May 06, 2021

COVID 19 UPDATE - VIRGINIA NEWS

Va. sees 67% drop in weekly jobless claims

Virginia Business

The state’s number of initial unemployment claims continues to fluctuate wildly, with only 12,231 Virginians submitting new jobless claims for the week ending May 1, a drop of 25,125 claims from the previous week, the Virginia Employment Commission reported Thursday.

A year ago, 59,631 Virginians filed initial claims, 79.4% higher than last week.

Virginia Employment Commission

Virginia

For the filing week ending May 1, the figure for seasonally unadjusted initial claims in Virginia was 12,231.

The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 504,670 in the week ending May 1, a decrease of 107,390 (or -17.5 percent) from the previous week.

Virginia COVID restrictions-- capacity & social distancing-- to be lifted June 15

WSET

Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam announced Thursday that the Commonwealth will soon lift COVID-19 restrictions. June 15: That's the day Gov. Northam says he will lift all capacity and social distancing measures-- and potentially the mask mandate.

‘An awakening’

Virginia Business

At VCU Health, Mishra says, telehealth surpassed in-person care in April 2020, and 20% to 30% of visits were still being conducted virtually in early March 2021.

Health care systems such as VCU Health System and UVA Health, both of which started telemedicine initiatives in the 1990s, were able to open the floodgates, transforming telehealth from a limited service used to target underserved populations into a powerful tool that could allow providers to take care to patients more directly.

Virginia officials ask to delay lawsuit over unemployment insurance delays

Virginia Mercury

The Virginia Employment Commission asked a judge this week for extra time to respond to a class-action lawsuit over long delays processing jobless claims.

“In defense of a lawsuit premised on the allegation that the VEC cannot timely respond to Virginians seeking federal insured unemployment, the VEC suggests that it also cannot timely respond to them here,” wrote lawyers for the plaintiffs who have been waiting months for benefits.

Virginia emergency SNAP benefits will continue in May

8News

RICHMOND, Va. (WRIC) -- The Virginia Department of Social Services announced it will release emergency allotment for its Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP) again in May.

Patrick Henry Community College to pay off student debt accrued during COVID-19

WFXRtv(WFXR) – Some students at Patrick Henry Community College (PHCC) will be getting an early Christmas gift.

PHCC announced that it will be paying off debts of students with delinquent accounts that arose during the pandemic.

JLARC to give updates on Virginia Employment Commission study after lawmakers raise concerns

8News

The Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission has been tasked with reviewing how the Virginia Employment Commission has processed unemployment insurance claims, including its response during the pandemic and IT program, with a report expected on Nov. 15.

(WRIC) – The Virginia General Assembly’s watchdog agency will provide updates on its ongoing study into the state’s Employment Commission to ensure lawmakers don’t have to wait for a final report to be aware of any pressing issues.

Vaccine wastage is rare in Virginia. But experts say it's getting harder to avoid.

Virginia Mercury

In March, Sentara Norfolk General Hospital recorded 140 wasted Moderna doses — the second-largest single report in the state — after what Jon Horton, the system’s pharmacy director, described as a one-time error.

“I think we’re at a point where, since we have supply exceeding demand, we have to understand there will be more wasted vaccines,” said Dr. Costi Sifri, the director of hospital epidemiology at UVA Health.

COVID roundup: Northern Va. could reach herd immunity by June/July

Virginia Business

As of Monday, 45.1% of all Virginians have received at least one COVID-19 vaccine dose, and 32% are fully vaccinated, according to the Virginia Department of Health.

State vaccine coordinator Dr. Danny Avula said Friday that 57% of all eligible Virginia residents age 16 and older have received at least one dose.

Virginia college students react to possible COVID vaccine requirement

https://www.nbc29.com

“Virginia’s college and university students deserve the chance to go to classes in-person and take advantage of all that their schools have to offer, but over the past year we have seen numerous COVID outbreaks on school campuses, so we must make sure that they are doing so with the health and safety of their peers and communities in mind,” Herring stated.

Virginia considering ‘vaccine passports,’ not ruling out mandate if hesitancy persists

8News

Avula said it’s too soon to say whether the state will mandate the vaccine for entry into public schools, since the shots havn’t been authorized for emergency use in children under 16 yet.

“If we do have a scenario where we have disease raging, we have new variants and we still have a significant resistant portion of the population then I think a mandate isn’t out of the question,” Dr. Avula said.

COVID 19 UPDATE - NATIONAL NEWS

Less than a third of parents say they'd let their child get Covid-19 vaccine right away, survey finds

CNN

About 29% of parents of children under age 18 said they would get their child vaccinated "right away" as soon as the child was eligible, according to Kaiser Family Foundation Covid-19 Vaccine Monitor data

Among parents who have already received at least one dose or want it as soon as possible, three-fourths said they would get their children vaccinated right away (48%) or wait and see (29%), KFF

Manufacturers seeking workers face competition for talent and an image problem

Marketplace

Manufacturing is one of the industries that had to ramp up during the pandemic, so there’s more intense competition for certain types of workers.

This is especially true in manufacturing, where only 60% of the jobs lost in the pandemic have been recouped, according to a new report from Deloitte and The Manufacturing Institute.

This community college is having none of the inequitable economic recovery

New America

While many students have found jobs after completing their free programs, the college is working to build non-credit to credit articulation pathways, so students can count their courses towards credit-bearing certificates and degrees at Broward when and if desired.

She leveraged her certification to complete her associate’s degree and is now pursuing her bachelor’s degree in Supply Chain Management at Broward .

Biden commits to waiving vaccine patents, driving wedge with pharmaceutical companies

Washington Post

The Biden administration on Wednesday threw its support behind a controversial proposal to waive intellectual property protections for coronavirus vaccines, with liberals framing it as a necessary bid to speed the shots to billions in the developing world, while the drug industry warned of devastating effects to vaccine production.

The decision to go forward with the waiver after weeks of internal deliberations was finalized at a White House meeting on Tuesday with President Biden, said senior administration officials who spoke on the condition of anonymity to describe the deliberations.

Mapping Out a ‘Credential As You Go’ Movement For Higher Education - EdSurge News EdSurge

The way college degree programs are currently organized, “a lot of students are not going to finish.

A new initiative called “Credential As You Go” aims to shift this status quo by making it easier for students and workers to earn recognition for their learning—in increments smaller than the colossal college degree.

First-time weekly jobless claims fall to 498,000, a new pandemic low

NBC News Top Stories

While the jobs market still has a long way to go before it fully heals from the pandemic damage, improvement has accelerated in recent weeks as restrictions on activity continue to be lifted.

The decline in initial jobless claims comes a day before the Labor Department releases its closely watched monthly jobs report for April.