May 13, 2021

COVID 19 UPDATE - VIRGINIA NEWS

Virginia’s rate of positive COVID tests falls below 4%

https://www.wdbj7.com

(WDBJ) - The Virginia Department of Health is reporting 668,147 total cases of COVID-19 across the commonwealth as of Wednesday, May 12, 2021, dating to the beginning of the pandemic in March 2020.

779 people across Virginia were hospitalized as of Wednesday with confirmed or test-pending cases of COVID-19, up from 741 reported Tuesday.

Va. General Fund revenue up 41.9% in April compared to 2020

Virginia Business

“Because of the extension of the filing date last year for all corporate and individual tax payment dates in April and May to June 1, the entire fourth quarter of fiscal year 2020-2021, April through June, will be needed to accurately assess revenue performance this year.”

“Virginia is posting the largest monthly revenue increase in the 21st century this month, in sharp contrast with many other states,” Northam said in a statement.

Virginia restaurants face new challenges at brink of full reopening | Virginia Business

Virginia Business

However, if seating capacity is extended fully in June, restaurants with limited staff will not be able to accommodate that many people, Terry said.

Restaurants and drinking establishments will be able to seat up to 100 patrons indoors and a maximum of 250 guests outdoors starting May 15, Gov. Ralph Northam recently announced .

Virginia ABC stores return to pre-pandemic hours, no word yet on Virginia DMV

WTVR

-- In a sign that life is slowly returning to the new normal, Virginia ABC stores will return to pre-pandemic hours on Friday, May 14.

While the hours are returning to pre-pandemic levels, COVID safety precautions such as masks, social distancing, and increased cleaning will remain in place.

VCU COVID survey: more than 60% of Virginia parents willing to get their kids vaccinated

WJLA

Late Monday afternoon, the FDA expanded its emergency use authorization for Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine to include adolescents aged 12 to 15. The CDC must still sign off on it, but local health districts and school systems in Virginia have already been putting plans in place so that they're ready to quickly begin vaccinating kids as young as 12.

COVID-19 IMPACT SURVEY - Rappahannock United Way

Rappahannock United Way

The year 2020 was tough for many Greater Fredericksburg region residents. Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, requests for financial assistance from Rappahannock United Way have more than tripled – many of them from households who are normally financially stable requesting help with bills, childcare and housing costs for the first time.

Federal recovery cash starts rolling out to states, cities, counties: Virginia gets $4.3 billion

Virginia Mercury

WASHINGTON — States, cities and counties can begin to tap their share of the $350 billion in federal funds intended to spur a national recovery from the economic toll of the COVID-19 pandemic, White House officials announced Monday.

Federally approved uses could include running vaccination clinics and buying personal protective equipment; paying the salaries of government employees involved in battling COVID-19; or helping speed the recovery of industries, like hospitality, that have been devastated during the past year.

Virginia awaiting CDC approval before vaccinating kids ages 12-15

Virginia Business

Although the U.S. Food and Drug Administration on Monday expanded its emergency use authorization of the Pfizer Inc. COVID-19 vaccine to include children ages 12 and older, Virginia will wait for action from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention before administering shots to adolescents, state vaccination coordinator Dr. Danny Avula said Monday night.

The post Virginia awaiting CDC approval before vaccinating kids ages 12-15 appeared first on Virginia Business .

Coronavirus update: Virginia reports lowest daily COVID-19 cases since pandemic peak

8News

On Monday, the Virginia Department of Health reported 336 new cases and seven new deaths.

If you suspect you may have contracted COVID-19, the Richmond City and Henrico County Health Districts are offering free testing for COVID-19.

'I’m at a breaking point': Va. working moms and parents struggle with child care and lack of paid family leave

Richmond Times-Dispatch

In Virginia, $300,000 from the general fund was provided to support the completion of an actuarial study to determine the expected tax rate and other costs for implementing a paid family and medical leave program.

All of those states ran actuarial studies prior to passing paid family leave.

COVID 19 UPDATE - NATIONAL NEWS

US unemployment claims drop to 473,000, a new pandemic low

8News

WASHINGTON (AP) — The number of Americans seeking unemployment benefits fell last week to 473,000, a new pandemic low and the latest evidence that fewer employers are cutting jobs as consumers ramp up spending and more businesses reopen.

Instead of cutting jobs, many employers are struggling to attract enough applicants for open positions.

US inflation sees biggest jump since 2008

BBC News

Kathy Bostjancic, of Oxford Economics, shared a similar view: "In the coming months, ongoing base effects, price increases stemming from the reopening of the economy and some pass-through of higher prices from supply chain bottlenecks should prompt higher inflation."

College students could see 'generational' benefit from pandemic support - if we do this right | Lumina Foundation

Lumina Foundation

And new guidance from the U.S. Department of Education offers ideas for how federal support could specifically benefit students, including using the relief funds to discharge student debt or unpaid balances.

Federal emergency dollars for colleges and universities provide a once-in-a-generation opportunity – not only to respond to the pandemic, but to reimagine how institutions support current and prospective students.

Got the vaccine? Experts say you can relax about your Covid-19 risk now. Really.

Vox

As vaccination rates climb and daily new cases and deaths drop, experts said that people should feel more comfortable easing up on precautions, shifting the world back to the pre-pandemic days.

So I posed a question to experts I’ve talked to throughout the pandemic about Covid-related precautions: How worried are you about your personal safety after getting vaccinated?

White House Says Undocumented Students Can Receive Pandemic Aid

NYT > Education

The rule reverses a Trump-era policy that barred the students from obtaining emergency aid to cover food, housing and school supplies.

Emergency program to give people $50 off internet bill

NBC News Top Stories

Americans can begin applying for $50 off their monthly internet bill on Wednesday as part of an emergency government program to keep people connected during the pandemic.

For example, your household is eligible if you receive food stamps, have a child in the free or reduced-price school lunch program, use Medicaid, or lost income during the pandemic and made $99,000 for single filers, or $198,000 for joint filers, or less.

College amid a pandemic: Latino students grapple with challenges, stress

NBC News Top Stories

Valeria Venturini, a senior at Florida International University, said at first, she was kind of happy to not have to commute to school each day – it saved a lot of time.

And we’re trying to solve our family issues,'” said Luis Gonzalez Perez, a professor at Florida International University and Miami Dade College about the students' issues.

What colleges can do to counter coronavirus vaccine hesitancy

Higher Ed Dive

"We have to listen carefully about what people are concerned about and then we need to respond with clear, consistent information, and you have to repeat the messages," said Anita Barkin, co-chair of the American College Health Association's Covid-19 Task Force.

A growing number of colleges in recent weeks have announced plans to require students and even faculty and staff to get vaccinated against the coronavirus in order to be on campus this fall.

Colleges Must Support Student Parents Even After COVID - Ms. Magazine