May 27, 2021

 COVID 19 UPDATE - VIRGINIA NEWS

Virginia Employment Commission - Virginia

The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 420,472 in the week ending May 22, a decrease of 34,131 (or -7.5 percent) from the previous week.

Nationwide, in the week ending May 22, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted initial claims was 406,000, a decrease of 38,000 from the previous week's unrevised level of 444,000.

Coronavirus update: VDH reports over 8 million vaccine doses administered in Virginia

8News

The mass vaccine site at the Richmond Raceway has administered hundreds of thousands of doses of the COVID-19 vaccine.

Today is the last day residents of Richmond and Henrico can get a COVID-19 vaccine at the Richmond Raceway. Rural recovery likely will be slower in Virginia

HeraldCourier.com

Tourism, local retail, restaurants, hospitality are areas that are going to take longer to come back,” Moret said.

Moret also said smaller metro and rural areas likely won’t be able to capitalize on the trend of people working remotely.

No Vaccine Mandate to Attend, Work at a Virginia Community College Masks are Optional for Those Fully Vaccinated Against COVID-19 - VCCS

VCCS

“Further, effective immediately, we will not require those who are fully vaccinated for COVID-19 to wear a mask while on a Virginia Community College campus.

Similarly, community colleges lack the public health infrastructure that is required to support such densely populated on-campus living arrangements, including the creation, maintenance, and protection of personal student health data, like vaccination records.

Court settlement sets path for VEC to resolve more than 92,000 claims for unemployment benefits

Richmond Times-Dispatch

But the heart of the settlement and the governor’s plan is hiring more people to handle the most complex cases involving disputed eligibility for benefits. The state already has begun to train the first of 300 people that it has hired through a private contract to act as adjudicators of disputed claims.

Virginia is resuming unemployment work search requirements on June 1

8News

Megan Healy, Northam's Chief Workforce Advisor, said Virginians will have to show that they are applying for at least two jobs weekly to proceed with their payments.

On June 1, Healy said the state's 61 Career Works centers are opening for in-person appointments again, though assistance is also available online .

Virginia reports fewer than 100 new COVID-19 cases for the first time in more than a year

Roanoke Times

State health officials have said there may be a lag in the reporting of statewide COVID-19 numbers on the VDH website.

Statewide, the total number of people hospitalized during the pandemic reached 29,505 on Monday, an increase of 19 from Sunday, although the VDH website notes that hospitalizations are underrepresented.

SW Virginia vaccination rates trail state, national averages

Richmond Times-Dispatch

In Tennessee Friday, the Sullivan County Regional Health Department announced it will deploy “strike teams” throughout its service area to provide either Pfizer or Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccinations at local churches, businesses and other interested organizations.

“Earlier this month, we went into all our schools and offered the Pfizer vaccine to those 16 and older,” Forbes–Hubbard said.

Federation of Virginia Food Banks and Feed More team up to increase food access through mobile food pantries

8News

That's why the Federation of Virginia Food Banks increased their mobile food pantries through Feed More.

Kate Mandes, from the Federation of Virginia Food Banks, spoke with 8News Meteorologist Matt DiNardo about the need for food at local food pantries.

Va. April unemployment rate at 4.7%, drops nearly half point

Virginia Business

April’s statewide unemployment rate was 5.9 percentage points below April 2020’s rate of 10.6%, the first full month of pandemic-related job losses.

Virginia’s seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was at 4.7% in April, dropping 0.4 percentage points below March’s jobless rate .

COVID 19 UPDATE - NATIONAL NEWS

Can America Close The COVID Vaccine Race Gap?

HuffPost

“I think they have left no stone unturned in their efforts to vaccinate as many Detroiters as possible,” said Phillip Levy, a professor and emergency medicine physician at Wayne State University who has worked closely with Detroit’s government on programs to reach the city’s underserved populations.

Charles Williams, a minister and leader of the city’s civil rights community, said he thinks it could be a year or more before citywide rates catch up to the rest of the country ― which, if true, would add to the long list of indicators of health and well-being on which Detroit lags the rest of the state.

Jobs picture shows more improvement as unemployment claims slide

CNBC

The U.S. jobs market edged closer to its pre-pandemic self last week as initial jobless claims totaled just 406,000 for the week ended May 22, the Labor Department reported Thursday.

For the week ended March 7, 2020, just before the pandemic became a factor, claims totaled 212,000.

The pandemic hit moms hard, and that stress can trickle down to kids

The Hechinger Report

One-third of moms with children birth through age 5 have had to stop working or reduce their hours during the pandemic, according to a new report based on surveys of 1,000 caregivers and released by the Rapid Assessment of Pandemic Impact on Development- Early Childhood, or RAPID-EC, a national bi-weekly survey of households with children ages five and under.

The mothers who lost employment experienced higher levels of emotional distress—including anxiety, depression, stress and loneliness—than moms who did not stop or reduce their working hours.

Aligning Education and Workforce to Meet Learners Needs

The EvoLLLution

In this interview, Earl Buford discusses the importance of workforce development, reshaping curriculum to meet the needs of adult learners and the vision he has for CAEL.

For instance, workforce development is economic development, but so is postsecondary education, which has the great responsibility of preparing learners for the future of work at all levels, whether it’s blue collar, white collar, “new” collar or any other collar you want to talk about.

How to manage COVID impacts on student health habits

Inside Higher Ed

“Schools are recognizing the value of working toward a healthier campus environment that supports being physically active and making better choices with food,” says Mary Hoban, chief research officer at the American College Health Association, which surveys students each fall and spring.

In a new Student Voice survey, conducted by Inside Higher Ed and College Pulse and presented by Kaplan, 44 percent of students report getting less physical exercise than before the pandemic, with loss of motivation being the primary reason identified for one-third of that group.

Community colleges launch consortium to share online classes

Inside Higher Ed

“This new consortium will help community colleges better meet learners’ needs by arranging student access to courses that are unavailable at their home institutions,” said Cynthia Wilson, vice president for learning and chief impact officer for the League for Innovation in the Community College, in a statement.

The following community colleges are currently participating in the newly formed League for Innovations Online Course Sharing Consortium:

Strategies for Improving Postsecondary Credential Attainment Among Black, Hispanic, and Native American Adults

Community College Research Center

In this set of studies commissioned by Lumina Foundation, the authors examine actions that states and community colleges can take to address the needs of racially minoritized adult learners who are pursuing postsecondary education and training as a path to re-employment, better jobs, and higher incomes.

Aligning Short-Term Credentials with Community College Degree Programs describes how some states are creating and scaling opportunities for adults to earn occupational certificates that employers value and that lead to associate and bachelor’s degrees.

How Community Colleges Can Lead Our Economic Recovery

Strada Education Network

But new, hyperlocal demand-mapping research shows that across the country, millions of adults, themselves dealing with the pandemic’s ramifications on their careers, have strong intentions to enroll in community college or technical school over the next two years .

Myriad reasons likely contributed to the community college enrollment decline, from layoffs to conflicting demands on adults who worked overtime as parents, homeschool teachers, or as their children’s remote learning tech support while schools were shuttered.

Community colleges need an equity-focused agenda (opinion)

Inside Higher Ed

Recognizing that poverty was the most powerful barrier to student access and success, Amarillo College has become an integral part of a community economic development partnership working to reduce poverty and increase educational attainment to promote economic diversity and create better-paying jobs.

Community colleges also need to build a portfolio of programs that match the education and training needs of students and employers over their life cycle.

A comprehensive game plan to better serve adult learners of color

Community College Daily

Community colleges can play a key role in helping adult learners of color prepare for jobs — especially as the economy revs up — but it will require a keen eye in designing, implementing and marketing programs and services that appeal to them, says a report by the Community College Research Center (CCRC).

For example, it says state- and institution-level strategies to align high-quality, short-term credentials with college degrees must address multiple areas of policy and practice, including:

The pandemic slowed tuition growth at some colleges. Will it last?

Higher Ed Dive

The way these schools handled setting tuition and fees in 2020-21 is a far cry from their approach in the two years before the pandemic, when nearly all 50 colleges had annual increases to their posted prices.

Out of the institutions we reviewed, eight lowered their posted tuition and fees for the 2020-21 academic year, nine froze their prices and the rest made increases.