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| |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | | March 18, 2021 | | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | **[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%7C260503f787d440f9a35f08d8ea40593c%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637516909388113288%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=YYJ33Uz%2BKotInfjxHhgdXE%2FM7vepgCsnaBnziB5COgI%3D&reserved=0" \t "_blank)** |  | |  | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | [**Virginia Employment Commission**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2FFy3VJ11srJ7WiTPM6nbL06kpPr28ZRWFGN1T1qh7ocA%3D_178468f9de3%3A34a37d%3A2ef42a87&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C260503f787d440f9a35f08d8ea40593c%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637516909388173249%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=sq94iIza6%2BIQDlrRqlCdCJPLrr8b4loDIZIbrzsiCt0%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%7C260503f787d440f9a35f08d8ea40593c%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637516909388173249%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=3qSlwGYMO%2F5UZA%2FtQQU2FkeifZEZROyAvqRqmBJNFjA%3D&reserved=0) |  | | * The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 746,496 in the week ending March 13, an increase of 24,318 (or 3.4 percent) from the previous week. * For the filing week ending March 13, the figure for seasonally unadjusted initial claims in Virginia was 15,525. |  | |  | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | [**In past year, 1.5 million filed unemployment claims in Va.**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2FFy3VJ11srJ7WiTPM6nbL06kpPr28ZRWFGN1T1qh7ocA%3D_178468f67dc%3A361b28%3A58b3627&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C260503f787d440f9a35f08d8ea40593c%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637516909388183245%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=nb%2BqIEbosWwoIpWfQ1iYu50NF2JdTx3erCVskh24b%2Bo%3D&reserved=0) |  | | [Virginia Business](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.virginiabusiness.com%2Farticle%2Fin-past-year-1-5-million-filed-unemployment-claims-in-va%2F&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C260503f787d440f9a35f08d8ea40593c%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637516909388183245%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=RLVqrynyoPTazq%2BopMQPBzr%2FMS1vp8Wh2ozP2%2B8EzXE%3D&reserved=0) |  | | * For the filing week ending March 13, 15,525 people filed new claims for unemployment insurance, an increase from 13,736 the previous week, VEC reported. * Also, the number of initial claims increased last week compared to the week ending March 6, while continued claims fell by 3.7%. |  | |  | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | [**American Rescue Plan extending Virginia unemployment assistance through September**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2FFy3VJ11srJ7WiTPM6nbL06kpPr28ZRWFGN1T1qh7ocA%3D_178468de928%3A366ffc%3A56ac6c25&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C260503f787d440f9a35f08d8ea40593c%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637516909388193236%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=k3pe0ilAo2Knlj8yLXR%2FDYp0HUnQThEY3DfyWwnGN5Q%3D&reserved=0) |  | | [8News](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.wric.com%2Fnews%2Fvirginia-news%2Famerican-rescue-plan-extending-virginia-unemployment-assistance-through-september%2F&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C260503f787d440f9a35f08d8ea40593c%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637516909388193236%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=2OEFKhc%2FIRfYlfKT5WfLl%2B4cpVjGvMIX%2F%2FZrJSAao%2F4%3D&reserved=0) |  | | * The VEC said people will automatically be enrolled into the program they are already under, and they should continue to file their weekly claim for benefits as normal for as long as they remain unemployed. * A new program coming as a result of the American Rescue Plan Act is the Mixed Earner Unemployment Compensation (MEUC) program. |  | |  | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | [**Governor Northam Announces $20.1 Million to Strengthen Broadband Infrastructure in 17 Localities**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2FFy3VJ11srJ7WiTPM6nbL06kpPr28ZRWFGN1T1qh7ocA%3D_1784685d64d%3A363457%3A570c3ac7&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C260503f787d440f9a35f08d8ea40593c%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637516909388203232%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=l%2FBdP%2FoUWDtL05qDPJdUwk7WhgFs3DhRUtdcpZQacrA%3D&reserved=0) |  | | [Virginia](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.governor.virginia.gov%2Fnewsroom%2Fall-releases%2F2021%2Fmarch%2Fheadline-893932-en.html&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C260503f787d440f9a35f08d8ea40593c%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637516909388203232%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=scKzYVMNsMO8FMGKl8OSq1u7%2BXy5jyvGUp8KWDDF6ns%3D&reserved=0) |  | | * The funding will support 11 projects, connecting more than 13,400 households, businesses, and anchor institutions to high-speed internet, and leveraging $18.8 million in private and local investments. * This is the second round of funding for the VATI 2021 program year, and in total, more than $49.8 million has been awarded for 28 localities, connecting over 25,000 households, businesses, and anchor institutions. |  | |  | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | [**Virginia March 18 COVID-19 update: 2K-plus cases reported as downward trend hits snag; pharmacies expand vaccine eligibility**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2FFy3VJ11srJ7WiTPM6nbL06kpPr28ZRWFGN1T1qh7ocA%3D_178465253d5%3A323171%3Add346d13&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C260503f787d440f9a35f08d8ea40593c%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637516909388213226%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=%2F07IkQaG1JZsd0bH4q9m6MqHNsoXYigR81qyZRw31Qw%3D&reserved=0) |  | | [WAVY.com](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.wavy.com%2Fnews%2Fhealth%2Fcoronavirus%2Fvirginia-march-18-covid-19-update-2k-plus-cases-reported-as-downward-trend-hits-snag-pharmacies-expand-vaccine-eligibility%2F&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C260503f787d440f9a35f08d8ea40593c%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637516909388213226%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=f%2BFttoA5G2aTs0OetvJ%2Bfg8jH1h%2BamD5z95FSywmUqw%3D&reserved=0) |  | | * (WAVY) — Virginia reported its first day of more than 2,000 new coronavirus cases in three weeks on Thursday, as it sees its daily average trickle back up after a steep decline. * Current hospitalizations ( -33 patients, 1,034 total), trending down overall |  | |  | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | [**Governor Northam Announces Draft Plan for Safe In-Person Graduations and Commencements**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2Fs9CTgOD2rBeTJKl68FD0GbsxW6yVPw0NK2yeedQsWnQ%3D_17845b4874c%3A263e2d%3A6ce23bf1&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C260503f787d440f9a35f08d8ea40593c%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637516909388223219%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=pIQH%2F7FKmc43l7Pl9r%2Fi73%2BdxxzLnS8x2aohGRgFbBk%3D&reserved=0) |  | | [Virginia](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.governor.virginia.gov%2Fnewsroom%2Fall-releases%2F2021%2Fmarch%2Fheadline-893881-en.html&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C260503f787d440f9a35f08d8ea40593c%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637516909388223219%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=DQKWpJeVhV3U%2FNKKPzqaXCxjFUfGTgWnFhypOiO3Ifk%3D&reserved=0) |  | | * “I appreciate the work that our schools, students, and teachers have put in to get back into the classroom safely, and the efforts of public health officials and education leaders in developing guidelines for safe graduations and commencements this spring,” said Governor Northam . * RICHMOND— Governor Ralph Northam today released preliminary guidance for how K-12 schools, as well as colleges and universities, may safely hold in-person graduation and commencement events this spring. |  | |  | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | [**Brick by brick**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2Fs9CTgOD2rBeTJKl68FD0GbsxW6yVPw0NK2yeedQsWnQ%3D_17845b18ee8%3A24c968%3A2ef42a87&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C260503f787d440f9a35f08d8ea40593c%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637516909388233217%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=xSdp4fBOeCjmaJ%2ByzN3Y8JMh5%2FscQtTD2BQHb0jlG%2Fo%3D&reserved=0) |  | | [Virginia Business](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.virginiabusiness.com%2Farticle%2Fbrick-by-brick%2F%3Foly_enc_id%3D8808I1438578F1S&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C260503f787d440f9a35f08d8ea40593c%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637516909388233217%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=u7ygOFPKAOZYCX0amAXv1zKA6SgWAO1AQQviyUlIPvk%3D&reserved=0) |  | | * Commercial construction aside, the Virginia Department of Transportation’s largest-ever infrastructure project — the $3.8 billion expansion of the Hampton Roads Bridge-Tunnel — started in fall 2020, with completion set for late 2025. * The continuing progress on Amazon.com Inc.’s massive East Coast headquarters in Arlington, along with the promise of four new casinos across the state, kept spirits buoyed in Virginia’s construction sector in 2020. |  | |  | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | [**All Virginia prison inmates have been offered COVID vaccinations, corrections official says**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2Fs9CTgOD2rBeTJKl68FD0GbsxW6yVPw0NK2yeedQsWnQ%3D_17840e02b88%3Af8889%3Af2384c21&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C260503f787d440f9a35f08d8ea40593c%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637516909388233217%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=%2FirO1dZsziqs9On%2Bk6E2%2BN81Tp3km2iobhgCObXgrFI%3D&reserved=0) |  | | [Richmond Times-Dispatch](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Frichmond.com%2Fnews%2Fstate-and-regional%2Fall-virginia-prison-inmates-have-been-offered-covid-vaccinations-corrections-official-says%2Farticle_0ded278c-a2f6-533f-8f95-19c94cd771ac.html&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C260503f787d440f9a35f08d8ea40593c%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637516909388243211%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=oFgP6v80JnCdQG5CVtcJ%2BYLwbg6Yhy0ZKHX0syEs4%2Bk%3D&reserved=0) |  | | [More than 9,000 inmates have tested positive since the pandemic began, but officials said that the majority of cases were either mild or had no symptoms. At one point, there were hundreds of active cases with many inmates hospitalized.](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2Fs9CTgOD2rBeTJKl68FD0GbsxW6yVPw0NK2yeedQsWnQ%3D_17840e02b88%3Af8889%3Af2384c21&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C260503f787d440f9a35f08d8ea40593c%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637516909388253206%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=tUBW6qxdw7%2FjRi%2BetoOW6qa%2FWV0m%2F%2BqsdJ1bBo4QEG4%3D&reserved=0) |  | |  | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | [**Four major community vaccination clinics — including one at VSU — launch across Virginia to bridge divide in access**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2Fs9CTgOD2rBeTJKl68FD0GbsxW6yVPw0NK2yeedQsWnQ%3D_17840df04d6%3A121bdd%3A56ac6c25&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C260503f787d440f9a35f08d8ea40593c%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637516909388253206%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=TIcRRwgD56RXyP8nnPlQb6dNP1AI7JtlQKeMW4OsgtI%3D&reserved=0) |  | | [Richmond Times-Dispatch](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Frichmond.com%2Fnews%2Flocal%2Ffour-major-community-vaccination-clinics-including-one-at-vsu-launch-across-virginia-to-bridge-divide%2Farticle_2031ddc7-39e8-5f0e-b3f6-262de82767cb.html&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C260503f787d440f9a35f08d8ea40593c%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637516909388263198%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=7rKWnXTBuKLhFqkAveZCyiffdm6fD6Q9O6LiXs37HAc%3D&reserved=0) |  | | [Alaysia Black Hackett, Virginia’s deputy chief diversity officer, said Tuesday that establishing these community sites was an intentional effort to combat that cycle and prioritize equitable distribution through county, state, federal, university and local health department partnerships.](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2Fs9CTgOD2rBeTJKl68FD0GbsxW6yVPw0NK2yeedQsWnQ%3D_17840df04d6%3A121bdd%3A56ac6c25&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C260503f787d440f9a35f08d8ea40593c%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637516909388263198%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=nlG9y3oeLyv%2BHA1qRWCuLcaCEH1O6I9v4x1P4t1%2B9lY%3D&reserved=0) |  | |  | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | [**Virginia's unemployment rate was 5.3% in January; state also lost more jobs during early stages of the pandemic than initially reported**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2Fs9CTgOD2rBeTJKl68FD0GbsxW6yVPw0NK2yeedQsWnQ%3D_1783bb0110c%3A24fba2%3A14c5a0c7&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C260503f787d440f9a35f08d8ea40593c%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637516909388263198%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=01vR04iqsDEG8rkoPQM%2FigxXQHCNPDPWDItNRgJ3pwM%3D&reserved=0) |  | | [Richmond Times-Dispatch](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Frichmond.com%2Fbusiness%2Fvirginias-unemployment-rate-was-5-3-in-january-state-also-lost-more-jobs-during-early%2Farticle_04bc4de2-b098-56a5-b458-3bb59471d66a.html&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C260503f787d440f9a35f08d8ea40593c%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637516909388273189%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=ckmK3JqckaTmjmxgfe09YV6%2BKKjo7JCf5tGm1%2FqqVmw%3D&reserved=0) |  | | * For instance, the labor force participation rate, which previously had been reported at around 67%, has now been revised down to about 63.1%, the lowest it has been since data started being collected in January 1976 and an indication that many people have dropped out of the job market. * Virginia’s unemployment rate dropped from December to January but remained more than twice the rate from a year ago as the pandemic continued to affect the job market. |  | |  | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | [**Three months into Virginia’s vaccine rollout, many poultry plant workers have yet to be immunized**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2FZlfaun7gHjf%2BezBb4FuuczpsZ%2FrJH5fsT39QwuFW9Bk%3D_178393576b4%3A1632df%3Ad4b86a5d&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C260503f787d440f9a35f08d8ea40593c%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637516909388273189%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=EEq1j7gkYplD5lJ1zgRxvplxTM8WgIautrcK9Jk8BRQ%3D&reserved=0) |  | | [Virginia Mercury](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.virginiamercury.com%2F2021%2F03%2F16%2Fthree-months-into-virginias-vaccine-rollout-many-poultry-plant-workers-have-yet-to-be-immunized%2F&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C260503f787d440f9a35f08d8ea40593c%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637516909388283192%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=1Myt0a%2FsWpO63YTCURFMZ8PWK7ZFSz7r2G3QY46hDPY%3D&reserved=0) |  | | * The department has distributed educational materials to its seven poultry processing plants and encouraged them to share information on general community clinics with their employees — who just became eligible for shots in the Central Shenandoah Health District last week. * Laura Lee Wight, a spokesperson for the Central Shenandoah Health District, said the department is “actively planning” events for poultry plant employees, which could take the form of in-house clinics or weekend PODs that are more convenient for workers. |  | |  | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | [**SNAP expansion expected to bring more than $100 million in new food aid to Virginia - Virginia Mercury**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2Fs9CTgOD2rBeTJKl68FD0GbsxW6yVPw0NK2yeedQsWnQ%3D_178365fa883%3Aa55472%3Add346d13&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C260503f787d440f9a35f08d8ea40593c%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637516909388283192%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=697KZyhes4BsNl3EvDhlp9kMY2Y6G8v8fHvqhrVDeH8%3D&reserved=0) |  | | [Virginia Mercury](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.virginiamercury.com%2F2021%2F03%2F15%2Fsnap-expansion-expected-to-bring-more-than-100-million-in-new-food-aid-to-virginia%2F&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C260503f787d440f9a35f08d8ea40593c%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637516909388293183%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=bSiFcWgHTDwXn1UNiN%2BAyL8V1XPix7KFxUdh4nT%2Bydw%3D&reserved=0) |  | | * Advocates are heralding legislation loosening eligibility rules for food stamps as the most significant expansion of public benefits in Virginia since the state expanded Medicaid four years ago. * To qualify for SNAP benefits under Virginia’s current rules, an applicant must earn 130 percent of the federal poverty threshold, which for a family of three is set at $28,236 per year. |  | |  | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | [**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%7C260503f787d440f9a35f08d8ea40593c%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637516909387853432%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=ouNJEaIDjYXIcRzzTEazIuK2fdmH%2B0cTEq0lFh4BuSo%3D&reserved=0) | | | |  | | --- | | [**U.S. Jobless Claims Unexpectedly Increase to a One-Month High**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2FFy3VJ11srJ7WiTPM6nbL06kpPr28ZRWFGN1T1qh7ocA%3D_17846923995%3A35a46d%3A869c686d&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C260503f787d440f9a35f08d8ea40593c%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637516909387943381%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=IxRi5CWI517NTdure6vG12zQ9nCuXSA3VlT2e1jmy9g%3D&reserved=0) | | [Bloomberg.com](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.bloomberg.com%2Fnews%2Farticles%2F2021-03-18%2Fu-s-jobless-claims-unexpectedly-rise-to-one-month-high&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C260503f787d440f9a35f08d8ea40593c%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637516909387943381%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=OaLhi%2FZGnc%2Fs%2BhgeDNmvwdIhhwDk3lelr1mJcMaUpnE%3D&reserved=0) | | * Initial claims in regular state programs rose by 45,000 to 770,000 in the week ended March 13, Labor Department data showed Thursday. * Continuing claims -- an approximation of the number of people filing for ongoing state benefits – fell for the ninth week to 4.12 million in the week ended March 6. | | | |  | | --- | | [**The pandemic accelerated job automation and Black and Latino workers are most likely to be replaced**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2FFy3VJ11srJ7WiTPM6nbL06kpPr28ZRWFGN1T1qh7ocA%3D_1784584eb18%3A232b31%3A570c3ac7&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C260503f787d440f9a35f08d8ea40593c%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637516909387953373%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=el0Gonb4K9K0zu7KOV2QE7GWwZEaaJRj0v%2FuewGJMIo%3D&reserved=0) | | [CNBC](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cnbc.com%2F2021%2F03%2F17%2Fblack-latino-workers-most-likely-to-be-replaced-by-automation-report.html&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C260503f787d440f9a35f08d8ea40593c%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637516909387953373%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=wYD%2BygUP52e%2FeK7YoDz7oX7NH5VhtrnPY%2Fv%2BlAfvohI%3D&reserved=0) | | * Coronavirus "has caused an acceleration of some labor trends like automation," says Karen Fichuk, CEO of Randstad North America, adding that out-of-work Americans may need to develop new skills in order to find new jobs. * Now, a new report from The Brookings Institution indicates that Black and Latino workers are among those most likely to have their jobs replaced. | | | |  | | --- | | [**College and University Presidents Respond to COVID-19: 2021 Spring Term Survey**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2FFy3VJ11srJ7WiTPM6nbL06kpPr28ZRWFGN1T1qh7ocA%3D_1784581e517%3A21fcb9%3A9208205f&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C260503f787d440f9a35f08d8ea40593c%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637516909387963367%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=pZLmfwDoSL0V42EtI5OjdyT5doWkKiTC2LU9Zqgr1hY%3D&reserved=0) | | [American Council on Education](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.acenet.edu%2FResearch-Insights%2FPages%2FSenior-Leaders%2FCollege-and-University-Presidents-Respond-to-COVID-19-2021-Spring-Term.aspx%3F_cldee%3DamFuZHJlQHZjY3MuZWR1%26recipientid%3Dcontact-4c58d80d8514eb118130005056866fb1-40e5646c722449fdafb7477697eaa340%26utm_source%3DClickDimensions%26utm_medium%3Demail%26utm_campaign%3DDigest%26esid%3Db0d25371-c476-eb11-8136-005056866fb1&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C260503f787d440f9a35f08d8ea40593c%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637516909387963367%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=FS3RVhy9UJpu6aMF1Sx1II4JS02CbLAtwb6BBbso%2BPs%3D&reserved=0) | | * About half of all presidents at private four-year institutions indicated that they were currently offering or were planning to offer “predominantly in-person, with some online instruction" in spring 2021 (51 percent), the highest share across all sectors. * Presidents at public four-year institutions were most likely to anticipate keeping changes made to “academic advising" (77 percent), “student counseling and mental health services" (75 percent), “academic support services" (65 percent), and “new student and family programs and orientation" (57 percent). | | | |  | | --- | | [**Pandemic didn't speed adoption of open educational resources, but outlook is promising**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2FFy3VJ11srJ7WiTPM6nbL06kpPr28ZRWFGN1T1qh7ocA%3D_178457ed546%3A22d2ea%3A56ac6c25&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C260503f787d440f9a35f08d8ea40593c%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637516909387973362%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=61NuFU8bVrQlsVterkGd1pWydBY36G6AHYgganKdxjo%3D&reserved=0) | | [Inside Higher Ed | Higher Education News, Career Advice, Jobs](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.insidehighered.com%2Fdigital-learning%2Farticle%2F2021%2F03%2F18%2Fpandemic-didnt-speed-adoption-open-educational-resources-outlook&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C260503f787d440f9a35f08d8ea40593c%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637516909387973362%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=siF40%2FSOAVWBpJ6tqb2eN4QbtFc1I2e5pLOnMHvSc%2Bo%3D&reserved=0) | | * Faculty awareness about the existence of open educational resources in 2019-20 continued the steady arc of growth seen in recent years, growing by about five percentage points from the year before, to nearly six in 10, according to "Digital Texts in the Time of COVID," by Bay View Analytics on behalf of the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation. * Faculty (and student) embrace of digital textbooks and course materials has been slower than many technology advocates', and the pandemic-driven digitization of instructional delivery didn't appear to change perceptions: roughly the same proportion of instructors, 43 percent, agreed (somewhat to strongly) that "students learn better from print materials than they do from digital" in 2020 as answered that way in 2019 (44 percent). | | | |  | | --- | | [**Student Financial Need Greater in Second Year of Pandemic**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2Fo3SSqIWWG2gYayKaXccfVpg%2FzOCVxn%2FqF9iZLeGk8SI%3D_178443158b2%3A1c042c%3Afa97248d&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C260503f787d440f9a35f08d8ea40593c%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637516909387983356%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=C%2BbJJXdRheeiV9JX4e5eJKE9RIYpqj1HNYtm988PfKA%3D&reserved=0) | | [Inside Higher Ed](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.insidehighered.com%2Fquicktakes%2F2021%2F03%2F18%2Fstudent-financial-need-greater-second-year-pandemic&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C260503f787d440f9a35f08d8ea40593c%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637516909387983356%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=igYQt8LUVCTiJW5z3EbFq7IZ3Tg%2Ff%2Fy58%2BZjGqbracQ%3D&reserved=0) | | * More than 60 percent of the students surveyed in mid-February said food and rent were their top two financial needs, according to an overview of the survey results. * This finding represents an increase from Course Hero’s COVID-19 impact survey last year, which found that nearly 50 percent of students were in need of money for food and rent. | | | |  | | --- | | [**Education solutions: A positive legacy of pandemic remote learning**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2Fs9CTgOD2rBeTJKl68FD0GbsxW6yVPw0NK2yeedQsWnQ%3D_17840d4fc2c%3A10b3ec%3A58b3627&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C260503f787d440f9a35f08d8ea40593c%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637516909387993350%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=g%2FeJqsazdwJHEkyDtCli7Ddyl9FTY9mFOYvMvpeL%2F74%3D&reserved=0) | | [The Hechinger Report](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fhechingerreport.org%2Fthe-pandemics-remote-learning-legacy-a-lot-worth-keeping%2F&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C260503f787d440f9a35f08d8ea40593c%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637516909387993350%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=Diz4i7i3NU1vqHscEJO5CH0TinrKAcTkA0FLnqaiC7c%3D&reserved=0) | | * As districts across the United States consider how to get student learning back on track and fortify parent interest in public schools, they’re asking the same question as Steve Joel: What should we keep after the pandemic? * The superintendent in Lincoln, Nebraska, says a district survey this past fall found that 10% of parents liked remote learning – pandemic or not. | | | |  | | --- | | [**Report Highlights Challenges Facing Rural Communities**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2FZ23B2Q5L3pE0IxEnKxwIzxUp4djTIl%2Fdr8ZazqXeH1U%3D_1783d2e0eae%3A6c40b1%3Ad9ad2857&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C260503f787d440f9a35f08d8ea40593c%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637516909388003346%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=CXWaDFTfKGsqYdL5VAROgz8kAStil5EUmMEBOky6dIY%3D&reserved=0) | | [Diverse](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdiverseeducation.com%2Farticle%2F208561%2F&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C260503f787d440f9a35f08d8ea40593c%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637516909388003346%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=cNRWVmH7Swj0zzpvlP0dz1K7K9zcakL%2B8QfCgPAlj4Y%3D&reserved=0" \t "_blank) | | * Broadband internet, funding and meeting basic needs were among the three main challenges facing rural community colleges. * “I think these are all examples that speak to ways that rural community colleges have been innovative and successful,” said Dr. Vanessa Sansone, an assistant professor of higher education at the University of Texas at San Antonio. | | | |  | | --- | | [**One Way To Speed Up Economic Recovery? Focus On Adult Higher Education**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2FFy3VJ11srJ7WiTPM6nbL06kpPr28ZRWFGN1T1qh7ocA%3D_1783b45aa28%3A1c4723%3Af5ffe2e9&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C260503f787d440f9a35f08d8ea40593c%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637516909388003346%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=hZJ71usrzyew5uRuAx2aDrBoTEzij7A5m2NHIv2wwl8%3D&reserved=0) | | [Forbes](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.forbes.com%2Fsites%2Fernestezeugo%2F2021%2F03%2F15%2Fone-way-to-speed-up-economic-recovery-focus-on-adult-higher-education%2F&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C260503f787d440f9a35f08d8ea40593c%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637516909388013338%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=L4gyR%2BdXkyOdnY6dOPuIMLR2UJKz2clXOSe3%2BmL760A%3D&reserved=0) | | * Four strategies for state leaders outlined in the Education Strategy Group’s Rapid Response Toolkit provide guidance for how policy change can create favorable conditions that make it easier for adult learners to engage with and earn credentials from institutions. * Pair that with the fact that over 100 million working aged adults do not hold any higher education credentials and the problem becomes clear: absent a robust expansion of the labor market or a strategy to rapidly reskill the workforce, millions of Americans could experience another slow, unequal recovery marked by sustained high unemployment. | | |  | | |