77r6W5c12u1cqkw%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| * The Blue Ridge Habitat for Humanity Affordable Housing 2020 project will result in five affordable home ownership units for five families that earn less than 60 percent of the Area Median Income (AMI).
* The funding will help increase access to affordable housing, reduce homelessness, and provide permanent supportive housing options for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.
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| [**Virginia General Assembly mandates in-person instruction starting this July**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2FZlfaun7gHjf%2BezBb4FuuczpsZ%2FrJH5fsT39QwuFW9Bk%3D_177dbca039e%3A110ff0b%3Aa423a121&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7Cd05bfb0582a64a5a5e8f08d8df487b14%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637504849692337237%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=5B009irniXdf3MW1UEqw7hbpU1Z4KMlsIYO8e1KBDZc%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| [Virginia Mercury](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.virginiamercury.com%2F2021%2F02%2F25%2Fvirginia-general-assembly-mandates-in-person-instruction-starting-this-july%2F&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7Cd05bfb0582a64a5a5e8f08d8df487b14%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637504849692337237%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=2nC2yl4%2FNeITLyM0BZEgXsC1ogMosiSN99UhOkvVWmI%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| * Those provisions allowed what was originally considered long-shot legislation to gain broad bipartisan support in both the House and Senate, driven by growing evidence that schools don’t contribute significantly to the spread of COVID-19 — or pose a particular risk to students and teachers who return to the classroom.
* The House version, she wrote, addressed “concerns” with Dunnavant’s original legislation — a one-line emergency bill that would have required districts to begin offering in-person instruction as soon as it was signed by the governor.
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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%7Cd05bfb0582a64a5a5e8f08d8df487b14%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637504849691657622%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=5QTNHeGDAO2fzOnx%2B8rOf3GtBQxLfPtyLMwH%2FsR%2BLpo%3D&reserved=0) |

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| [**Weekly jobless claims total 745,000 vs. 750,000 expected**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2Fezz8A7EWGAHy1UC0ms%2Fm0qRAagR5Qp4dpGm%2Fx4aLZpc%3D_177fd76a5fc%3A3e5d12%3A3b4e5a67&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7Cd05bfb0582a64a5a5e8f08d8df487b14%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637504849691737576%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=jlTyVFqocYaYN%2BVKxMjOAI%2BpTU4tCo6CwGuNnuxGdi0%3D&reserved=0) |
| [NBC News Top Stories](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.nbcnews.com%2Fbusiness%2Feconomy%2Fweekly-jobless-claims-total-745-000-vs-750-000-expected-n1259545&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7Cd05bfb0582a64a5a5e8f08d8df487b14%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637504849691737576%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=0hS60I2zLHjCI%2Bn6mrAd6xuTZNI6ejsPoCoIn6eSAoU%3D&reserved=0) |
| * Economists had predicted the latest weekly initial jobless claims for the week ended Feb. 26 would total around 750,000.
* “The disproportionately large declines in cases and Covid-19 fatalities among residents of long-term care facilities, where 4.6 million residents and staff members have already been vaccinated, suggests that vaccinations are having significant real world benefits,” said Daan Struyven, senior economist at Goldman Sachs, in a report this week.
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| [**‘Right now is not my time’: How Covid dimmed college prospects for students who need help most**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2F7GREM7CplKRZjsJIjPDQXp7LmhRctFTvaXgASsiiVtw%3D_177fce9255b%3A34c12c%3A4102b450&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7Cd05bfb0582a64a5a5e8f08d8df487b14%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637504849691747570%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=jCJUOPxUexue3kKPy9wxH6683cv4WgN440Qd84jQGxw%3D&reserved=0) |
| [The Hechinger Report](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fhechingerreport.org%2Fright-now-is-not-my-time-how-covid-dimmed-college-prospects-for-students-who-need-help-most%2F&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7Cd05bfb0582a64a5a5e8f08d8df487b14%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637504849691747570%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=xdhdJhUJuy2fdFrM%2BIpXHb%2BDAsE31I4kskcBHd8%2BBmI%3D&reserved=0) |
| * She had not finished the Common App, a shared application form used by more than 900 colleges and universities; had struggled to write her application essay; had lost her password for Naviance, which collects transcripts, recommendation letters and other forms needed to apply; and — like many students in low-income districts this year — had not filled out the FAFSA, the federal financial aid application form.
* It makes it less likely that low-income students will be able to attend, as many colleges and universities commit financial aid money to others ahead of those who apply later.
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| [**Education Advocates From Around the World Discuss Equitable Leadership Amid COVID-19**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2FZ23B2Q5L3pE0IxEnKxwIzxUp4djTIl%2Fdr8ZazqXeH1U%3D_177fa3f15ec%3A856095%3Ae38f1d3f&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7Cd05bfb0582a64a5a5e8f08d8df487b14%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637504849691757565%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=uBRdzBGpFUyyJfWX%2FgCCXr9xFSfgNdtB8xpuAhnoRQg%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| [Diverse](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdiverseeducation.com%2Farticle%2F206935%2F&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7Cd05bfb0582a64a5a5e8f08d8df487b14%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637504849692017414%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=5gSBCv6fbo0%2BnrXOAUYNKc8YXtCWsa6I4OXMpOvuPDk%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| * “We know that a lot of the work we need to do when it comes to healing inequity and oppression in education is about addressing the trauma that too many generations of people have experienced,” she said.
* “We know how educational inequity affects kids from various disadvantaged backgrounds,” he said, like socioeconomic status, disability, race and ethnicity and refugee status.
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| [**Biden Says U.S. Will Have Vaccine Supply For All Adults By May, Prioritizes Teachers**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2Fs9CTgOD2rBeTJKl68FD0GbsxW6yVPw0NK2yeedQsWnQ%3D_177f8b457a1%3A10ec3a%3A8ed2d666&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7Cd05bfb0582a64a5a5e8f08d8df487b14%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637504849692027409%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=zRkCo3NW5F9zEfo0gNKnI2oaRSqfHSr9zUSIBjiBO2E%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| [NPR.org](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.npr.org%2Fsections%2Fcoronavirus-live-updates%2F2021%2F03%2F02%2F973030394%2Fbiden-says-u-s-will-have-vaccine-supply-for-all-adults-by-may-prioritizes-teache&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7Cd05bfb0582a64a5a5e8f08d8df487b14%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637504849692027409%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=lTI9cWkaVFW6wUnLMVNH14OC0z2eDRg1GJNLVwr0aXY%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| * Biden also called on states to prioritize teachers and school staff as essential workers in the vaccination schedule, calling for every grade-school employee and child care provider to receive at least one dose of a vaccine by the end of the month.
* Pool/Getty Images hide caption
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| [**The Hybrid Campus — More Than a Quick Fix?**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2F3uK26bUqwQjkM%2BhpjmfJi1%2FP5ac%2FLFTdVLSf6VTCDWQ%3D_177f4c8e220%3A38cbc64%3Ae551f09f&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7Cd05bfb0582a64a5a5e8f08d8df487b14%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637504849692037400%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=5o2Mn1UnXEA2efN0HM7vZ41GBnDm2uxrZB31%2BYFZ3sM%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| [Strada Education Network](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fstradaeducation.org%2Fcovid-19%2Fthe-hybrid-campus-more-than-a-quick-fix%2F&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7Cd05bfb0582a64a5a5e8f08d8df487b14%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637504849692037400%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=1GEqOpvf8jzUJt6qzkDHaV5Wwsd9%2F2Nc%2F4DPoLIV3DQ%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| * “Think about students who carry all kinds of assumptions about what they’re supposed to be or what they’re supposed to do, whether it’s a parental influence or societal influence,” said Marianna Savoca, assistant vice president for career development and experiential education at Stony Brook, a State University of New York campus located on Long Island.
* Selingo and Clark joined institution leaders Maurie McInnis, Stony Brook University president, and Marni Baker Stein, Western Governors University provost, to discuss this transitional time in a recent Strada webinar moderated by Strada Senior Vice President of National Engagement Ben Wildavsky, “The Hybrid Campus: A Postpandemic Vision of Higher Education.”
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| [**Report on Community Colleges With a Focus on Students**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2Fo3SSqIWWG2gYayKaXccfVpg%2FzOCVxn%2FqF9iZLeGk8SI%3D_177f730a2e8%3A27b40c%3Ae551f09f&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7Cd05bfb0582a64a5a5e8f08d8df487b14%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637504849692047398%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=YZ555q7j0ZmQ4WHpsQubuyZ2GS8Fk%2FMpk%2FU6FUV4nko%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| [Inside Higher Ed](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.insidehighered.com%2Fquicktakes%2F2021%2F03%2F03%2Freport-community-colleges-focus-students&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7Cd05bfb0582a64a5a5e8f08d8df487b14%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637504849692047398%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=xh9jEGd4i%2FaVGtZBXN7gsTU2MWCsyWtvPAYOHBwsW00%3D&reserved=0" \t "_blank) |  |
| * The report is based on interviews with 37 chief academic officers, chief student affairs officers, library directors, faculty members and students from community colleges.
* One takeaway: "Despite differences of approach between community college student and academic affairs departments, there is broad support for increased collaboration between the two'sides of the house.'"
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