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**COVID-19 Update**

**Thursday, November 12, 2020**

**Virginia Daily Key Statistics**

*(Please note that the VDH and VHHA numbers may vary slightly due to reporting times.)*

Virginia’s Daily COVID-19 Statistics-Virginia Department of Health:<http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/coronavirus/> (*This page is updated daily before 10 AM. Numbers are preliminary and close out at 5 PM the day before posting. Case counts reflect what has been reported to VDH by healthcare providers and laboratories.)*

Tests Administered (PCR): 2,853,797 (134,591 or 4.9% increase from last week)

Total Cases: 198,027 (10,820 or 5.8% increase from last week)

Total Hospitalizations: 13,339 (470 or 3.7% increase from last week)

Total Deaths: 3,758 (70 or 1.9% increase from last week)

Current 7-Day Positivity Rate: 6.5% (Last Week: 5.8%)

<https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/coronavirus/covid-19-in-virginia/>

**November 12 - What Places Are Hardest Hit by the Coronavirus? It Depends on the Measure**

The coronavirus is tearing across the United States at an alarming pace. Hospitals are filled to perilous levels. More than 120,000 new cases are being identified every day. And ever higher and more miserable records — of states’ cases, of positive testing rates, of hospitalizations — are being set, day after day.

[New York Times](https://www.nytimes.com/2020/11/12/us/coronavirus-crisis-united-states.html?campaign_id=9&emc=edit_nn_20201112&instance_id=24035&nl=the-morning&regi_id=117602237&segment_id=44293&te=1&user_id=6f1448f3fcade225296d82c1d20d7605)

**November 12 - Has pandemic fatigue set in? Here's why you might have it**

As the pandemic drags on, following Covid-19 prevention guidelines can feel like more and more of a challenge.

[CNN Health](https://www.cnn.com/2020/11/12/health/pandemic-fatigue-wellness-partner/index.html?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+rss%2Fcnn_topstories+%28RSS%3A+CNN+-+Top+Stories%29)

**November 11 - After COVID Diagnosis, Nearly 1 In 5 Are Diagnosed With Mental Disorder**

New research has found that nearly 1 person in 5 diagnosed with COVID-19 is diagnosed with a psychiatric disorder like anxiety, depression or insomnia within three months.

<https://www.npr.org/sections/coronavirus-live-updates/2020/11/11/933964994/after-covid-diagnosis-nearly-1-in-5-are-diagnosed-with-mental-disorder>

**November 10 - The coronavirus pandemic continues to be predictably deadly**

For the past month or so, the number of people dying each day of the coronavirus pandemic has been creeping higher. This isn’t surprising, given that the number of new coronavirus cases has also been surging. But despite rhetoric offered by President Trump about a plunge in the deadliness of the virus, the link between new cases, hospitalizations and deaths has been consistent for months.

[The Washington Post](https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2020/11/10/coronavirus-pandemic-continues-be-predictably-deadly/?outputType=amp)

**November 10 - Virginia sees more virus outbreaks in hospitals; local ER visits are rising**

Even though there’s finally positive news about a possible vaccine for COVID-19, reports from local and state health officials show some disturbing trends.

[The Free Lance-Star](https://fredericksburg.com/news/local/virginia-sees-more-virus-outbreaks-in-hospitals-local-er-visits-are-rising/article_47f78269-5415-53bb-b23a-becb2f442a61.html#tracking-source=home-top-story-1)

**November 10 - In places you're most likely to catch Covid-19, reducing crowds can help**

A small minority of places where people go frequently account for a large majority of coronavirus infections in big cities, according to a new modeling study.

[CNN](https://amp.cnn.com/cnn/2020/11/10/health/covid-19-modeling-high-risk-places-study-wellness/index.html)

**Virginia and National Developments**

**November 12 - Fewer than half of Americans are very likely to comply with another lockdown, polling shows**

Fewer than half of Americans say are very likely to comply with another lockdown, despite growing concerns over the coronavirus pandemic, the latest Gallup polling shows.

[CNN World](https://www.cnn.com/world/live-news/coronavirus-pandemic-11-12-20-intl/h_dfcb6d73fe1ab79c282fee500a5c5f6e?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+rss%2Fcnn_topstories+%28RSS%3A+CNN+-+Top+Stories%29)

**November 10 - Northam is stressing messaging — not mandates — to curb rising COVID-19 infections**

Faced with the approaching holiday season and surging Virginia COVID-19 case numbers — the highest at any point during the pandemic so far — Gov. Ralph Northam reminded Virginians Tuesday about basic public health steps: hand-washing, masks and taking precautions with gatherings.

<https://www.virginiamercury.com/2020/11/10/northam-is-stressing-messaging-not-mandates-to-curb-rising-covid-19-infections/>

**November 10 - Tazewell County directs $363K in CARES funding to Carilion Clinic**

As Southwest Virginia continues to see a spike in COVID-19 cases, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors announced Tuesday it is allocating $363,000 in federal CARES Act funding to Roanoke-based Carilion Clinic to be used to expand telemedicine and COVID-19 testing, as well as to improve access to primary care and specialty care services.

<https://www.virginiabusiness.com/article/tazewell-county-directs-363k-in-cares-funding-to-carilion-clinic/>

**November 9 - Governor Northam Directs $7 Million in CARES Act Funding to Virginia Food Banks**

Governor Ralph Northam today announced that Virginia will allocate $7 million in federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act dollars to Virginia food banks to help Virginians who rely on food assistance.

<https://www.governor.virginia.gov/newsroom/all-releases/2020/november/headline-861231-en.html>

**November 9 - Governor Northam Allocates $60 Million in CARES Act Funding for Municipal Utility Relief**

Governor Ralph Northam today announced a new allocation of $60 million in funding from the federal Coronavirus Aid, Recovery, and Economic Security (CARES) Act to support municipal utility relief efforts during the COVID-19 pandemic. Combined with the Governor’s proposed budget amendment to provide $60 million for jurisdictional utilities, the Commonwealth is directing a total of $120 million for residential and non-residential utility customers impacted by the ongoing public health crisis.

<https://www.governor.virginia.gov/newsroom/all-releases/2020/november/headline-861234-en.html>

**November 9 - Governor Northam Announces $22 Million for Virginia’s Private Institutions of Higher Education**

Governor Ralph Northam today announced a new allocation of $22 million in federal Coronavirus Aid, Recovery, and Economic Security (CARES) Act dollars to support Virginia’s private institutions of higher education. This funding is proportionate to recently announced CARES Act funding for public institutions, and will be used to support COVID-19 preparedness and response efforts at Virginia’s private non-profit colleges and universities.

<https://www.governor.virginia.gov/newsroom/all-releases/2020/november/headline-861235-en.html>

**November 9 - Governor Northam Announces $25 Million in CARES Act Funding for Medicaid Day Support Providers**

Governor Ralph Northam today announced that Virginia will allocate $25 million from the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act to fund monthly retainer payments for day support programs that provide services for Virginians with developmental disabilities. These programs offer day support, community engagement, and community coaching to individuals who are receiving Medicaid’s developmental disability waiver services.

<https://www.governor.virginia.gov/newsroom/all-releases/2020/november/headline-861236-en.html>

**PPE, Testing, Treatment, & Vaccines**

**November 12 - Screening travelers for symptoms of Covid-19 was ineffective, CDC study says**

Temperature and symptom-based screening programs don't help catch coronavirus cases, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said in a new report that took a closer look at the programs used at US airports until mid-September.

[CNN Travel](https://www.cnn.com/travel/article/cdc-study-symptom-screening-airport-covid-19-ineffective/index.html?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+rss%2Fcnn_topstories+%28RSS%3A+CNN+-+Top+Stories%29)

**November 11 - Pfizer gearing up to distribute COVID-19 vaccine in hopes of FDA approval**

Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine is on track to be approved for use as early as next month. On Tuesday, Dr. Anthony Fauci, the nation's top infectious disease expert, said shots will likely be available for most Americans who want it by April.

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/covid-vaccine-pfizer-distribution-fda-approval/>

**November 10 - Virginia is ‘ready’ to distribute COVID-19 vaccine, governor says**

Gov. Ralph Northam and State Health Commissioner Dr. Norman Oliver said Tuesday that Virginia will be ready to launch a vaccination program as soon as a COVID-19 vaccine has been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

<https://www.virginiabusiness.com/article/virginia-is-ready-to-distribute-covid-19-vaccine-governor-says/>

**November 10 - Three Va. labs selected for OneLab Network Initiative to expand COVID-19 testing capacity**

The state Department of General Services and Virginia Department of Health awarded three Virginia laboratories contracts to participate in the state’s new OneLab Network, aimed to expand the commonwealth’s COVID-19 testing capacity, the departments announced Tuesday.

[Virginia Business](https://www.virginiabusiness.com/article/three-va-labs-selected-for-onelab-network/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=daily&oly_enc_id=0462E7083134D7T)

**November 10 - Contact Tracing Apps Were Big Tech's Best Idea for Fighting COVID-19. Why Haven't They Helped?**

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While researchers have worked for months to develop COVID-19 vaccines and treatments, contact-tracing apps like COVID Trace have been touted as one of the technology world’s most promising contributions to the fight against the pandemic. But seven months into the U.S. outbreak, such apps have made slow progress across the country, hampered by sluggish and uncoordinated development, distrust of technology companies, and inadequate advertising budgets and messaging campaigns.

<https://time.com/5905772/covid-19-contact-tracing-apps/>

**Virginia and U.S. Economy**

**November 12 - Virginia Issues October 2020 Revenue Report**

Governor Ralph Northam today announced that General Fund revenues fell 2.7 percent in October with solid growth in sales and use taxes and recordation tax collections offsetting an expected decline in payroll withholding.

<https://www.governor.virginia.gov/newsroom/all-releases/2020/november/headline-861273-en.html>

**November 10 - Why Covid-19 Hasn’t Solved Manufacturing’s Talent Shortage**

Last September, with U.S. unemployment at a 50-year low, the biggest problem for manufacturers was finding people to work in their factories. At that time in Ohio, for example, there were 7,000 open factory jobs.

A year later, in the wake of Covid-19, the U.S. has lost 658,000 manufacturing jobs. And yet, incredibly, 2,600 of those open Ohio factory jobs remain unfilled…

[Forbes](https://www.forbes.com/sites/ethankarp/2020/11/10/why-covid-19-hasnt-solved-manufacturings-talent-shortage/?sh=5afb8cc86ccd)

**November 9 - Economic Impact: Economic Trends Point Toward Sprouts of Growth**

Real gross domestic product grew by a historically large 33.1% annualized rate in the third quarter after contracting at an annualized 31.4% in the second quarter.

[Chmura](http://chmuraecon.com/blog/2020/november/9/economic-impact-economic-trends-point-toward-sprouts-of-growth/?utm_source=Chmura+Mailing+List+%26+COVID-19+Updates&utm_campaign=7094ad7b18-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2019_12_02_09_57_COPY_02&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_f333f036d3-7094ad7b18-128512878)

**Education**

**November 12 - Big enrollment drops among all races**

Sharp drops in fall enrollments among Native American, Black and Hispanic community college freshmen are near 30%, according to updated data from the National Student Clearinghouse (NSC) Research Center.

<https://www.ccdaily.com/2020/11/big-enrollment-drops-among-all-races/>

**November 10 - Getting the nation back to work means working together on education and training**

An election noisily settled. Word of a COVID-19 vaccine. Hopeful jobs numbers: There’s room for optimism about 2021, but we’ll need everyone pulling together to make it a year of real economic recovery.

[Lumina Foundation](https://www.luminafoundation.org/news-and-views/getting-the-nation-back-to-work-means-working-together-on-education-and-training/)

**November 10 - Industry needs young workers**

Industry and education leaders should work together to support apprenticeships and other work-based learning for young people, according to Scott Stump, assistant secretary for career, technical and adult education at the U.S. Education Department.

<https://www.ccdaily.com/2020/11/industry-needs-young-workers/>

**November 9 - Industry certifications offer clear path to jobs during the COVID recovery—and beyond**

Americans struggling to find and keep jobs amid the global pandemic are discovering a clear path to employment: high-quality credentials that prove both knowledge and skills.

But deciding which credentials are high-quality is not always easy or clear.

[Lumina Foundation](https://www.luminafoundation.org/news-and-views/industry-certifications-offer-clear-path-to-jobs-during-the-covid-recovery-and-beyond/)

**November 10 - Virginians rush to sign-up for free workforce training at Virginia’s Community Colleges**

It’s a limited-time offer, and Virginians are wasting no time signing up for a new grants program that would pay for targeted workforce training courses at community colleges across the commonwealth.

<https://www.vccs.edu/blog/virginians-rush-to-sign-up-for-free-workforce-training-at-virginias-community-colleges/>

**November 10 - Colleges Have Shed a Tenth of Their Employees Since the Pandemic Began**

September, the traditional start of the fall semester, saw the continuation of historic job losses at America’s colleges just as they sought some return to normalcy amid the coronavirus pandemic.

[The Chronicle of Higher Education](https://www.chronicle.com/article/colleges-have-shed-a-tenth-of-their-employees-since-the-pandemic-began?utm_source=Iterable&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=campaign_1706047_nl_Academe-Today_date_20201111&cid=at&source=&sourceId=&cid2=gen_login_refresh)

**November 10 - Community colleges find an advocate in future First Lady Jill Biden**

For the first time in American history, the nation’s First Lady will hold a job outside the White House, and that job will involve teaching.

Jill Biden will continue teaching English at Northern Virginia Community College, where even as Second Lady, she has advocated for students and education after high school.

<https://edsource.org/2020/community-colleges-find-an-advocate-in-future-first-lady-jill-biden/643402/amp>

[-](https://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/articles/2020/10/21/americans-back-federal-help-for-student-loan-borrowers-amid-pandemic-economic-uncertainty)**Unemployment Data**

**November 12 - Virginia’s Unemployment Insurance Weekly Claims for Week Ending November 7th**

**Seasonally unadjusted weekly initial unemployment insurance claims fell by 4.3% from the previous filing week as continued claims fell by 7.8% during that period**

The Virginia Employment Commission (VEC) announced that the number of continued claims filed during the November 7 filing week dipped below 100,000 to its lowest level since early May, according to figures released today.

For the filing week ending November 7, the figure for seasonally unadjusted initial claims in Virginia was 9,909. The latest claims figure was a decrease of 441 claimants from the previous week and fell to its lowest level in over a month.

For the most recent filing week, continued weeks claimed totaled 91,960, which was a 7.8% decrease from the previous week, but 73,760 higher than the 18,200 continued claims from the comparable week last year. Over half of claims were in the accommodation/food service, health care, administrative support, and retail trade industries. The continued claims total is mainly comprised of those recent initial claimants who continued to file for unemployment insurance benefits during the COVID-19 pandemic.

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Nationwide, in the week ending November 7, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted initial claims was 709,000, a decrease of 48,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised up by 6,000 from 751,000 to 757,000. The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 723,105 in the week ending November 7, a decrease of 20,799 (or -2.8 percent) from the previous week. There were 238,996 initial claims in the comparable week in 2019. Looking at preliminary data, most states reported decreases on a seasonally unadjusted basis. Georgia’s preliminary weekly change (-14,127) was the largest decrease among states. Texas’s preliminary weekly change (-5,179) was the second largest decrease. Others included Kentucky (-4,979), New Jersey (-4,703), Florida (-3,497), and Illinois (-2,856). Virginia’s preliminary weekly change (+2,150) was the fourth largest increase while Washington (+10,381) reported the largest weekly increase in filings.

<https://www.vec.virginia.gov/UI-press-release>

For additional information on who is claiming unemployment insurance in Virginia, access the VEC’s U.I. claims data dashboard (<https://www.vec.virginia.gov/ui-claims-dashboard>) that is updated the following Monday after the weekly claims press release.

**November 12 - Weekly initial jobless claims fall to 709,000**

Applications for first-time weekly jobless claims totaled 709,000 last week, a decline from the previous week but a continuation of elevated levels of unemployment amid a record surge in daily coronavirus cases that could further complicate a recovery in the labor market.

<https://www.nbcnews.com/business/business-news/latest-weekly-initial-jobless-claims-fall-709-000-n1247520>

**November 12 - Initial jobless claims fell again last week; 91K+ Virginians remain unemployed, however**

The number of initial jobless claims in Virginia dropped by 4.3% last week compared to the previous filing week, the Virginia Employment Commission reported Thursday, while continued claims fell by 7.8%.

<https://www.virginiabusiness.com/article/initial-jobless-claims-fell-again-last-week/>

**Other Resources**

* Virginia State Resources:<https://www.virginia.gov/coronavirus/support-for-businesses/#854620>
* FAQs from Workers Regarding Covid-19:

English:<https://www.governor.virginia.gov/media/governorvirginiagov/governor-of-virginia/pdf/Frequently-Asked-Questions-from-Workers-Regarding-COVID-19.pdf>

Spanish:<https://www.governor.virginia.gov/media/governorvirginiagov/governor-of-virginia/pdf/Las-Preguntas-Mas-Frecuentes-para-los-Empleados-Sobre-COVID-19.pdf>

* Support for affected workers:<https://www.virginia.gov/coronavirus/employment-and-financial-support/#855804>
* F.A.Q. on Coronavirus Relief for Small Businesses, Freelancers<https://www.nytimes.com/article/small-business-loans-stimulus-grants-freelancers-coronavirus.html>
* The Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), a provision of the CARES Act, offers forgivable low-interest loans to small businesses facing uncertainty during the COVID-19 emergency, so businesses can retain workers, maintain payroll, and cover certain other existing overhead costs.<https://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/loans/coronavirus-relief-options/paycheck-protection-program-ppp>
* COVID 19 Testing Information and Locations:<https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/coronavirus/covid-19-testing/>

**WARN Notices**

WARN Notices due to COVID-19 have significantly dropped off in Virginia starting in mid-June 2020. While no single factor can be attributed to this fact, the slow down does not mean that businesses have stopped laying off; many large businesses that were covered by the WARN Act up to this point have likely already felt the pandemic’s impact and reported accordingly. As any new spikes in WARN activity as a result of COVID-19 are reported the charts in this section will be updated accordingly.

<http://www.vec.virginia.gov/warn-notices>