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| April 29, 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%7C77c2b871c402426368ab08d90b49b60b%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637553233485294188%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=ArR5cQ35Ek%2FRyAzaW4SyNoPVFF1ENuXe31%2BIdITx8Cg%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_1791f081964%3A78be78%3A1cd23e21&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C77c2b871c402426368ab08d90b49b60b%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637553233485364149%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=etIkSS6%2B9EurVdOjFlRuiu95TzbOt0VatTNgbCSApuc%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%7C77c2b871c402426368ab08d90b49b60b%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637553233485364149%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=VCKxCjQfyg%2FN%2FSd6Ne0oWMthANFJi16BZxuYiUZhcfM%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| * The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 575,350 in the week ending April 24, a decrease of 9,486 (or -1.6 percent) from the previous week.
* For the filing week ending April 24, the figure for seasonally unadjusted initial claims in Virginia was 37,356.
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| [**Va. new jobless claims up 171% | Virginia Business**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2FFy3VJ11srJ7WiTPM6nbL06kpPr28ZRWFGN1T1qh7ocA%3D_1791f07ccf6%3A7709df%3A9208205f&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C77c2b871c402426368ab08d90b49b60b%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637553233485374142%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=a7FsX6hpBMCEhBT%2B%2BGnzlvTyMr7yHjrvfxeEDUV4VPg%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| [Virginia Business](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.virginiabusiness.com%2Farticle%2Fva-new-jobless-claims-up-171%2F&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C77c2b871c402426368ab08d90b49b60b%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637553233485374142%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=lmWtPtroiryuwM8q9P4Hc4NeHEi3TKNzOjeEpxVCszo%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| * For the April 19-24 filing week, 37,356 Virginians submitted initial unemployment claims, a 171.6% increase from the previous week, but a 48.4% decrease from this time a year ago, when jobless claims were near a peak during the COVID-19 pandemic.
* Last week’s new claims rose by 23,605 compared with those from the week ending April 17, when 13,751 people filed, according to the VEC’s Thursday report.
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| [**Virginia sees 1,187 new coronavirus cases, now reporting 658,341 statewide**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2FFy3VJ11srJ7WiTPM6nbL06kpPr28ZRWFGN1T1qh7ocA%3D_1791f0691dd%3A76516b%3Af2384c21&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C77c2b871c402426368ab08d90b49b60b%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637553233485394131%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=1Sj55xjoYDqHdq4jQEzo8Cwcg%2F01CAK39zfIZdOknLA%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| [WSLS](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.wsls.com%2Fnews%2Fvirginia%2F2021%2F04%2F29%2Fvirginia-sees-1187-new-coronavirus-cases-now-reporting-658341-statewide%2F&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C77c2b871c402426368ab08d90b49b60b%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637553233485394131%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=uuWRaEuGB1ZDfkFC%2FJlgPRsihQvc5gNk5NIMbpcVLiY%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| [As of April 29, Virginia is reporting 658,341 cases of the coronavirus across the commonwealth since March 2020. [Where are Virginia’s coronavirus cases? The latest from the health department]](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2FFy3VJ11srJ7WiTPM6nbL06kpPr28ZRWFGN1T1qh7ocA%3D_1791f0691dd%3A76516b%3Af2384c21&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C77c2b871c402426368ab08d90b49b60b%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637553233485404125%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=XdmHMNWdGQ8y8h4Jx0bqYRsto3XaOIjdT%2FLWGHPrxjQ%3D&reserved=0)  |  |

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| [**3 times as many Virginians have serious mental health issues than before coronavirus, EVMS study indicates**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2Fs9CTgOD2rBeTJKl68FD0GbsxW6yVPw0NK2yeedQsWnQ%3D_17918cb5686%3A18c6ea%3A56ac6c25&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C77c2b871c402426368ab08d90b49b60b%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637553233485404125%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=bbSN8NNHvy6Zj8SnYosm2whacrAuisKLRnfe77hG5no%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| [pilotonline.com](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.pilotonline.com%2Fnews%2Fhealth%2Fvp-nw-coronavirus-mental-health-covid-evms-20210427-xoukjxcatvcpxhn7dpkwthmtwm-story.html&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C77c2b871c402426368ab08d90b49b60b%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637553233485404125%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=tA6W52ygq2G2pvPLx2He7EbZwH3paRhNVWqcWyIROCg%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| [Among the more than 450 people statewide who participated in the COVIDsmart study in March, nearly one in four reported signs and symptoms of moderate to severe anxiety, over 22%, or moderate to severe depression, 24%.](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2Fs9CTgOD2rBeTJKl68FD0GbsxW6yVPw0NK2yeedQsWnQ%3D_17918cb5686%3A18c6ea%3A56ac6c25&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C77c2b871c402426368ab08d90b49b60b%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637553233485414118%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=6b8TxtU52eiGjhZa8METdEGKeXfkSq1DI8blV%2FduRRc%3D&reserved=0)  |  |

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| [**Graduation plans vary across Virginia universities**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2Fs9CTgOD2rBeTJKl68FD0GbsxW6yVPw0NK2yeedQsWnQ%3D_17913b4e4cb%3A2917fc%3Af2384c21&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C77c2b871c402426368ab08d90b49b60b%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637553233485414118%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=odR20vOw208qjUrqDX0SUDvXOdx4he1QvstN6Olqncg%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| [AP NEWS](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fapnews.com%2Farticle%2Fhealth-lifestyle-graduation-coronavirus-virginia-bba395726881f0c29242229c74dc9035&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C77c2b871c402426368ab08d90b49b60b%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637553233485424112%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=skETFU%2FXi%2FHLvIYnxTePykgdxa1UBcUMGz5ktOLHE9k%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| * Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond will hold a university-wide commencement ceremony online on May 15, according to a statement the university released last month.
* (AP) — College graduations will still look different due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but more Virginia universities are returning to in-person ceremonies.
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| [**Virginia AG says colleges can impose vaccine requirement**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2FFy3VJ11srJ7WiTPM6nbL06kpPr28ZRWFGN1T1qh7ocA%3D_179139aff1a%3A284576%3A14c5a0c7&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C77c2b871c402426368ab08d90b49b60b%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637553233485424112%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=s3yDHyzgPiV8fD5V1ydpTOfavosSOEa9q5ztvfWq7UY%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| [Washington Post](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.washingtonpost.com%2Flocal%2Fvirginia-ag-says-colleges-can-impose-vaccine-requirement%2F2021%2F04%2F26%2Fab6003ce-a6ac-11eb-a8a7-5f45ddcdf364_story.html&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C77c2b871c402426368ab08d90b49b60b%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637553233485434107%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=zTvnpijARS6VPVf0LECEnGeEx6OYRT3X8pk6Ci%2BI4%2BM%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| * Virginia’s attorney general says the state’s colleges and universities can require students to get the COVID-19 vaccine before being allowed to attend in-person classes and activities.
* Last week, University of Maryland System officials announced that students, faculty and staff returning to campuses in the fall must be vaccinated but that the system will allow exemptions for medical or religious reasons.
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| [**Younger people are being hospitalized more with COVID-19, Hampton Roads hospitals say**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2Fs9CTgOD2rBeTJKl68FD0GbsxW6yVPw0NK2yeedQsWnQ%3D_1790eda3f74%3Ae25ce%3A14c5a0c7&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C77c2b871c402426368ab08d90b49b60b%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637553233485434107%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=lPBmj7fS0yqh%2B%2BXssY%2F0SZ5gxH46tDdNgkcBvZ7Cxxw%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| [pilotonline.com](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.pilotonline.com%2Fnews%2Fhealth%2Fvp-nw-covid-hospitalization-demographic-shift-20210425-y4yexdfoebf3jojvh2wh22rxda-story.html&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C77c2b871c402426368ab08d90b49b60b%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637553233485444103%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=KWEw9p6q3og%2FCeYiIm51NPOd5exOmu1y7FOl8zGa9ZA%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| [As the oldest and most vulnerable in our state become fully vaccinated against the coronavirus, many are staying out of hospital beds. (Jae C. Hong/AP)](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2Fs9CTgOD2rBeTJKl68FD0GbsxW6yVPw0NK2yeedQsWnQ%3D_1790eda3f74%3Ae25ce%3A14c5a0c7&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C77c2b871c402426368ab08d90b49b60b%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637553233485444103%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=1UTaERB97sVQ1B3Puf9SXT3qF2TzDwCrh3AoN3y7GI4%3D&reserved=0)  |  |

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| [**Survey Shows the Extent of Food and Housing Insecurity Students at Virginia’s Community Colleges Face - VCCS**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2FFy3VJ11srJ7WiTPM6nbL06kpPr28ZRWFGN1T1qh7ocA%3D_1790eabf168%3A86bd0%3Aebf6f111&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C77c2b871c402426368ab08d90b49b60b%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637553233485454102%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=HY724zLvJaYZukrnQbnV7ypjwxzTI%2BICQ5zpJMbj%2BW8%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| [VCCS](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.vccs.edu%2Fnews%2Fsurvey-shows-the-extent-of-food-and-housing-insecurity-students-at-virginias-community-colleges-face%2F&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C77c2b871c402426368ab08d90b49b60b%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637553233485454102%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=toQUkF4sTMBmYoYzxCLez7QvbVDIQ%2BusmewfnWChV%2Fo%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| * (RICHMOND) – April 22, 2021 — Students at Virginia’s Community Colleges (VCCS) already grappling with food insecurity have experienced even greater challenges in the past year due to economic and other disruptions resulting from the coronavirus pandemic.
* Over the past 18 months, with financial support from grants from the Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield Foundation to the Virginia Foundation for Community College Education (VFCCE), food pantry and other emergency food operations have been established or expanded at community colleges across the state.
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| [**Virginia Immigrants Hit Hard By Pandemic Fear Eviction, Housing Squeeze**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2FsADHxtZ%2FiQmNqUemqKPsHsrALS27IXrQCntkDFMbl00%3D_1790d6d0d45%3A1909201%3A647a9c78&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C77c2b871c402426368ab08d90b49b60b%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637553233485464096%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=9ACL9nQl70EiKSivwao20ltqV%2FLMzYXL9%2FL2MN2tnaA%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| [News : NPR](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.npr.org%2F2021%2F04%2F26%2F989820817%2Fvirginia-immigrants-hit-hard-by-pandemic-fear-eviction-housing-squeeze&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C77c2b871c402426368ab08d90b49b60b%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637553233485464096%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=%2B4tKI2AWy6RKEUlFX6taTXOHq06rsG9RHQbbRt33yAc%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| [Many of them work in service industries —as cooks, Uber drivers, nursing aides— jobs that have been especially affected this past year. "I don't have money to pay rent," resident Mahlet Kassa says.](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2FsADHxtZ%2FiQmNqUemqKPsHsrALS27IXrQCntkDFMbl00%3D_1790d6d0d45%3A1909201%3A647a9c78&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C77c2b871c402426368ab08d90b49b60b%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637553233485474092%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=TuBXxouta5tfagHetglBz7aVXDEr3rNYKKMFNdoc6J4%3D&reserved=0)  |  |

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| [**Southwest Virginia is setting a model for virtual learning — even after the COVID-19 pandemic**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2Fs9CTgOD2rBeTJKl68FD0GbsxW6yVPw0NK2yeedQsWnQ%3D_1790e8719c9%3A8c735%3A56ac6c25&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C77c2b871c402426368ab08d90b49b60b%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637553233485474092%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=%2BhletLOSJIqHYqLwaJYKiXLiTSp446g4LOYHHaYhWYg%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| [Virginia Mercury](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.virginiamercury.com%2F2021%2F04%2F26%2Fsouthwest-virginia-is-setting-a-model-for-virtual-learning-even-after-the-covid-19-pandemic%2F&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C77c2b871c402426368ab08d90b49b60b%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637553233485484084%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=UqNaWBXxPxLyw6qS9TGDy1mp8dmvOJfTMowfR9lZqeo%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| * Under a proposal currently being considered by the Virginia Board of Education, Bristol would join three city and 13 county divisions to create a regional Virtual Academy for full-time remote instruction.
* But in this case, the program would be open to the roughly 30 percent of students in Superintendent’s Region 7 (covering the southwestern corner of Virginia) who opted for online classes this school year.
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| [**Virginia still ranks last in nation for quickly resolving issues with unemployment insurance claims**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2Fs9CTgOD2rBeTJKl68FD0GbsxW6yVPw0NK2yeedQsWnQ%3D_1790e859071%3A61bf8%3Aad47f3a5&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C77c2b871c402426368ab08d90b49b60b%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637553233485484084%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=%2FGExyIFHcyodLFsnrrNCPGNV7hEQaLyBGuq2llwoOJ4%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| [Virginia Mercury](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.virginiamercury.com%2F2021%2F04%2F26%2Fvirginia-still-ranks-last-in-nation-for-quickly-resolving-issues-with-unemployment-insurance-claims%2F&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C77c2b871c402426368ab08d90b49b60b%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637553233485484084%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=IHY%2F0mXk28uOPFCJvBw00IPiFyPfaAcj%2BpXcZ3YK%2FYA%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| * Despite assurances that state officials were working to address long delays in processing unemployment claims, Virginia continues to rank last in the country in key performance metrics tracked by the U.S. Department of Labor.
* “I think the pandemic caught everybody by surprise and claims volume was up tremendously, but the fact is that a lot of states acted much quicker and with much more intentionality to realize how big the crisis was and how ill equipped their state agencies were to respond to it,” said Pat Levy-Lavelle, an attorney with the Charlottesville-based Legal Aid Justice Center who specializes in public benefits and has been helping clients with claims.
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| [**Northam: State to loosen more restrictions May 15**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2FPJWScc%2F4lkEqQ6JyrrO1ZjVBLh6YO03KX5MqTz5ah0A%3D_178fb79d24c%3A1021898%3A897a9672&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C77c2b871c402426368ab08d90b49b60b%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637553233485494079%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=UKj9HT%2BcsccNOIFIUAGv6bprAnyzgNfjtBCckr332U8%3D&reserved=0) |
| [Virginia Business](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.virginiabusiness.com%2Farticle%2Fnortham-state-to-loosen-more-restrictions-may-15%2F&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C77c2b871c402426368ab08d90b49b60b%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637553233485494079%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=qz1QLkTg5gH%2F5jm4G9r%2FJ%2F33AmqCLds544So0k497wA%3D&reserved=0) |
| * Beginning May 15, the state will loosen more restrictions, including allowing larger social gatherings and expanded audiences for entertainment venues and sporting events, Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam announced in a video message released Thursday.
* The number of spectators allowed at indoor recreational sporting events will increase from 100 to 250 spectators or 50% capacity, whichever is less.
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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%7C77c2b871c402426368ab08d90b49b60b%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637553233485014352%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=S0Ov9e%2FU%2Fh7t1bopmqzsb4NORkDtNRbQPat3O446H4g%3D&reserved=0) |

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| [**Jobless claims drop 13,000 to 553,000 as economy heals**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2FFy3VJ11srJ7WiTPM6nbL06kpPr28ZRWFGN1T1qh7ocA%3D_1791f0d0942%3A78c896%3A56ac6c25&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C77c2b871c402426368ab08d90b49b60b%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637553233485104298%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=31BmiOrFNnllXRn7SbCAoT3RRUGsly23Xq617cYcasY%3D&reserved=0) |
| [Washington Post](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.washingtonpost.com%2Fbusiness%2Fus-jobless-claims-drop-13000-to-553000%2F2021%2F04%2F29%2F3141e7b2-a8e9-11eb-a8a7-5f45ddcdf364_story.html&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C77c2b871c402426368ab08d90b49b60b%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637553233485114289%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=0Y0Y6o5BWIWoT3vyLfl70fSxWBghxuAp1EewFgxsFRc%3D&reserved=0) |
| * WASHINGTON — The number of Americans applying for unemployment benefits dropped by 13,000 last week to 553,000, the lowest level since the pandemic hit last March and another sign the economy is recovering from the coronavirus recession.
* Employers added an impressive 916,000 jobs in March, and the Labor Department is expected to report next week that they hired another 875,000 in April, according to a survey from the data firm FactSet. The unemployment rate has dropped to 6% from a peak of 14.8% in April 2020.
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| [**Mental health, equity should be schools’ focus as students return, report says**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2F0W80EAuJS5tzkM0uuvVlgfkQ7WdY0Hy%2BhCSAmiTROqc%3D_1791c7bbbcc%3A5577d0%3Afa97248d&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C77c2b871c402426368ab08d90b49b60b%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637553233485114289%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=FNwuxm%2FVYox4MrAnIS2%2FxW%2FHd3aOmeM2FluT2jYtOaY%3D&reserved=0) |
| [EdSource](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fedsource.org%2F2021%2Fmental-health-equity-should-be-schools-focus-as-students-return-report-says%2F653951&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C77c2b871c402426368ab08d90b49b60b%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637553233485124284%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=fbdKOkLNzLVcrr26KXttnn0SI%2Fv1M1ntWbGqc4782Pc%3D&reserved=0) |
| * Although most of the funding is not permanent, schools can invest the money in some one-time ventures that could have lasting impacts, such as partnerships with mental health and community groups, said Heather Hough, executive director of PACE.
* To help students readjust to life after the pandemic, schools should use their Covid-relief funding windfall to imbue mental health, equity and relationships into every aspect of the school day, according to a sweeping new report released Thursday.
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| [**Enrollment continues its decline**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2FyT%2BeOE3Q975AwLALTpvdZ%2FHttzCyCe5XsEd8RhhAhk0%3D_1791bcaef48%3A460962%3A615bd155&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C77c2b871c402426368ab08d90b49b60b%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637553233485124284%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=gkwswq9cP%2By1jpZyJ5kovu6MSUW9pwcbIevLl6r2C0A%3D&reserved=0) |
| [Community College Daily](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.ccdaily.com%2F2021%2F04%2Fenrollment-continues-its-decline%2F&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C77c2b871c402426368ab08d90b49b60b%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637553233485124284%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=sgN3OpomERt2A14s454PY7oBQcoAebIMiU5YNdYuvxU%3D&reserved=0) |
| * Undergraduate enrollment fell further across all institution types, with community colleges experiencing a double-digit decline for the first time during this pandemic, -11.3% compared to -9.5% last fall.
* Spring undergraduate enrollment is down 5.9% compared to the same time last year, according to the latest research by the National Student Clearinghouse (NSC) Research Center.
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| [**US economy soared in the first three months of the year**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2FrCJg7pKVnNYe%2BcGb%2BlsdnTD6zmt4MNGy627zsl0vNH4%3D_1791dac0924%3A798b80%3Afa97248d&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C77c2b871c402426368ab08d90b49b60b%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637553233485134278%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=b8sVRtR6SfKSDEgqDnwl7aw1hIXFmbj6FXpPx8NQ9uo%3D&reserved=0) |
| [CNN.com - RSS Channel - HP Hero](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cnn.com%2F2021%2F04%2F29%2Feconomy%2Fgdp-first-quarter-growth-pandemic%2Findex.html&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C77c2b871c402426368ab08d90b49b60b%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637553233485134278%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=aPyM4cAFdMgtpp4Qrs0YsswkIVjMeYYTer8D1BJ49ak%3D&reserved=0) |
| * The government uses the 'annualized' rate, which assumed the quarterly growth rate would continue for a full year, because it makes it easier to compare numbers of different periods of time.
* Importantly, the advance in first-quarter GDP was driven in large part by consumers spending money — particularly on cars, food and beverages and services like restaurants and accommodations, according to the Commerce Department report.
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| [**Biden's Plan Would Make Community College Free. It Could Also Have Unintended Downsides.**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2FpJObj60hhd4Ufvbp8Z4fAm4U%2BG1RmbCaFfwanQquVGk%3D_1791b107d37%3A30123e%3Afa97248d&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C77c2b871c402426368ab08d90b49b60b%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637553233485144285%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=U25At%2BHi1Hh1nmXPs0zdBrs5yPSV%2BvDWyrSRUejtwk8%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%2Fbidens-plan-would-make-community-college-free-it-could-also-have-unintended-downsides&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C77c2b871c402426368ab08d90b49b60b%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637553233485144285%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=1z9TTZTjltj8AHWiS%2BXhhJ%2BRsY%2BZl090tqOS%2FcLyJ9U%3D&reserved=0" \t "_blank) |  |
| [By Katherine Mangan The proposal has been called "a momentous step forward," but some experts say it could waylay the students it most wants to help.](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2FpJObj60hhd4Ufvbp8Z4fAm4U%2BG1RmbCaFfwanQquVGk%3D_1791b107d37%3A30123e%3Afa97248d&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C77c2b871c402426368ab08d90b49b60b%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637553233485154266%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=YBkCWVXOtzI3OHKNxB6w0tVl%2Bp196E4kH6w86aA49eo%3D&reserved=0)  |  |

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| [**India surges past 200,000 Covid deaths amid record new cases**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2Fs9CTgOD2rBeTJKl68FD0GbsxW6yVPw0NK2yeedQsWnQ%3D_17918d2a088%3A185355%3Ac1bc6237&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C77c2b871c402426368ab08d90b49b60b%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637553233485154266%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=mqKYBZhBMBSg9bY0Qjtycz1G4jVO68%2BmmraF%2BbxYZWg%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| [NBC News](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.nbcnews.com%2Fnews%2Fworld%2Findia-passes-200-000-covid-19-deaths-new-cases-spike-n1265598&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C77c2b871c402426368ab08d90b49b60b%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637553233485164262%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=8E9jYDwcsMzvWrEaCDzbfJh64%2FSRvrcPskF3SrMp93A%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| * India, the world’s second most populous country, reported 360,960 new
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