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| January 07, 2021 |

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| **[COVID 19 UPDATE - VIRGINIA NEWS](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fboard%2Fcontent%2Fenterprise%2Fvccscovid19update%2Ftag%2F4b9f3c4c-42b4-42bf-9934-1de381779cfa&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7Cc11284e2b4f44a8a689e08d8b34f801c%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637456501322217904%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=grGLqcQFhergE9XXBQFs1fkDrg6NzwO8RLZ%2FgepPOv0%3D&reserved=0" \t "_blank)** |

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| [**Virginia Jan. 7 COVID-19 update: Current hospitalizations hit 3K for first time, 5,379 new cases, VB reports 400-plus**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2FFy3VJ11srJ7WiTPM6nbL06kpPr28ZRWFGN1T1qh7ocA%3D_176de8f6863%3A433582%3A7bccb3fc&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7Cc11284e2b4f44a8a689e08d8b34f801c%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637456501322517732%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=5yULTpsS6dV%2F1pRnfL1OypG0k4mSTKnu2OMQ1SQtFnE%3D&reserved=0) |
| [WAVY.com](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.wavy.com%2Fnews%2Fhealth%2Fcoronavirus%2Fvirginia-jan-7-covid-19-update-current-hospitalizations-hit-3k-for-first-time-5379-new-cases-vb-reports-400-plus%2F&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7Cc11284e2b4f44a8a689e08d8b34f801c%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637456501322517732%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=uvXz3OQGjKCzobDb9lHE3OUfCeo9sdvQITg4bYmpJPw%3D&reserved=0) |
| * (WAVY) — Virginia’s current level of COVID-19 hospitalizations hit 3,000 patients for the first time on Thursday, with the commonwealth adding 5,379 new cases and 49 new deaths.
* Gov. Ralph Northam didn’t announce any new restrictions to combat the rising numbers statewide in his address Wednesday, but did set a goal of vaccinating 25,000 people a day, with a longer term goal of 50,000.
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| [**Virginia Employment Commission**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2FFy3VJ11srJ7WiTPM6nbL06kpPr28ZRWFGN1T1qh7ocA%3D_176de8f0eb0%3A40a245%3A5415f794&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7Cc11284e2b4f44a8a689e08d8b34f801c%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637456501322527730%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=7bOZfG3biD3UFfqRQYg5yTN0JCIPA6VMDxSDfFairUQ%3D&reserved=0) |
| [Virginia](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.vec.virginia.gov%2FUI-press-release&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7Cc11284e2b4f44a8a689e08d8b34f801c%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637456501322527730%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=76DQRNHYgFYPPyGx5pKeWWJsRa68nZ57YeTUqc%2BvWSc%3D&reserved=0) |
| * The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 922,072 in the week ending January 2, an increase of 77,400 (or 9.2 percent) from the previous week.
* For the filing week ending January 2, the figure for seasonally unadjusted initial claims in Virginia was 19,530.
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| [**Initial jobless claims jumped 64.3% last week | Virginia Business**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2Fs9CTgOD2rBeTJKl68FD0GbsxW6yVPw0NK2yeedQsWnQ%3D_176de62e756%3A406385%3Ac3a04210&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7Cc11284e2b4f44a8a689e08d8b34f801c%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637456501322537720%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=lkod83tb4HEtlo4eJmUSnTlICMlOocq0FDJkmZvv8Fg%3D&reserved=0) |
| [Virginia Business](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.virginiabusiness.com%2Farticle%2Finitial-jobless-claims-jumped-64-3-last-week%2F%3Foly_enc_id%3D0462E7083134D7T&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7Cc11284e2b4f44a8a689e08d8b34f801c%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637456501322537720%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=SrrRNoNnbZCIr2NAWSjDB2miSJVGKPTA4alAJdNuHTk%3D&reserved=0) |
| * For the week ending Jan. 2, 19,530 Virginians filed initial claims for unemployment, an increase of 7,640 claimants from the previous week.
* The number of initial jobless claims filed last week jumped a staggering 64.3% to more than 19,000, according to Virginia Employment Commission data released Thursday.
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| [**Local hospitals report highest COVID patient counts with more expected**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2Fs9CTgOD2rBeTJKl68FD0GbsxW6yVPw0NK2yeedQsWnQ%3D_176dd64596c%3A292086%3Acbb1a758&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7Cc11284e2b4f44a8a689e08d8b34f801c%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637456501322547717%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=YWyyNKY1mxPPsnWVIXVQ%2FF2XE%2BWkeg0WPkDIO63PicM%3D&reserved=0) |
| [Roanoke Times](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Froanoke.com%2Fnews%2Flocal%2Flocal-hospitals-report-highest-covid-patient-counts-with-more-expected%2Farticle_7458013a-506a-11eb-9781-97bca86c7d2f.html&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7Cc11284e2b4f44a8a689e08d8b34f801c%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637456501322547717%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=fl3F8JOpUTxzBWvpplR2MC4rT367rjWQEDwab%2BtEhEs%3D&reserved=0) |
| * We continue to increase and convert hospital beds for COVID patients,” said Mike Abbott, senior vice president of operations for Carilion Roanoke Memorial Hospital, during a press briefing Wednesday.
* Hospitals throughout 2020 made plans for how to handle surges in COVID patients and have gathered supplies and equipment to convert units into higher levels of care.
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| [**'Use it or you lose it': Northam says Virginia must speed up rollout of COVID-19 vaccine - Virginia Mercury**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2Fs9CTgOD2rBeTJKl68FD0GbsxW6yVPw0NK2yeedQsWnQ%3D_176dd5600a4%3A29c14f%3Afd7a7014&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7Cc11284e2b4f44a8a689e08d8b34f801c%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637456501322557711%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=BiZBa%2BCGPU6VGKySc1sWAHiGMvIa7yOjpEVTla0VlkU%3D&reserved=0) |
| [Virginia Mercury](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.virginiamercury.com%2F2021%2F01%2F07%2Fuse-it-or-you-lose-it-northam-says-virginia-must-speed-up-rollout-of-covid-19-vaccine%2F&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7Cc11284e2b4f44a8a689e08d8b34f801c%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637456501322557711%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=yMIjfMFUIXGng%2BJy0Vo%2FpneahZAS844j10Uf1NGbcSg%3D&reserved=0) |
| * Gov. Ralph Northam acknowledged Wednesday that Virginia needs to speed up the pace of its COVID-19 vaccinations, announcing a “you use it or you lose it policy” prodding health care providers to administer the shots to more residents.
* Currently, he said the state receives roughly 110,000 doses of Pfizer and Moderna vaccine a week, which equates to an immediate goal of delivering 14,000 shots a day to fully use up that supply.
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| [**Dr. Anthony Fauci, Gov. Ralph Northam will join public talk on coronavirus with Virginians**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2FFy3VJ11srJ7WiTPM6nbL06kpPr28ZRWFGN1T1qh7ocA%3D_176d94b37c8%3A3e7461%3A38d6244e&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7Cc11284e2b4f44a8a689e08d8b34f801c%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637456501322567705%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=tCrelSexR%2B1qvPoZ9jzTl83Xl1DKoYvjJ2%2FQtaStcZc%3D&reserved=0) |
| [pilotonline.com](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.pilotonline.com%2Fnews%2Fhealth%2Fvp-nw-coronavirus-virginia-fauci-northam-20210104-fabmtowrkzbezmwbwesmin4g5u-story.html&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7Cc11284e2b4f44a8a689e08d8b34f801c%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637456501322567705%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=RybxRSp%2BaDS1TSh4NBSN0XcjAiypvcs3xCmbknkbWpc%3D&reserved=0) |
| [Dr. Anthony Fauci has been the director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases since 1984 and has become the most prominent member of the White House Coronavirus Task Force.](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2FFy3VJ11srJ7WiTPM6nbL06kpPr28ZRWFGN1T1qh7ocA%3D_176d94b37c8%3A3e7461%3A38d6244e&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7Cc11284e2b4f44a8a689e08d8b34f801c%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637456501322567705%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=tCrelSexR%2B1qvPoZ9jzTl83Xl1DKoYvjJ2%2FQtaStcZc%3D&reserved=0)  |

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| [**Unemployed Virginians still aren’t getting paid despite new relief package, here’s why**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2FFy3VJ11srJ7WiTPM6nbL06kpPr28ZRWFGN1T1qh7ocA%3D_176d948e5e9%3A3f07a5%3Aac593a16&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7Cc11284e2b4f44a8a689e08d8b34f801c%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637456501322577695%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=2kRdhDcTFfwxUi8hEN%2Fh7iErpFj5XxLi95BQl6NLiIo%3D&reserved=0) |
| [WAVY.com](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.wric.com%2Fnews%2Funemployed-virginians-still-arent-getting-paid-despite-new-relief-package-heres-why%2F&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7Cc11284e2b4f44a8a689e08d8b34f801c%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637456501322577695%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=VftopinKpzZWtfCCX5qYoiqa%2F3N5lSaBbcBdquHuX6Q%3D&reserved=0) |
| * (WRIC)- President Donald Trump signed another coronavirus relief package more than one week ago but Virginians relying on newly extended unemployment programs still aren’t getting paid.
* Before additional funding for any of those programs can be released by the VEC, the state first needs to implement the new law based on additional guidance from the federal government.
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| [**Governor Northam Announces Over $6 Million in GO Virginia Grants to Stimulate Economic Growth, Address Ongoing Impacts of Pandemic**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2FFy3VJ11srJ7WiTPM6nbL06kpPr28ZRWFGN1T1qh7ocA%3D_176d8daae20%3A35f203%3Ac28fa12&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7Cc11284e2b4f44a8a689e08d8b34f801c%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637456501322587693%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=CVXuqMlAHgbF2CiDS%2FeIphG0gngEqbqIXgVly4fOWoA%3D&reserved=0) |
| [Virginia](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.governor.virginia.gov%2Fnewsroom%2Fall-releases%2F2020%2Fdecember%2Fheadline-890430-en.html&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7Cc11284e2b4f44a8a689e08d8b34f801c%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637456501322587693%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=UdH%2BI6Gj8HptY4xSgKeGZXOoISOzHTtjeTNugs%2BWCYc%3D&reserved=0) |
| * The second allocation was awarded to three projects through the Economic Resilience and Recovery Program that was created by the GO Virginia Board in April to quickly deploy resources that will help communities mitigate the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.
* The first allocation will support two statewide projects and six regional projects that grow Virginia’s business-ready sites portfolio, provide additional capacity to expand talent pipelines in key industries, and support the growth of startup businesses engaged in coastal resiliency and life sciences initiatives.
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| [**Governor Northam Commits Additional $20 Million to Rebuild VA Economic Recovery Fund**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2FFy3VJ11srJ7WiTPM6nbL06kpPr28ZRWFGN1T1qh7ocA%3D_176d8d90b06%3A359fea%3Acbb1a758&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7Cc11284e2b4f44a8a689e08d8b34f801c%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637456501322597691%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=yQai3ln4L9YkfuwXBzfa9MlAwOsMOlucQzBy7yratNk%3D&reserved=0) |
| [Virginia](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.governor.virginia.gov%2Fnewsroom%2Fall-releases%2F2020%2Fdecember%2Fheadline-890465-en.html&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7Cc11284e2b4f44a8a689e08d8b34f801c%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637456501322597691%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=Ky3w54hbdgg9payEAXBrVFVqJ3Sg5AXQOpX9WNMmrcg%3D&reserved=0) |
| * Earlier this month, Governor Northam announced that Rebuild VA had fully committed the $100 million in federal funds previously allocated to the program, which provided grants to 2,500 small businesses and nonprofits whose normal operations were disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic.
* RICHMOND —Governor Ralph Northam today allocated an additional $20 million in federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funding to the Rebuild VA economic recovery fund to meet demand for the program and fulfill pending grant applications.
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| [**Extra SNAP benefits hitting EBT cards on Jan. 15**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2Fa7ygYK4H%2BO92hOf1WNl7nib1addh8vp%2BrvFuRIia7o8%3D_176d34cf5a9%3A55565ef%3A83b8064d&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7Cc11284e2b4f44a8a689e08d8b34f801c%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637456501322607683%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=lenJm3GlRv3e%2BgwG%2BE55NEXmIl%2BhXl%2BN6npncCrLOgE%3D&reserved=0) |
| [8News](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.wric.com%2Fnews%2Fvirginia-news%2Fextra-snap-benefits-hitting-ebt-cards-on-jan-15%2F&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7Cc11284e2b4f44a8a689e08d8b34f801c%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637456501322607683%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=0tGM1tEUFum%2FZmR%2BlgbL56AQYQASBLYTTkQZcN2QMIM%3D&reserved=0) |
| [RICHMOND, Va. (WRIC) -- If you are part of Virginia’s Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) you could benefit from emergency allotments this month. These extra funds will only be given to eligible households who are not already receiving the maximum allotment as part of their regular monthly benefit.](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2Fa7ygYK4H%2BO92hOf1WNl7nib1addh8vp%2BrvFuRIia7o8%3D_176d34cf5a9%3A55565ef%3A83b8064d&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7Cc11284e2b4f44a8a689e08d8b34f801c%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637456501322617677%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=l2r%2FSFyxdG%2BALKfAO%2By14cIBqXsJOF%2F31hlZ%2BuSq8P0%3D&reserved=0)  |

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| [**Glenn DuBois column: G3 is a win-win solution for struggling families and businesses**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2Fs9CTgOD2rBeTJKl68FD0GbsxW6yVPw0NK2yeedQsWnQ%3D_176ce439b50%3A2090eb%3Ad28a1068&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7Cc11284e2b4f44a8a689e08d8b34f801c%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637456501322617677%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=d9jd%2FqszIGeNPRdT97Ts67EnX6XDm8ExVoNfTdp5yxo%3D&reserved=0) |
| [Richmond Times-Dispatch](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Frichmond.com%2Fopinion%2Fcolumnists%2Fglenn-dubois-column-g3-is-a-win-win-solution-for-struggling-families-and-businesses%2Farticle_d7755dbd-ca0a-5eb0-b806-30ed88f6b604.html&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7Cc11284e2b4f44a8a689e08d8b34f801c%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637456501322627668%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=%2Fysl57MluEWx3JCkorsjELSA8yVltvx6MRCjij4sp7M%3D&reserved=0) |
| * As we continue to work with those students to find other resources and ways to help them move forward, their stories remind us of the reality behind sterile spreadsheets of unemployment numbers:
* “Being a restaurant industry employee for nearly 20 years, it’s difficult to find employment even with the network of people I have,” said another.
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| [**In Virginia, slow vaccine rollout frustrates health care providers - Virginia Mercury**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2Fs9CTgOD2rBeTJKl68FD0GbsxW6yVPw0NK2yeedQsWnQ%3D_176ce2e7988%3A1e2da7%3Ad00d0446&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7Cc11284e2b4f44a8a689e08d8b34f801c%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637456501322627668%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=8NV6u%2BhvNAzCQ11ZJ7OdN%2Bivnvdqx6KbSayuXYn06Eo%3D&reserved=0) |
| [Virginia Mercury](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.virginiamercury.com%2F2020%2F12%2F31%2Fin-virginia-slow-vaccine-rollout-frustrates-health-care-providers%2F&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7Cc11284e2b4f44a8a689e08d8b34f801c%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637456501322637663%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=anfGqjQknHIv9MTipEePIGDhe%2BaHa0qgp9Wr2PcL5Dc%3D&reserved=0) |
| * What it means, however, is that Virginia’s hospitals and local health departments anticipate that some medical workers and long-term care residents — the first priority groups in the state’s multi-phase COVID-19 vaccine campaign — may not start the immunization process until the end of January or later.
* Though some of that has been attributed to a lag in reporting the vaccinations, logistical challenges and confusion about where some health care providers — who are prioritized under the state’s plan — can receive the doses have contributed to the delay.
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| [**Northam orders companies held temporarily harmless for pandemic layoffs**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2FPJWScc%2F4lkEqQ6JyrrO1ZjVBLh6YO03KX5MqTz5ah0A%3D_1768c0b4b58%3A240d0c3%3A83b8064d&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7Cc11284e2b4f44a8a689e08d8b34f801c%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637456501322637663%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=FTs2GT7TdOoplTyA%2Fc0NhrsIpm%2BoZzlBjDtug1qsjDY%3D&reserved=0) |
| [Virginia Business](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.virginiabusiness.com%2Farticle%2Fnortham-orders-companies-held-temporarily-harmless-for-pandemic-layoffs%2F&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7Cc11284e2b4f44a8a689e08d8b34f801c%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637456501322647655%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=MFXKnZXpaMjYn%2BVjGPCLt7Bv4Iqy2YaHrRH7oxrCPp8%3D&reserved=0) |
| * The end-of-year order protects businesses from having to pay an additional $200 million in payroll taxes to replenish the Virginia Employment Commission’s Unemployment Insurance Trust.
* Without the order holding companies temporarily harmless for layoffs, businesses would be forced to pay higher state payroll taxes to refill the trust, which is funded by a combination of taxes, pool charges and a fund builder.
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[**COVID 19 UPDATE - NATIONAL NEWS**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fboard%2Fcontent%2Fenterprise%2Fvccscovid19update%2Ftag%2F0f68eda4-2573-46f6-8be9-71d09e2f03fe&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7Cc11284e2b4f44a8a689e08d8b34f801c%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637456501322087975%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=VjfOyEBqz4BnFa%2FOE6edo79AZXGCDZtGuIQNjQHLYnc%3D&reserved=0) |

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| [**Community colleges see demand for food bank services swell**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2Fs9CTgOD2rBeTJKl68FD0GbsxW6yVPw0NK2yeedQsWnQ%3D_176dd691592%3A2a33d6%3A38d6244e&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7Cc11284e2b4f44a8a689e08d8b34f801c%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637456501322137951%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=P5nL2A7D58ZzPdmiEOixBJEw8b8pW3pr1hurK4EKkUc%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| [Inside Higher Ed | Higher Education News, Career Advice, Jobs](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.insidehighered.com%2Fnews%2F2021%2F01%2F07%2Fcommunity-colleges-see-demand-food-bank-services-swell&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7Cc11284e2b4f44a8a689e08d8b34f801c%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637456501322137951%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=5GewtI5P8rvkP7bOZVMyfIruCi9ikHGOlOwf8vqXhek%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| * The organization works with a handful of community colleges and has seen demand for services like food banks generally increase due to the COVID-19 pandemic, said Emily Kass, community engagement manager at Swipe Out Hunger.
* "Community colleges are the least funded sector of higher education, but they serve the majority of students with these needs for social and academic services," said Martha Parham, senior vice president public relations for the American Association of Community Colleges.
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| [**After grueling year, latest weekly initial jobless claims remain elevated, at 787,000**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2FFy3VJ11srJ7WiTPM6nbL06kpPr28ZRWFGN1T1qh7ocA%3D_176d8e67829%3A379f30%3A36b48ab7&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7Cc11284e2b4f44a8a689e08d8b34f801c%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637456501322147941%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=hkxLzoNFqXjXNoHhlS3sS8cCDtaIB8oIyXFWWfJ9EKs%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| [NBC News](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.nbcnews.com%2Fbusiness%2Feconomy%2Flatest-weekly-initial-jobless-claims-total-787-000-vs-835-n1252588&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7Cc11284e2b4f44a8a689e08d8b34f801c%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637456501322147941%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=HgktNbFs%2B34YQGWbFHR296Y%2BljXPvDGzsa0xoiMkV7w%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| * However, the number of continuing claims — people who cannot find a job and receive ongoing unemployment benefits — remains just above 5 million, which is at least three times its usual level, underscoring the nation's sluggish labor market recovery.
* Despite new vaccines and the passage of a federal emergency aid package, new applications for unemployment benefits remain at four times that of the pre-pandemic average — but well below the March peak of almost 7 million claims.
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| [**The pandemic has forced institutions to reckon with the value of higher education from a student perspective (opinion)**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2FFy3VJ11srJ7WiTPM6nbL06kpPr28ZRWFGN1T1qh7ocA%3D_176d8d0561a%3A352afc%3Ac28fa12&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7Cc11284e2b4f44a8a689e08d8b34f801c%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637456501322157941%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=lboogVp7%2BB4wfvEl7LxXEqAt56%2Bqeh3Zc3CHJSAHqeQ%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| [Inside Higher Ed | Higher Education News, Career Advice, Jobs](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.insidehighered.com%2Fviews%2F2021%2F01%2F06%2Fpandemic-has-forced-institutions-reckon-value-higher-education-student-perspective&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7Cc11284e2b4f44a8a689e08d8b34f801c%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637456501322157941%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=zlujlo1fCWi0DLLUwTaF8ojfaTdRSdYkwFUXv2ag7LE%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| * If colleges and universities want to thrive -- or even survive -- in a post-pandemic future, they must adopt a new mind-set to address student expectations and redefine the inherent value of higher education.
* To support the students of the future and stay competitive, colleges and universities should consider adopting the following principles in addition to committing resources to wellness and prevention efforts.
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| [**What 2020 Taught Us**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2Fo3SSqIWWG2gYayKaXccfVpg%2FzOCVxn%2FqF9iZLeGk8SI%3D_176d3c1368e%3A563d537%3A83b8064d&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7Cc11284e2b4f44a8a689e08d8b34f801c%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637456501322157941%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=g5YazERRTCG%2FAwGv4pCROOYcxP1o8DxAw4Cyf5F1cKQ%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| [Inside Higher Ed](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.insidehighered.com%2Fblogs%2Fhigher-ed-gamma%2Fwhat-2020-taught-us&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7Cc11284e2b4f44a8a689e08d8b34f801c%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637456501322167936%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=%2BRNegabsWLD6GkK2d1Hb6vdzhpLHlYZndZrWSN6lJ8c%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| * Embed key advising elements into designated first year classes, including training in academic success skills and time management, degree mapping, and major selection.
* Use data – including students’ high school record, their level engagement, including LMS activity, grades (especially in the students’ major), credit momentum, deviations from degree plans and shifts in majors -- to pinpoint students who are at risk of dropping out or failing.
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| [**How the pandemic is shaking up college admissions and testing**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2FFy3VJ11srJ7WiTPM6nbL06kpPr28ZRWFGN1T1qh7ocA%3D_176d37baccb%3Afa96d%3Afd7a7014&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7Cc11284e2b4f44a8a689e08d8b34f801c%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637456501322167936%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=zqWfjoN2%2Fnu2fORuMC7sUHdvyhzbmh%2BnqstoCGcawN4%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| [PBS NewsHour](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.pbs.org%2Fnewshour%2Fshow%2Fhow-the-pandemic-is-shaking-up-college-admissions-and-testing&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7Cc11284e2b4f44a8a689e08d8b34f801c%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637456501322177934%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=hMunQznvtNfFn4uMEbqwbDTEE5bEr%2B7P2ck%2FGJUolg8%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| * Jeff Selingo, Author, "Who Gets In and Why: A Year Inside College Admissions": Well, because, for most of these top-tiered schools, this is the first time they are test-optional, meaning students didn't have to send test scores in with their applications.
* If there's not as many ACT and SAT tests going to colleges, why does that mean top-tier schools are seeing an increase in applications?
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| [**Displaced Workers Haven't Turned to College for a Fresh Start. Here's What Might Bring Them Back.**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2FpJObj60hhd4Ufvbp8Z4fAm4U%2BG1RmbCaFfwanQquVGk%3D_176cfb727b0%3A4f3df85%3A83b8064d&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7Cc11284e2b4f44a8a689e08d8b34f801c%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637456501322177934%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=n7%2FXrQFZ2YJCyaRAdXeeLN%2BefiZP18rjOe1xJ2Iu7Dc%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| [The Chronicle of Higher Education | News, Opinion, Advice about Higher Education](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.chronicle.com%2Farticle%2Fdisplaced-workers-havent-turned-to-college-for-a-fresh-start-heres-what-might-bring-them-back&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7Cc11284e2b4f44a8a689e08d8b34f801c%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637456501322187918%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=E9KrkHct7yVjOdm6GXaKh5T5o7rI2s6tF83TADz2ymI%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| * But Strada’s data suggest that when workers eventually do set out to learn new skills, they’re most likely to enroll in a nondegree program or seek skills training.
* About a third of Americans believe they would need more education or training if they lost their job during the pandemic, according to recent data from the Strada Education Network’s Center for Education Consumer Insights.
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| [**COVID-19 Cases Surge In U.S. As Vaccinations Fall Below Government Predictions**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2FsADHxtZ%2FiQmNqUemqKPsHsrALS27IXrQCntkDFMbl00%3D_176ca4d210d%3A46f90d4%3A83b8064d&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7Cc11284e2b4f44a8a689e08d8b34f801c%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637456501322187918%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=mpmeDGPvMpzfTbMBkupJDxZikjYB64pVWdMxvt0y%2BUk%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| [News : NPR](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.npr.org%2F2021%2F01%2F03%2F953045468%2Fcovid-19-cases-surge-in-u-s-as-vaccinations-fall-below-government-predictions&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7Cc11284e2b4f44a8a689e08d8b34f801c%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637456501322197916%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=82SaOxBnzAbY3ABaFdjFr%2BX5OHOZsra8la46r%2F57IjA%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| [Saturday's total of 299,087 new cases marks a new single-day high for the U.S. Meanwhile, vaccination campaigns are off to a disorganized start. (Image credit: Eva Marie Uzcategui/AFP via Getty Images)](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2FsADHxtZ%2FiQmNqUemqKPsHsrALS27IXrQCntkDFMbl00%3D_176ca4d210d%3A46f90d4%3A83b8064d&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7Cc11284e2b4f44a8a689e08d8b34f801c%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637456501322197916%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=JSFiCupqYdXqmMouZleu9RKSyn7LNXVb%2Bgc8dAbV%2Fbk%3D&reserved=0)  |  |

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| [**Number of rural students planning on going to college plummets**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2F7GREM7CplKRZjsJIjPDQXp7LmhRctFTvaXgASsiiVtw%3D_176784eae9a%3A81c07d%3A83b8064d&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7Cc11284e2b4f44a8a689e08d8b34f801c%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637456501322207908%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=71TAnAbirrd0TpLKY24KP5lnkfqNTDIoOx0PtA6atbg%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| [The Hechinger Report](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fhechingerreport.org%2Fnumber-of-rural-students-planning-on-going-to-college-plummets%2F&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7Cc11284e2b4f44a8a689e08d8b34f801c%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637456501322207908%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=Ouwqt1216g2FOyYU2u3u5p4Ks35ZKtLAaXFctNI6RXg%3D&reserved=0" \t "_blank) |  |
| * The rural students most likely to continue on to college are the ones who enjoy high school, participate in extracurricular activities and get good grades, according to a just-completed survey by researchers at universities in Maine, Oregon, Georgia and Alaska.
* The number of rural students filling out the federal application for financial aid, an early sign of whether they’re even considering going to college, has plummeted by more than 18 percent.
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| [**Big Changes in the Federal Student-Aid System Are Coming. Here’s Why They Matter.**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2FpJObj60hhd4Ufvbp8Z4fAm4U%2BG1RmbCaFfwanQquVGk%3D_1768d3c713b%3A260a7cb%3A7c281fd8&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7Cc11284e2b4f44a8a689e08d8b34f801c%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637456501322217904%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=6m%2BtCPlBYP4lYUer0pY9tyENq6ASvYQBsU37O8Om9q8%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| [The Chronicle of Higher Education | News, Opinion, Advice about Higher Education](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.chronicle.com%2Farticle%2Fbig-changes-in-the-federal-student-aid-system-are-coming-heres-why-they-matter&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7Cc11284e2b4f44a8a689e08d8b34f801c%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637456501322217904%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=SiS7fDVfIrr%2BDBB9WU3Z3s4RdEoCAZkjnjdp2Vcemng%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| * NCAN and the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators have long sought to reduce the number of questions on the Fafsa, contending that a shorter, simpler application would help more students complete the form and receive the aid for which they’re eligible.
* Though the pandemic nixed the possibility of attaining the long-delayed reauthorization of the Higher Education Act this year, legislators nonetheless inserted several significant changes in the Fafsa, federal-aid methodology, and the Pell Grant program into the Consolidated Appropriations Act, the vast spending bill, which Congress approved on Monday.
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