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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%7C53c12e9feb504fa0d33e08d905c9a876%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637547185940582390%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=rVWpgxTOmTlB9FxTTBz9hmnAAE7Y%2B3ZqYrExFOZzMcQ%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_178faf2ff2a%3A88a12a%3A570c3ac7&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C53c12e9feb504fa0d33e08d905c9a876%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637547185940662338%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=QabHVc4Jwzrm3rLh%2FrgKU5yt0nPXsu2nGkjkWM%2FrXC8%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%7C53c12e9feb504fa0d33e08d905c9a876%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637547185940662338%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=3taguqJdmIfxLvhRTQZaKfcKGwRJ8eqSBmwEUoG9ZZs%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| * The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 566,479 in the week ending April 17, a decrease of 56,554 (or -9.1 percent) from the previous week.
* For the filing week ending April 17, the figure for seasonally unadjusted initial claims in Virginia was 13,751.
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| [**Va. jobless claims up 173% from last week**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2FPJWScc%2F4lkEqQ6JyrrO1ZjVBLh6YO03KX5MqTz5ah0A%3D_178fa88ea0e%3Af81224%3A615bd155&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C53c12e9feb504fa0d33e08d905c9a876%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637547185940672335%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=71dJRa34VitjX9X2tWq0%2B7L13EvgEfLd7ycqoX1rN0k%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| [Virginia Business](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.virginiabusiness.com%2Farticle%2Fva-jobless-claims-up-173-from-last-week%2F&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C53c12e9feb504fa0d33e08d905c9a876%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637547185940672335%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=ZgNX%2BXcYWh%2ByLxdiQOpXC%2F%2FMXDbvwrNoMPZ2DrD6Z%2F0%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| * Last week’s new claims rose by 8,717 compared to those from the week ending April 10, when 5,034 people filed, according to the Virginia Employment Commission’s Thursday report.
* For the April 13-17 filing week, 13,751 Virginians submitted initial unemployment claims, a 173% increase from the previous week, but an 83% decrease from this time a year ago when jobless claims were near a peak during the COVID-19 pandemic.
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| [**State coronavirus restrictions tweaked on Wednesday, seated bar service able to resume at restaurants**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2Fa7ygYK4H%2BO92hOf1WNl7nib1addh8vp%2BrvFuRIia7o8%3D_178f7c523b2%3Aa44133%3A615bd155&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C53c12e9feb504fa0d33e08d905c9a876%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637547185940682331%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=lNGfqr5Mpi%2BE%2B%2F%2BLnyJ1vdF0xiw0OimxP5%2BlRy9MX%2B0%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| [8News](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.wric.com%2Fnews%2Fvirginia-news%2Fstate-coronavirus-restrictions-tweaked-on-wednesday-bar-service-able-to-resume-at-restaurants%2F&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C53c12e9feb504fa0d33e08d905c9a876%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637547185940682331%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=MMm6FEFn50CiPQeGMrjtcSsBADWCi4xKiVsWTTkPH80%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| * Other updates include clarification that races and marathons can have up to 30% of their occupancy load.
* Groups of students, teachers, administrators or other school staff will be permitted to gather for educational instruction.
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| [**Coronavirus update: VDH reports 1,373 new cases, positivity rate drops slightly to 5.9%**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2Fa7ygYK4H%2BO92hOf1WNl7nib1addh8vp%2BrvFuRIia7o8%3D_178f9fbf900%3Ae6696e%3A615bd155&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C53c12e9feb504fa0d33e08d905c9a876%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637547185940692323%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=n9fdZ%2BxsT9Yd1YoztXLEOZ2kYB3HTw5%2B7fuVTgLwAj4%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| [8News](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.wric.com%2Fhealth%2Fcoronavirus%2Fcoronavirus-update-vdh-reports-1373-new-cases-positivity-rate-drops-slightly-to-5-9%2F&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C53c12e9feb504fa0d33e08d905c9a876%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637547185940702322%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=IjimWqQrwepkzOZp9Kx%2F7u1YlgT7CGrpTK4GiTwUbbA%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| * The Virginia Department of Health reported 1,373 new cases, which includes those who tested positive and people with known exposure to COVID-19.
* As of Wednesday, the Virginia Hospital & Healthcare Association is reporting that 1,104 people are currently in the hospital with COVID-19, with 269 of those patients in the ICU.
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| [**Colleges mull requiring COVID vaccinations**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2Fs9CTgOD2rBeTJKl68FD0GbsxW6yVPw0NK2yeedQsWnQ%3D_178f9d0a74f%3A730191%3A38c7a675&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C53c12e9feb504fa0d33e08d905c9a876%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637547185940702322%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=gsMxFQk5Kqtl5VwyIUxWvBFXV3ne7yZY2piAwqZXS8w%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| [Farmville](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.farmvilleherald.com%2F2021%2F04%2Fcolleges-mull-requiring-covid-vaccinations%2F&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C53c12e9feb504fa0d33e08d905c9a876%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637547185940712314%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=5oEnlGsr3iljWZlTp8jZ203GgtLjy7O9eKGNoRKZKcU%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| * Grey Mullarkey, a communication arts major at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, said the vaccine should be mandatory for college students and employees.
* Rutgers University in New Jersey may have been the first to require the COVID-19 vaccination for returning fall students, according to Inside Higher Ed, a publication tracking higher education news.
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| [**Virginia researchers learning more about COVID-19 vaccine strength against variants, need for booster shots**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2FFy3VJ11srJ7WiTPM6nbL06kpPr28ZRWFGN1T1qh7ocA%3D_178f5c1dfd6%3A379b5b%3Ad4feb00d&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C53c12e9feb504fa0d33e08d905c9a876%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637547185940712314%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=f86Mm2yquOnup3%2BwwzBHZq2osrk%2F4FVgmOkaKvmYu2M%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| [WAVY.com](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.wavy.com%2Fcovid-19-vaccine%2Fvirginia-researchers-learning-more-about-covid-19-vaccine-strength-against-variants-need-for-booster-shots%2F&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C53c12e9feb504fa0d33e08d905c9a876%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637547185940722307%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=9VV%2F%2Fv9vdxLdru%2F%2Bqb2i4t3A2%2BUcL%2Fud%2F%2Fp7zTkYRNA%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| * Hartman says the good news is that the Pfizer vaccine, which his firm is currently testing on hundreds of volunteers, appears to be effective against the coronavirus variant that originated in the United Kingdom.
* We’re seeing some of that happen with the UK flu where some of the literature of three or four weeks ago suggests that it might be more deadly than the current one,” said Dr. Aaron Hartman with the Virginia Research Center in Richmond.
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| [**Job search rule for unemployment benefits returning in June**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2Fs9CTgOD2rBeTJKl68FD0GbsxW6yVPw0NK2yeedQsWnQ%3D_178f4cbce0d%3A264246%3A14c5a0c7&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C53c12e9feb504fa0d33e08d905c9a876%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637547185940722307%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=iL8PMrY3xxOqRaddtOBNHq3sc%2BMcu%2FELAv6%2F0HI5r20%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| [AP NEWS](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fapnews.com%2Farticle%2Fhealth-business-coronavirus-virginia-3488a0a56b9a2f2b6ec03e6545f6cf29&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C53c12e9feb504fa0d33e08d905c9a876%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637547185940732306%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=Op1J14C2WfgQ7iTPRZ45nCeVTB1FO3gVOJ0vwYrt8%2Fc%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| [RICHMOND, Va. (AP) — Jobless workers collecting unemployment benefits will be required to report looking for work beginning in early June, the Virginia Employment Commission announced Tuesday.](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2Fs9CTgOD2rBeTJKl68FD0GbsxW6yVPw0NK2yeedQsWnQ%3D_178f4cbce0d%3A264246%3A14c5a0c7&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C53c12e9feb504fa0d33e08d905c9a876%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637547185940732306%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=W%2BkLEAi2Py%2FKvKJ9iEjOtZrqAHfeIYe6FSCw1ZqId3Y%3D&reserved=0)  |  |

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| [**Staffing shortages are overwhelming Virginia's psychiatric hospitals - Virginia Mercury**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2Fs9CTgOD2rBeTJKl68FD0GbsxW6yVPw0NK2yeedQsWnQ%3D_178f4ca4533%3A24da84%3Ac4bcfca2&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C53c12e9feb504fa0d33e08d905c9a876%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637547185940742290%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=Mt4blPCbOlOlnmVnrgDaAcTf%2FJqV2ReM0L57jehPwTQ%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| [Virginia Mercury](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.virginiamercury.com%2F2021%2F04%2F21%2Fstaffing-shortages-are-overwhelming-virginias-psychiatric-hospitals%2F&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C53c12e9feb504fa0d33e08d905c9a876%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637547185940742290%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=qkY1T36239pNypqLroyP2phrF2oVPZWkUM3iDjPdsdI%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| * Under state code, Virginia’s psychiatric hospitals are required to admit patients after an eight-hour period if a bed can’t be found at another facility (including private hospitals with behavioral health units).
* Those empty positions have only grown, and Land said facilities across the state are operating at roughly 65 to 70 percent of staffing.
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| [**Get vaccinated, Northam says, as state opens up eligibility**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2Fs9CTgOD2rBeTJKl68FD0GbsxW6yVPw0NK2yeedQsWnQ%3D_178efef494d%3A2c326b%3A1cd23e21&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C53c12e9feb504fa0d33e08d905c9a876%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637547185940752292%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=50KGVgC6dLVb0GnMN8CxLHA6J%2FM1lYtxT8%2FjLRgzL5Q%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| [AP NEWS](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fapnews.com%2Farticle%2Fhealth-ralph-northam-coronavirus-pandemic-virginia-19abcb2e23533e28b9d1f5203bd2f550&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C53c12e9feb504fa0d33e08d905c9a876%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637547185940752292%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=brFmUNgWF1RBrNGEMIYjl4V1caH0W5E4%2Bkanvl4qmwA%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| [RICHMOND, Va. (AP) — Gov. Ralph Northam urged Virginians to continue getting vaccinated against the coronavirus Monday, a day after the state opened up eligibility for a shot to everyone 16 and older.](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2Fs9CTgOD2rBeTJKl68FD0GbsxW6yVPw0NK2yeedQsWnQ%3D_178efef494d%3A2c326b%3A1cd23e21&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C53c12e9feb504fa0d33e08d905c9a876%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637547185940762287%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=TYjVJyXLPm0veL4oiIwL9VIBq5E%2BQZqArLiPLJCeHUc%3D&reserved=0)  |  |

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| [**More young people are being hospitalized with COVID-19, health leaders say**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2Fa7ygYK4H%2BO92hOf1WNl7nib1addh8vp%2BrvFuRIia7o8%3D_178eed14d85%3A223ca0e%3A647a9c78&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C53c12e9feb504fa0d33e08d905c9a876%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637547185940772280%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=APGnhI6yu5V3Foz04oGlzwKC6bA7%2BcbXsyqHMcDCK5M%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| [8News](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.wric.com%2Fhealth%2Fcoronavirus%2Fmore-young-people-are-being-hospitalized-with-covid-19-health-leaders-say%2F&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C53c12e9feb504fa0d33e08d905c9a876%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637547185940772280%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=420aeXvUI7GkSdp4d5%2FJmLtwfiWJwa0sv7kOMgLVCak%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| * (WRIC) - As Virginia enters Phase 2 of the vaccination process, some health leaders say the demographic of who is being hospitalized with COVID-19 is shifting.
* Leaders say the shift shows the COVID-19 vaccine is working in older adults, and young adults may need to get vaccinated to limit exposure.
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| [**Virginia's mass vaccination sites for 'vulnerable' communities are faltering. Why is there still a gulf in vaccine rates? - Virginia Mercury**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2Fs9CTgOD2rBeTJKl68FD0GbsxW6yVPw0NK2yeedQsWnQ%3D_178eabf7d87%3Adc71e3%3A14c5a0c7&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C53c12e9feb504fa0d33e08d905c9a876%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637547185940782273%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=9am13cE8boSZ8R5hodCBO%2FDabSqCX1ppcnea2kOiMbg%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| [Virginia Mercury](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.virginiamercury.com%2F2021%2F04%2F19%2Fvirginias-mass-vaccination-sites-for-vulnerable-communities-are-faltering-why-is-there-still-a-gulf-in-vaccine-rates%2F&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C53c12e9feb504fa0d33e08d905c9a876%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637547185940782273%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=aYOgg2Tbc5AoGzrTKNQmMgLL0BnBlgzx141F5Mf1YJE%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| * Over the last month, state and federal officials have directed thousands of COVID-19 vaccines to large-scale clinics in vulnerable communities with high rates of coronavirus cases — all in areas with significant or majority Black and Latino populations.
* That dataset includes most pre-registrations from local health districts, with the exception of Fairfax County, which retained its own sign-up system even after the state launched a centralized site (Crow said the data does capture about 260,000 county residents who registered through both systems).
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| [**Governor Northam Announces Virginia’s Unemployment Rate Fell to 5.1 Percent in March**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2FFy3VJ11srJ7WiTPM6nbL06kpPr28ZRWFGN1T1qh7ocA%3D_178dbe09d8a%3A26ef88%3Aad47f3a5&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C53c12e9feb504fa0d33e08d905c9a876%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637547185940792272%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=mVZKouvzR35Ho3B%2F5r0JeEjGmK3YDYBfJz127NdriE0%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| [Virginia](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.governor.virginia.gov%2Fnewsroom%2Fall-releases%2F2021%2Fapril%2Fheadline-894482-en.html&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C53c12e9feb504fa0d33e08d905c9a876%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637547185940792272%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=we7HGWbKS7%2FiW4x%2BpFZPFW96yetYV9vay1WXXLLHgC8%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| * Governor Northam Announces Virginia’s Unemployment Rate Fell to 5.1 Percent in March
* RICHMOND— Governor Ralph Northam today announced that Virginia’s unemployment rate decreased 0.1-percentage point to 5.1 percent in March, which is down 6.2 percentage points from its peak of 11.3 percent in April 2020.
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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%7C53c12e9feb504fa0d33e08d905c9a876%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637547185940252576%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=y%2BQpNmxXFbPZrA0FGZ8SHthSU2bEIgPaHA8%2BMbXP3bE%3D&reserved=0) |

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| [**US Unemployment Claims Reach Lowest in Over a Year**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2FFy3VJ11srJ7WiTPM6nbL06kpPr28ZRWFGN1T1qh7ocA%3D_178fab975ff%3A81de6e%3Ac51019c4&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C53c12e9feb504fa0d33e08d905c9a876%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637547185940352509%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=S7bM7ySa33v%2B5sviIFo309ggZz%2BqLIuftQ9uYQNVMN0%3D&reserved=0) |
| [Voice of America](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.voanews.com%2Fusa%2Fus-unemployment-claims-reach-lowest-over-year&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C53c12e9feb504fa0d33e08d905c9a876%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637547185940362503%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=Ha%2BmCQuZt8dxVSciybd4Ao2G4YtypyaRgR6muOUATeM%3D&reserved=0) |
| * WASHINGTON - U.S. unemployment compensation claims dropped again last week to their lowest level in more than a year, the Labor Department reported Thursday, as the world’s largest economy continues to show signs it is recovering from the coronavirus pandemic.
* Still, employers in many states continue to face directives to curtail operations and tens of thousands of new coronavirus cases are being recorded every day, even as millions of people are being vaccinated.
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| [**Community colleges keeping more classes online**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2Fo3SSqIWWG2gYayKaXccfVpg%2FzOCVxn%2FqF9iZLeGk8SI%3D_178f88ef78d%3Abf30de%3Afa97248d&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C53c12e9feb504fa0d33e08d905c9a876%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637547185940362503%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=dzTfQ8%2B32b3L%2Bw770vNvbe38coF2QJTRwra0cuXWfTo%3D&reserved=0) |
| [Inside Higher Ed](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.insidehighered.com%2Fnews%2F2021%2F04%2F22%2Fcommunity-colleges-keeping-more-classes-online&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C53c12e9feb504fa0d33e08d905c9a876%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637547185940372501%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=u84RguwPX%2FsZ0u6%2F1iJGJ%2F%2BauYphD2ow3%2FvCbLFnvAY%3D&reserved=0) |
| * “As long as I have to adhere to the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention] and [California Division of Occupational Safety and Health] guidelines, that’s not going to happen,” said Frank Chong, president of Santa Rosa Junior College, referring to opening up full-time in person.
* At Northern Essex Community College in Massachusetts, for instance, the administration has opened up registration for the fall semester, with 25 percent of courses in person.
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| [**Colleges claimed a large share of student relief grant money: report**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2Fs9CTgOD2rBeTJKl68FD0GbsxW6yVPw0NK2yeedQsWnQ%3D_178f9d9bd4c%3A73dfe4%3A1154e936&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C53c12e9feb504fa0d33e08d905c9a876%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637547185940372501%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=F7fbBwK4Yimg1wYZYyPqLJp1a3WMS3MUslinujwCFLs%3D&reserved=0) |
| [Higher Ed Dive](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.highereddive.com%2Fnews%2Fcolleges-claimed-a-large-share-of-student-relief-grant-money-report%2F598801%2F&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C53c12e9feb504fa0d33e08d905c9a876%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637547185940382492%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=Zde2nvx6dLspEuyHBMgp6SMY%2B53Ens18Da3jk%2FCwgok%3D&reserved=0) |
| * The GAO report notes the department's restriction and explains that about half of the schools that received funding used the Free Application for Federal Student Aid to verify eligibility for the grants.
* Colleges claimed about 90% 一 or $5.6 billion 一 of emergency student grant funding that the U.S. Department of Education distributed under the first major federal coronavirus rescue package, as of the end of November, according to a new government watchdog report .
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| [**Let's not underestimate the value of short-term workforce credentials (letter)**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2Fs9CTgOD2rBeTJKl68FD0GbsxW6yVPw0NK2yeedQsWnQ%3D_178f9d3e6e7%3A7242e5%3A9208205f&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C53c12e9feb504fa0d33e08d905c9a876%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637547185940382492%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=bohk%2B6scjHy0qO%2BHPtDbK6vX8lRAw96WbR1jjp1B9dI%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%2Fviews%2F2021%2F04%2F22%2Flets-not-underestimate-value-short-term-workforce-credentials-letter&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C53c12e9feb504fa0d33e08d905c9a876%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637547185940392490%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=NpOa9WiWR5H2pUJqebe3eretG92fAA0aO0BzVFOhtRk%3D&reserved=0) |
| * A short-term credential that leads to a better job and higher income can make a tremendous difference for a family.
* This program is a lifeline to workers who are either unemployed or looking for an avenue to quickly gain new skills to compete for in-demand jobs and better salaries.
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| [**The Covid Precautions Colleges Should Take This Fall**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2FpJObj60hhd4Ufvbp8Z4fAm4U%2BG1RmbCaFfwanQquVGk%3D_178f5615ea0%3A631c9e%3A615bd155&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C53c12e9feb504fa0d33e08d905c9a876%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637547185940392490%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=yVyax%2BJC3tkTHCn3sRMnqTjW0yOYj4fjLlNb0Hjc3c4%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-covid-precautions-colleges-should-take-this-fall&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C53c12e9feb504fa0d33e08d905c9a876%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637547185940402488%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=BXL1td3sJLHQsLsVp0mR1jmB2TW55nGK%2Bjjx80%2B36FU%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| [Vaccines will be key to a successful opening, but it would be a mistake to ignore other safety measures. Vaccines will be key to a successful opening, but it would be a mistake to ignore other safety measures.](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2FpJObj60hhd4Ufvbp8Z4fAm4U%2BG1RmbCaFfwanQquVGk%3D_178f5615ea0%3A631c9e%3A615bd155&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C53c12e9feb504fa0d33e08d905c9a876%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637547185940412478%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=J0xou8YQBQw4TS%2B7PDf5g%2F1g0GyQ6OlpDdZYWppSeew%3D&reserved=0)  |  |

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| [**Student loan debt is costing recent grads much more than just money**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2FFy3VJ11srJ7WiTPM6nbL06kpPr28ZRWFGN1T1qh7ocA%3D_178f4c90556%3A24e28a%3Af2384c21&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C53c12e9feb504fa0d33e08d905c9a876%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637547185940412478%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=YonJBQDDl4jhSaVv%2BivtpSpMFjPlPDMoMs%2FJjWR2kp4%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| [The Conversation](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ftheconversation.com%2Fstudent-loan-debt-is-costing-recent-grads-much-more-than-just-money-158189&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C53c12e9feb504fa0d33e08d905c9a876%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637547185940422471%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=tAn4wXRi%2FM%2FrBKgsRyuNKKNpu%2BMn2Sc23ywdSta4yUk%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| * Black students, who owe 60% more than their white counterparts, struggle even more to pay back their loans, in part because of persistent racial wealth and income gaps .
* Today’s college graduates now finish school with almost $30,000 in student loan debt, on average, an increase of over 300% from 1970 after adjusting for inflation.
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| [**Poverty soared to a pandemic high last month**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2Fezz8A7EWGAHy1UC0ms%2Fm0qRAagR5Qp4dpGm%2Fx4aLZpc%3D_178f4005738%3A3568d8%3A615bd155&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C53c12e9feb504fa0d33e08d905c9a876%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637547185940422471%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=gUiN2Nj6TjXqjcVTZSStEedIY8yrAE%2FS6sw6e%2BvFfU4%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| [NBC News Top Stories](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.nbcnews.com%2Fbusiness%2Fbusiness-news%2Fpoverty-soared-pandemic-high-last-month-n1264692&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C53c12e9feb504fa0d33e08d905c9a876%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637547185940432464%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=2EoCGvrzd%2F5MPpNcWV9qMjHYqG7%2FlKh6Zul4Df%2BDhOg%3D&reserved=0" \t "_blank) |  |
| * “I feel like the most important takeaway from the work we’ve been doing since the start of the pandemic is the clear relationship between poverty and government relief efforts,” he said.
* Last month, even as the unemployment rate fell and more states relaxed restrictions on business operations, the poverty rate hit a pandemic high of 11.7 percent — a full percentage point greater than it was in early 2020.
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