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| March 25, 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%7C17301009647a49ec775708d8efc08856%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637522958615651023%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=zOldM8YRJJ4tV1EVWKJJwIr%2B5ONORxRLXIcUy5Si3ls%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_1786a471759%3A2fdeef%3A869c686d&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C17301009647a49ec775708d8efc08856%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637522958615720982%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=3I%2Bl2zdIqy%2B0T6o3hA9BPOeqJPTcnrUdrISGiM7fzPo%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%7C17301009647a49ec775708d8efc08856%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637522958615720982%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=pnQZ%2FzSuhjYqYWuMpb8Tv1fenttypyBwv%2Bhulm0Iu60%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| * For the filing week ending March 20, the figure for seasonally unadjusted initial claims in Virginia was 17,560.
* The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 656,789 in the week ending March 20, a decrease of 100,412 (or -13.3 percent) from the previous week.
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| [**Virginia March 24 COVID-19 update: 1,470 new cases, 6 new deaths; hospitalizations hovering around 1K patients**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2FFy3VJ11srJ7WiTPM6nbL06kpPr28ZRWFGN1T1qh7ocA%3D_1786a32d71c%3A3090cd%3Ad4feb00d&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C17301009647a49ec775708d8efc08856%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637522958615730974%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=54vurtyfn1OoKXE6rSY%2FPV7DqtL3%2Fc%2BEftpzK3p2KQ0%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| [WAVY.com](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.wavy.com%2Fnews%2Fvirginia-march-24-covid-19-update-1470-new-cases-6-new-deaths-hospitalizations-hovering-around-1k-patients%2F&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C17301009647a49ec775708d8efc08856%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637522958615730974%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=LI258UkNOyRFNVdFF2zZJhYKJZBMPATE%2F8B2EUgjyKE%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| * Virginia March 24 COVID-19 update: 1,470 new cases, 6 new deaths; hospitalizations hovering around 1K patients
* Downward metric trends have stalled recently, with hospitalizations hovering above the 1,000 patient mark and cases also above 1,000 per day on average.
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| [**Va. new unemployment claims 60% lower than 1 year ago**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2FPJWScc%2F4lkEqQ6JyrrO1ZjVBLh6YO03KX5MqTz5ah0A%3D_1786a2537d7%3A189920c%3Ad4b86a5d&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C17301009647a49ec775708d8efc08856%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637522958615740968%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=HZ6cTme89G4%2FuGa5Erfw0FDl1bi%2BH1KN%2BwhWYYS4S28%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| [Virginia Business](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.virginiabusiness.com%2Farticle%2Fva-new-unemployment-claims-60-lower-than-1-year-ago%2F&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C17301009647a49ec775708d8efc08856%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637522958615740968%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=via50FGoMNSnj0Ty9gvlhjGqHKRjNt6lu%2F9Jw8F89U0%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| * One year since the COVID-19 pandemic began to be felt in Virginia’s unemployment statistics, the number of initial unemployment claims filed during the week ending March 20 were 60% lower than they were this week a year ago, according to the Virginia Employment Commission.
* The VEC reported Thursday that 17,560 people filed initial claims last week, an increase of 2,035 from the previous week.
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| [**U.Va.-Va. Tech researchers develop promising coronavirus vaccines**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2Fs9CTgOD2rBeTJKl68FD0GbsxW6yVPw0NK2yeedQsWnQ%3D_1786998d862%3A247ebf%3Ad4feb00d&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C17301009647a49ec775708d8efc08856%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637522958615750962%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=I5x%2B4%2BAciDTU4YcrF31vihJIkPvp4r2fkZURkFjO%2Fmc%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| [Virginia Business](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.virginiabusiness.com%2Farticle%2Fu-va-va-tech-researchers-develop-promising-coronavirus-vaccines%2F%3Foly_enc_id%3D0462E7083134D7T&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C17301009647a49ec775708d8efc08856%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637522958615750962%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=Uujh8oCtQsdp73M%2FCUQih2hq9%2BapgJJCEzQX15HIUlo%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| * Athletic rivals Virginia Tech and the University of Virginia are working together on two new coronavirus vaccines, and their research has shown early promise in protecting people from existing and future variants of COVID-19, according to the universities.
* Zeichner and Virginia Tech Distinguished Professor X.J. Meng, one vaccine targets a pig coronavirus that killed nearly 10% of U.S. pigs during a recent outbreak, and the other targets COVID-19.
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| [**Coronavirus update: 25% of Virginia’s population vaccinated with at least one dose**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2Fa7ygYK4H%2BO92hOf1WNl7nib1addh8vp%2BrvFuRIia7o8%3D_178649da52a%3Af26046%3Ad4b86a5d&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C17301009647a49ec775708d8efc08856%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637522958615760960%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=VyA1yQR%2B4koKO6QIbggTbRFd43wY9FY1148ayOwHFxs%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| [8News](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.wric.com%2Fnews%2Fvirginia-news%2Fcoronavirus-update-25-of-virginias-population-vaccinated-with-at-least-one-dose%2F&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C17301009647a49ec775708d8efc08856%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637522958615760960%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=2S8m4oiiU81FDYBjOND4mLcW%2FJHPyEdrMwrLcKRPyG0%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| * The Virginia Department of Health has reported 1,470 new COVID-19 cases in the last 24 hours, bringing the total number of cases in the Commonwealth to 608,704.
* VDH is reporting that a total of 3,226,713 COVID-19 vaccines have been administered as of March 24.
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| [**Governor Northam Announces Limited Capacity Increases for Indoor and Outdoor Gatherings, Some Entertainment Venues as Vaccinations Rise**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2Fs9CTgOD2rBeTJKl68FD0GbsxW6yVPw0NK2yeedQsWnQ%3D_178646f8d9f%3A38ccbd%3A2ef42a87&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C17301009647a49ec775708d8efc08856%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637522958615770951%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=sd59MeV7EpVahcO2yxD2FmEDORRi9PWcuiyWRZznNYM%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| [Virginia](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.governor.virginia.gov%2Fnewsroom%2Fall-releases%2F2021%2Fmarch%2Fheadline-893995-en.html&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C17301009647a49ec775708d8efc08856%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637522958615770951%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=3pjWUm9lmNecT9yTGG9JjlOh52u0%2BQq45JPwxSlC3AI%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| * RICHMOND— Governor Ralph Northam today announced that as COVID-19 vaccinations continue to rise in Virginia, certain sports and entertainment venues may begin to operate with additional capacity and indoor and outdoor gathering limits will increase starting Thursday, April 1.
* Governor Northam Announces Limited Capacity Increases for Indoor and Outdoor Gatherings, Some Entertainment Venues as Vaccinations Rise
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| [**The Pressure to Retrain Workers Could Be Intense for Colleges. Here's What They Can Start Doing Now.**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2FpJObj60hhd4Ufvbp8Z4fAm4U%2BG1RmbCaFfwanQquVGk%3D_178613bc704%3A7fc086%3Aacf96747&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C17301009647a49ec775708d8efc08856%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637522958615780945%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=ZonW2FngjPuyjWS6XV6DZ4Y6LxGFlAPwogHFNQTPTBA%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| [The Chronicle of Higher Education | News, Opinion, Advice about Higher Education](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.chronicle.com%2Farticle%2Fthe-pressure-to-retrain-workers-could-be-intense-for-colleges-heres-what-they-can-start-doing-now&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C17301009647a49ec775708d8efc08856%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637522958615780945%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=67cJLt5GEw6SKEoCnKrts%2Bx2dW8keUUfdlmywoFgEqE%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| * Experts on higher education and the work force see a number of other job-training and career-oriented initiatives that colleges could quickly adopt in the wake of the pandemic.
* Last week, for example, more than three dozen institutions announced their participation in the Taskforce on Higher Education and Opportunity, a coalition of colleges that is swapping ideas and sharing information about how to pursue career-oriented initiatives.
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| [**Growth and development**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2Fs9CTgOD2rBeTJKl68FD0GbsxW6yVPw0NK2yeedQsWnQ%3D_1785fbf8694%3A32e33b%3A38c7a675&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C17301009647a49ec775708d8efc08856%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637522958615790942%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=5y2EeA5FYLBOg7nZFnfUSH8Ci9%2BfGXDBdglL0ssuG0A%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| [Virginia Business](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.virginiabusiness.com%2Farticle%2Fgrowth-and-development%2F%3Foly_enc_id%3D0462E7083134D7T&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C17301009647a49ec775708d8efc08856%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637522958615790942%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=%2FxdbI%2B2slw4NJydPLS7puPb%2FGXqQrLzM25ifhZrP34Y%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| * Pittsylvania County started off the year busy, announcing both the Staunton River Plastics project with Danville and the town of Hurt and the expansion by print company Ennis Inc., which invested $800,000 and hired 15 new employees.
* As for expansions, Litehouse Inc. received a $19.5 million loan from the Danville Industrial Development Authority to expand its facility at Airside Industrial Park, adding a 48,000-square- foot addition for refrigerated manufacturing and warehouse space.
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| [**Avula: Virginia expected to have enough vaccines for every adult by late April**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2Fa7ygYK4H%2BO92hOf1WNl7nib1addh8vp%2BrvFuRIia7o8%3D_1785cf3205c%3Aef939%3Aacf96747&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C17301009647a49ec775708d8efc08856%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637522958615800933%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=0kjV5uSOxms2D5TZ3%2Brx0T7So7qGlLwJnmc4f0mbp64%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| [8News](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.wric.com%2Fhealth%2Fcoronavirus%2Favula-virginia-expected-to-have-enough-vaccines-for-every-adult-by-late-april%2F&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C17301009647a49ec775708d8efc08856%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637522958615800933%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=hqlk2CvCE%2BjfOnNrbI1uSUWFQLjZBAfoTsZ8A4IUnik%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| * Even though the next vaccination phase is projected to launch in several weeks for most Virginians, Avula said the state is ahead of Mr. Biden's supply goal.
* Virginia's vaccine czar told 8News Monday the commonwealth is expected to beat that goal; having enough supply for adults one week early.
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| [**Virginia prisoners, once left out of vaccine plan, have now all been offered a dose**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2FZlfaun7gHjf%2BezBb4FuuczpsZ%2FrJH5fsT39QwuFW9Bk%3D_1785d45feba%3A15be9d%3Aacf96747&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C17301009647a49ec775708d8efc08856%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637522958615810930%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=DKo2NT8u1CKJBWYblJSfg2Ybk5VsB%2B7z6s4NkpvOJc8%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| [Virginia Mercury](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.virginiamercury.com%2F2021%2F03%2F23%2Fvirginia-prisoners-once-left-out-of-vaccine-plan-have-now-all-been-offered-a-dose%2F&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C17301009647a49ec775708d8efc08856%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637522958615810930%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=WbZgpl1DitMZ3j24eR%2Blf%2BcPwlPL3P7vviKsqhiM6cQ%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| * “All inmates and staff have been offered the chance to get the COVID vaccine at this point,” said Department of Corrections spokeswoman Lisa Kinney.
* Nearly 70 percent of people incarcerated in Virginia prisons have received a first dose of coronavirus vaccine and more than half have been fully vaccinated, according to state officials.
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| [**New Virginia Laws Address COVID-19 Needs, Social Justice Demands**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2FFy3VJ11srJ7WiTPM6nbL06kpPr28ZRWFGN1T1qh7ocA%3D_1785b336abd%3Aa182d1%3A38c7a675&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C17301009647a49ec775708d8efc08856%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637522958615820925%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=JX2ccaOpAjI9DVHtDSSio2UM34QYBgljoHrZKlXLPy4%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| [VPM.org](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fvpm.org%2Fnews%2Farticles%2F21164%2Fnew-virginia-laws-address-covid-19-needs-social-justice-demands&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C17301009647a49ec775708d8efc08856%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637522958615820925%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=SFp68bqEpOti6HOcrq76JvicXblj3S%2FsLu6Hp0ufRe0%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| * Gov. Ralph Northam signed a series of bills into law recently, addressing several issues advocates have been drawing attention to for months.
* Some of the new laws address issues raised by the COVID-19 pandemic, including one which gives local health districts more funding flexibility during public health crises.
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| [**The pandemic didn't hurt enrollment at most of Va.'s four-year universities. Not so for community colleges.**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2Fs9CTgOD2rBeTJKl68FD0GbsxW6yVPw0NK2yeedQsWnQ%3D_1785a7e48ac%3A93a5e9%3Ac1bc6237&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C17301009647a49ec775708d8efc08856%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637522958615830919%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=S8Opj9uJKyOf6BcRsflarkNnIdkPUqHVhIZFe4b2hG0%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| [Virginia Mercury](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.virginiamercury.com%2F2021%2F03%2F22%2Fmost-of-va-four-year-universities-didnt-see-a-drop-in-enrollment-during-the-pandemic-not-so-for-community-colleges%2F&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C17301009647a49ec775708d8efc08856%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637522958615830919%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=QLbl0u6qnjjDKyHcr2BJSw5lIzBnwUC3My%2FjvkNkmU4%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| * While national data showed an overall 2.5 percent drop in students, SCHEV found that enrollment across the state’s institutions of higher education was largely unchanged in fall of 2020 compared to the previous years.
* Virginia’s colleges and universities weathered the COVID-19 pandemic without a significant loss in enrollment, according to new analysis from the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia.
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| [**Governor Announces New Service to Assist Virginia Students Applying for Financial Aid**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2Fs9CTgOD2rBeTJKl68FD0GbsxW6yVPw0NK2yeedQsWnQ%3D_1785a7bc65c%3A9275da%3Ae7b9217a&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C17301009647a49ec775708d8efc08856%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637522958615840920%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=54oabVE%2Fyy1dm5w6yfo0P3RNQ4tSYwIHLo%2FJP30F8XM%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| [Virginia](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.governor.virginia.gov%2Fnewsroom%2Fall-releases%2F2021%2Fmarch%2Fheadline-893956-en.html&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C17301009647a49ec775708d8efc08856%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637522958615840920%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=yRFRklzA8Fc5zqra8tkmcj2Xnyfw3m6GWG9UyInGuPQ%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| * RICHMOND— Governor Ralph Northam today announced the launch of a new free advising service to assist Virginia students and families applying for financial aid and help address the COVID-19 related decline in completion rates of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, or FAFSA.
* This free one-on-one advising service will support our goal of ensuring every eligible student in our Commonwealth completes an application, and open the doors to affordable higher education and technical training for even more Virginians.”
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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%7C17301009647a49ec775708d8efc08856%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637522958615451135%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=s%2B5znwkO4%2FkZpHzQM2bu9WpF2wnyLZYStTn1EpVd7H8%3D&reserved=0) |

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| [**The Future Of The Pandemic In The U.S.: Experts Look Ahead**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2Fs9CTgOD2rBeTJKl68FD0GbsxW6yVPw0NK2yeedQsWnQ%3D_1786a893fe4%3A3788f3%3A1cd23e21&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C17301009647a49ec775708d8efc08856%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637522958615521096%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=3FJS6Kf2ZZnxMhJcjOB4yyQDmsWhTckmeHHj%2FqdaYUs%3D&reserved=0) |
| [NPR.org](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.npr.org%2Fsections%2Fhealth-shots%2F2021%2F03%2F24%2F976146368%2Fthe-future-of-the-pandemic-in-the-u-s-experts-look-ahead&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C17301009647a49ec775708d8efc08856%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637522958615531090%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=jw7HB%2FZ%2B2ROkSrKaZOZPod19BcFfLEnGOsSJeKI7e78%3D&reserved=0) |
| * A year after the pandemic shut down the country, a growing number of infectious disease experts, epidemiologists, public health officials and others have started to entertain a notion that has long seemed out of reach: The worst of the pandemic may be over for the United States.
* "The worst may in fact be behind us," says Dr. Ashish Jha, dean of the Brown School of Public Health, one of more than 20 people interviewed by NPR for this story.
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| [**White House announces $10B vaccine access effort aimed at hard-hit communities**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2Fezz8A7EWGAHy1UC0ms%2Fm0qRAagR5Qp4dpGm%2Fx4aLZpc%3D_17868de9901%3A165651a%3Ad4b86a5d&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C17301009647a49ec775708d8efc08856%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637522958615531090%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=EHsvHNTzqTUlC7JiAef5D9pDgHloyLlnwdhKNgNTOVQ%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| [NBC News Top Stories](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.nbcnews.com%2Fpolitics%2Fwhite-house%2Fwhite-house-announces-10-billion-vaccine-access-effort-aimed-hard-n1262014&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C17301009647a49ec775708d8efc08856%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637522958615541084%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=IOaGk65GrJF6PZkd6maZcJc2vScgvzgvpRtWi11NqaA%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| * WASHINGTON — The White House announced Thursday that it will direct $10 billion, largely drawn from the recently enacted American Rescue Plan, to expand vaccination access for low-income, rural and minority communities that have been hit hardest by the pandemic.
* The funding efforts continue the Biden administration's focus on increasing vaccinations among groups hardest hit by the coronavirus, including Black people and Latinos, who have been twice as likely to die from Covid-19 compared to white people.
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| [**Latest weekly jobless claims fall to 684,000, lowest since pandemic began**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2Fezz8A7EWGAHy1UC0ms%2Fm0qRAagR5Qp4dpGm%2Fx4aLZpc%3D_178698371d0%3A16b711e%3A615bd155&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C17301009647a49ec775708d8efc08856%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637522958615541084%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=zSICLhTTvW6Q0DUPpZLaTXglJAhxGS1nIJ3%2FXGxIDMs%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| [NBC News Top Stories](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.nbcnews.com%2Fbusiness%2Feconomy%2Flatest-weekly-jobless-claims-fall-684-000-lowest-pandemic-began-n1262034&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C17301009647a49ec775708d8efc08856%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637522958615541084%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=wFqm0ZTpP4MZLEeLRmjyF8Vtzy2xNpy6Lt%2F4LGz673o%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| * "Things have improved over the last year, but there are still millions of people dealing with real economic pain," said AnnElizabeth Konkel, economist at Indeed Hiring Lab.
* It's the first time since March last year that claims for first-time unemployment have fallen below the 700,000 mark, and roundly beats economist expectations for 735,000 for the week ending March 20, 2021.
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| [**For Community-College Students, It's Been a Tough Year**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2FpJObj60hhd4Ufvbp8Z4fAm4U%2BG1RmbCaFfwanQquVGk%3D_17867a35e46%3A13be0e2%3A615bd155&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C17301009647a49ec775708d8efc08856%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637522958615551078%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=xscJUPTx8oxq%2BXdyUzOqwXznqiXudoYLfx8UV4a4aRE%3D&reserved=0) |
| [The Chronicle of Higher Education | News, Opinion, Advice about Higher Education](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.chronicle.com%2Farticle%2Ffor-community-college-students-its-been-a-tough-year&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C17301009647a49ec775708d8efc08856%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637522958615551078%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=2vZVpIdXlVty3RM7338slR0asTEM1%2Fvldtmoxoo1ox4%3D&reserved=0) |
| * The report, produced by the Center for Community College Student Engagement at the University of Texas at Austin, also describes how nearly 30 percent of students reported that their financial situations were worse last fall than they were before the pandemic.
* The data in the report are based on a survey administered to 5,193 entering students across 38 colleges in fall 2020, although not all students answered every question.
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| [**Colleges Weigh Whether to Require Covid-19 Vaccines, or Just Urge Them**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2FFy3VJ11srJ7WiTPM6nbL06kpPr28ZRWFGN1T1qh7ocA%3D_17869e7f8a8%3A2928d6%3Ac1bc6237&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C17301009647a49ec775708d8efc08856%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637522958615561072%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=6ENG4Zhj9O6ZmOUxyY7cHX55rRzgqbYY%2B56DqCZTdII%3D&reserved=0) |
| [CHE](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.chronicle.com%2Farticle%2Fcolleges-weigh-whether-to-require-covid-19-vaccines-or-just-urge-them&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C17301009647a49ec775708d8efc08856%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637522958615561072%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=mCS6iRqOkBtK9vuGMmBHxEG1kynTFzGBeuwv%2BwMO444%3D&reserved=0) |
| * Chief among them: Can colleges require their employees and students to receive Covid-19 vaccinations?
* Le Duc said the university — which, at this time, doesn’t plan to make Covid-19 vaccinations mandatory for students or employees — also plans to involve student leaders in marketing efforts when the vaccine is available, as it did with journalism students during the meningitis-vaccine campaign.
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| [**Bill aims to fix unemployment issues laid bare by pandemic**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2Fs9CTgOD2rBeTJKl68FD0GbsxW6yVPw0NK2yeedQsWnQ%3D_178698e4511%3A213872%3A2ef42a87&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C17301009647a49ec775708d8efc08856%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637522958615571062%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=CsfXmBQpQKQbqSu%2F9zYIVjgX4A2mWhIhgnfmv6rLstE%3D&reserved=0) |
| [AP NEWS](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fapnews.com%2Farticle%2Fcoronavirus-pandemic-virginia-4633ba8ed0890154da99c283ee7cf784&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C17301009647a49ec775708d8efc08856%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637522958615571062%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=XGiSOMr3mCod5lLPfzsOvi4%2Bke%2Bjyy%2BjTI9k2SgW12I%3D&reserved=0) |
| * After The Associated Press questioned state officials about her case, Clifton got a message Wednesday from the Virginia Employment Commission telling her she should apply for Pandemic Unemployment Assistance, a program created last year by a federal relief bill.
* Hudson’s measure would also make another significant change: It directs the commission to forgive overpayments due to state or employer error if the recipient is effectively unable to repay.
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| [**As Pandemic Lifts, Student Mental Health Needs Shift**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2FZ23B2Q5L3pE0IxEnKxwIzxUp4djTIl%2Fdr8ZazqXeH1U%3D_1786509ac87%3Ae114cd%3Aacf96747&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C17301009647a49ec775708d8efc08856%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637522958615581062%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=bj9HHwC2F4dHU9fO8HqWG1knCg2cYASJbOLG8SZh5qk%3D&reserved=0) |
| [Diverse](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdiverseeducation.com%2Farticle%2F208466%2F&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C17301009647a49ec775708d8efc08856%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637522958615581062%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=lF1ZBKK1Y33YKJtu1G%2B9x%2BCS1iHD0ZAi0z02MWsN85M%3D&reserved=0) |
| * As executive director of Mental Health at TimelyMD, a telehealth provider focused solely on the unique needs of college students, I believe we are in the early stages of rounding the corner and our journey to support students must continue full throttle.
* Now is the time to double-down on these and other efforts that make students feel supported and connected, rather than scaling back services like mental health care as societal conditions improve.
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| [**Advising community college students during a pandemic**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2FyT%2BeOE3Q975AwLALTpvdZ%2FHttzCyCe5XsEd8RhhAhk0%3D_17861f0f480%3Aa02d6c%3Ad4b86a5d&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C17301009647a49ec775708d8efc08856%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637522958615591054%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=XhhUj%2Fp4IFjYwvaf5FrY9VGwTPlsVu%2BbIoTLnYrtBEU%3D&reserved=0) |
| [Community College Daily](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.ccdaily.com%2F2021%2F03%2Fadvising-community-college-students-during-a-pandemic%2F&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C17301009647a49ec775708d8efc08856%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637522958615591054%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=yGoo%2BZfiSLuX1A3WNvEiGaHkOK4bnb7WajLXTaW1TyY%3D&reserved=0) |
| * Advising professionals learned new technology, discovered challenges in connecting with students through a screen and were tasked to retain students in a world where all the rules have changed.
* It may be necessary for college leadership to shift job responsibilities or create a shared approach to student support to allow advisors the required time to make that necessary connection.
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| [**U.S. Department of Education Announces Additional Assistance for Students and Institutions Through HEERF Grant Program and Expanded SNAP Benefits**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2FFy3VJ11srJ7WiTPM6nbL06kpPr28ZRWFGN1T1qh7ocA%3D_1785fed1e2a%3A362d9a%3A38c7a675&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C17301009647a49ec775708d8efc08856%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637522958615601050%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=qNxz3itU0pIWi1WoDiqgx%2Fgj4EuAsCeWEzhvy6d5ij4%3D&reserved=0) |
| [U.S. Department of Education](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fcontent.govdelivery.com%2Faccounts%2FUSED%2Fbulletins%2F2c8099c&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C17301009647a49ec775708d8efc08856%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637522958615611050%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=bAtSQRqhtMP5UF36tMFDInihBGx28KaOIMS8kfnwqY4%3D&reserved=0) |
| * To provide ongoing relief from the COVID-19 emergency and implement provisions in the American Rescue Plan recently signed by President Biden, the U.S. Department of Education (Department) is announcing additional benefits, outreach, flexibilities, and guidance to assist students, federal student aid applicants, and institutions of higher educations.
* “The comprehensive and clear guidance on the use of HEERF grants will enable colleges and universities to better address the academic needs of their students, as well as ensure the safety and well-being of all members of the campus community,” said Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona.
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| [**Six Strategies Community Colleges are Using to Help Bring Students Back & Stay Enrolled**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2FFy3VJ11srJ7WiTPM6nbL06kpPr28ZRWFGN1T1qh7ocA%3D_1785fd55763%3A33a9aa%3Ac1bc6237&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C17301009647a49ec775708d8efc08856%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637522958615611050%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=NT6YK%2FiG0UHgqGtjJmrROCegulKtyq%2FmV5KQKG7gfbA%3D&reserved=0) |
| [New America](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.newamerica.org%2Feducation-policy%2Fedcentral%2Fsix-strategies-community-colleges-are-using-to-help-bring-students-back-stay-enrolled%2F&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C17301009647a49ec775708d8efc08856%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637522958615621041%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=drbv8FbjQciB1VGmTSY%2BI1weafbIeycKrKC54CgjjC4%3D&reserved=0) |
| * Colleges are reaching out in other ways to their former students or those who may have had to pause their education during the pandemic, letting them know that they are welcome to re-enroll when their lives permit.
* As one college administrator put it “we're also going to use the recent stimulus funding to really figure out a way to [target] those students who stopped out and...incentivize them to come back to college.”
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| [**Delays in aid continue for unemployed workers one year into the pandemic**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2Fs9CTgOD2rBeTJKl68FD0GbsxW6yVPw0NK2yeedQsWnQ%3D_1785fc11976%3A32ae8a%3Aeaf12a01&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C17301009647a49ec775708d8efc08856%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637522958615621041%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=YkZ3JfUqwxP%2BoAu0RqLELsFFfYPBB%2FrnlJpRGyIlaZY%3D&reserved=0) |
| [Washington Post](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.washingtonpost.com%2Fbusiness%2F2021%2F03%2F22%2Funemployment-insurance-delays-stimulus%2F&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C17301009647a49ec775708d8efc08856%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637522958615631038%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=Qpl6PPV2AyBURue0atW53%2FwBAgizABcFtIVod1s5U7k%3D&reserved=0) |
| * Throughout the pandemic, unemployed workers have reported long delays waiting for jobless aid, claims canceled under suspicion of fraud, and other issues that have caused them to be dropped from unemployment rolls, revealing weaknesses in a system meant to be a critical lifeline for people without the support of an income.
* Other delays some recipients are experiencing have nothing to do with the stimulus, but instead are related to complicated processes for keeping people enrolled in unemployment benefits longer than a year, which varies state by state.
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| [**Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen sees post-Covid growth, possible full employment in 2022**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2Fs9CTgOD2rBeTJKl68FD0GbsxW6yVPw0NK2yeedQsWnQ%3D_1785fc075c1%3A30f4d9%3Ae7b9217a&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C17301009647a49ec775708d8efc08856%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637522958615631038%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=hDpQJiEZGxIHVgCqf57R0R6r3VF9oWDLYIWSR4olnGk%3D&reserved=0) |
| [CNBC](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cnbc.com%2F2021%2F03%2F23%2Fjanet-yellen-sees-post-covid-growth-possible-full-employment-in-2022.html&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C17301009647a49ec775708d8efc08856%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637522958615641030%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=gNrYYDToFUYrSzMzyDYOrr8EkvsTIRS9i%2BrDvyv7Jvg%3D&reserved=0) |
| * Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen will paint an optimistic picture for the U.S. economy as it emerges from the coronavirus pandemic, telling U.S. lawmakers on Tuesday that she sees both growth and possibly full employment next year — due to President Joe Biden's coronavirus stimulus package.
* Yellen said the Treasury, tasked with implementing much of the Biden stimulus plan and distributing the funds, was working to expedite relief to the areas of greatest need, including the smallest of small businesses, which are disproportionately owned by women and people of color.
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| [**OPINION: It’s time to stop using the FAFSA to determine who gets emergency aid**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2F7GREM7CplKRZjsJIjPDQXp7LmhRctFTvaXgASsiiVtw%3D_1785e894962%3A39cd4d%3A615bd155&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C17301009647a49ec775708d8efc08856%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637522958615641030%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=%2BWOyAa6Yvs4AOGgTBhkqD8%2FyH0tAU9vRxjNTEdCtAkY%3D&reserved=0) |
| [The Hechinger Report](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fhechingerreport.org%2Fopinion-its-time-to-stop-using-the-fafsa-to-determine-who-gets-emergency-aid%2F&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C17301009647a49ec775708d8efc08856%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637522958615651023%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=U7KmbF6TibAKhtR3xVgyLtURKN3dkH%2FI65nUNbME5ik%3D&reserved=0" \t "_blank) |
| * Colleges and universities therefore have the freedom to distribute stimulus funds without requiring the FAFSA or using the EFC to determine need, and the emergency aid won’t be subject to the traditional audits.
* And, of course, the FAFSA cannot assess the needs of students who don’t file it — the millions of undocumented students, international students, noncredit students and dual-enrolled students, all of whom are, according to the law, eligible for the latest rounds of federal emergency aid funds.
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