June 03, 2021

COVID 19 UPDATE - VIRGINIA NEWS

Virginia Employment Commission

For the filing week ending May 29, the figure for seasonally unadjusted initial claims in Virginia was 8,090.

Nationwide, in the week ending May 29, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted initial claims was 385,000, a decrease of 20,000 from the previous week's revised level.

Va. unemployment claims continue to decline

Virginia Business

Virginia’s number of new and continued unemployment claims dropped again last week, with 8,090 initial claims filed during the week ending May 29, a decrease of 1,753 claims from the previous week, the Virginia Employment Commission reported Thursday.

This time a year ago, during the early months of the COVID-19 pandemic, 31,379 people filed new unemployment claims, 74% more than last week, while 398,411 people filed continued claims, 87% more than last week.

Richmond health officials aim to vaccinate 70% of adults by July 4; they'll need 36,000 more people

Richmond Times-Dispatch

Echoing President Joe Biden’s goal of having 70% of all U.S. adults inoculated against COVID-19 by July 4, Richmond Mayor Levar Stoney set the same vaccination benchmark for the city Wednesday.

In Richmond, however, only 51% of the city’s adults have received at least one dose, said Amy Popovich, nursing manager of the Richmond and Henrico County health districts.

Biden, Virginia Gov. Northam tout progress in fight against COVID-19

Spectrum News | Worcester

President Joe Biden appeared alongside Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam Friday to discuss progress in the ongoing fight against COVID-19 – a largely optimistic event in which Biden heralded Virginia’s handling of the vaccine rollout, and praised Northam as “one of the best governors in the country” in his response to the pandemic.

President Joe Biden visited Virginia Friday to discuss progress in the ongoing fight against COVID-19 with Gov. Ralph Northam

Risk still high for COVID-19 spread among unvaccinated population

GoDanRiver.com

“As evidenced by declining case rates, the vaccine is highly effective in reducing COVID transmission,” researchers wrote in a Friday report by the University of Virginia’s Biocomplexity Institute.

To be fully vaccinated, one must receive two dose of the Moderna or Pfizer vaccine or one shot of the Johnson & Johnson version.

Virginia brings back job search requirement to receive unemployment

WTOP

“You will not get your benefits for the week that you do not report two job searches,” said Fogg.

With the region slowly recovering from the coronavirus pandemic, Virginia has reinstated the rule that requires people seeking unemployment benefits to actively search for work.

End of 'state of emergency' in Va. could impact masks, evictions & workplace protections

8News

"It's time for the Governor to end the state of emergency so that these inflexible, unscientific rules can be rolled back and businesses can stop wasting time and money on'safety' measures that are clearly no longer needed," House Republican Leader Todd Gilbert said in a statement on Friday.

“If we’re not in the state of emergency, it is unlawful to wear a mask in public so there are certain things we’re working through," Northam said.

What you need to know: Virginia lifts social distancing, capacity restrictions

8News

Gov. Northam said that with over three million vaccinated Virginians, it's now time to begin the new normal.

In a news briefing Friday, Gov. Northam said that for the first time in 14 months Virginians can start returning to normal.

COVID 19 UPDATE - NATIONAL NEWS

Chairs say faculty influence declined during COVID-19

Inside Higher Ed

Even at institutions where respondents reported an increase in faculty influence, 14 percent indicated professors are not able to voice dissenting views without fear of administrative reprisal.

Nearly a quarter of faculty senate chairs say faculty influence at their institutions declined during the COVID-19 pandemic, according to a new survey of these faculty leaders by the American Association of University Professors.

Covid cases in U.S. fall to levels not seen since March 2020

NBC News Top Stories

Confirmed coronavirus cases in the United States have fallen to levels not seen since March 2020, according to an NBC News analysis — and experts say they expect case counts to stay low through the summer.

Still, both Osterholm and Hanage said that in areas with lower vaccination uptake, more localized outbreaks are likely to occur.

Biden’s infrastructure plan would create plenty of jobs, but who will do them?

The Hechinger Report

It’s an example of the huge demand for talent in industries that include wind power and other alternative energies — and the potential labor shortage facing President Joe Biden’s ambitious plan to upgrade the country’s infrastructure, after a years-long failure to train the kinds of workers needed to do it.

More than 60 percent of the construction workers who lost their jobs from 2007 to 2009 never returned to the industry, said Michael Ibrahim, an assistant professor of civil engineering at California State University, Los Angeles.

Transfers tumble, but upward transfers reverse course

Community College Daily

However, upward transfers from two-year to four-year institutions increased this spring, according to the newest spring 2021 enrollment report from the National Student Clearinghouse (NSC) Research Center .

Transfer enrollment at community colleges declined sharply across all four racial and ethnic groups studied, although the drops were most severe for Black and Latinx students compared to pre-pandemic levels, according to the center.

Biden's Incentive To Get Americans Vaccinated By July 4th: Beer And Sports Tickets …NPR.org

Biden on Wednesday announced a "month of action" to urge more Americans to get vaccinated before the July 4 holiday, including an early summer sprint of incentives and a slew of new steps to ease barriers and make getting shots more appealing to those who haven't received them.

WASHINGTON — Dangling everything from sports tickets to a free beer, President Joe Biden is looking for that extra something — anything — that will get people to roll up their sleeves for COVID-19 shots when the promise of a life-saving vaccine by itself hasn't been enough.

A Pandemic Silver Lining? More People Are Talking About Teaching

The Chronicle of Higher Education | News, Opinion, Advice about Higher Education

By Beckie Supiano In an era of pandemic and social turmoil, many faculty members have remade their teaching in small and large ways, which could have profound implications even after campuses reopen.

Online Isn’t Optional: Student Polling on Access to Internet and Devices - IHEP

IHEP

focus area Data & Transparency Based on polling data collected by New America and Third Way, Online Isn’t Optional: Student Polling on Access to Internet and Devices outlines which students are facing the gravest technological challenges, including the lack of reliable internet connection and the need to share devices with others in their household, both of which limit their ability to consistently participate in higher education.

Four steps institutional leaders should take to create equitable systems for faculty (opinion)

Inside Higher Ed | Higher Education News, Career Advice, Jobs

Those include offering automatic tenure delays as well as giving individual faculty members the opportunity to create their own impact statements about how their research, teaching, mentoring and service have been affected.

We have previously described our TREE model, which emphasizes how institutions can think ahead, provide needed resources, recalibrate evaluations and focus on equity.

How community colleges are retooling to bring students back post-pandemic

PBS NewsHour

Hari Sreenivasan: At the College of Southern Nevada, the state's largest college, they're hoping to bring back students like Fulisha. This fall, the school's enrollment declined 12 percent from the year before.

College Students Got Billions in Emergency Pandemic Aid. What Happens When the Funding Dries Up?

Money e

Subscribe this link is to an external site that may or may not meet accessibility guidelines.

OPINION: The pandemic gave graduating high school seniors new strength and resilience