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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%7C9aabce3e75ca4bdbc3ea08d8be4ff981%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637468597992875202%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=W%2F5UVSxxhULZXivkjkk9ekeDDEm6H2rKWdr0Sspl0fY%3D&reserved=0) |  |

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| [**Virginia Employment Commission**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2FFy3VJ11srJ7WiTPM6nbL06kpPr28ZRWFGN1T1qh7ocA%3D_17726a20cf9%3A1ba4dc%3A18cf8c92&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C9aabce3e75ca4bdbc3ea08d8be4ff981%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637468597992945167%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=qsVd2Ws48Sy9yiCIdojY2jlDZzSHFmb7NNpwKnNS4J4%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%7C9aabce3e75ca4bdbc3ea08d8be4ff981%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637468597992945167%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=q%2FoheTuSWeZ0IhniTBwwMn1ccW0Ep%2FDjcXnVpTDZ9jo%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| * RICHMOND—The Virginia Employment Commission (VEC) announced that the number of initial claims filed during the January 16 filing week remained elevated when compared to recent months’ levels, according to figures released today.
* The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 960,668 in the week ending January 16, a decrease of 151,303 (or -13.6 percent) from the previous week.
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| [**Virginia Jan. 21 COVID-19 update: 4,013 new cases, 79 new deaths; Northam to speak at 2**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2FFy3VJ11srJ7WiTPM6nbL06kpPr28ZRWFGN1T1qh7ocA%3D_17726a1c95d%3A1bd29c%3A72ef3cf7&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C9aabce3e75ca4bdbc3ea08d8be4ff981%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637468597992955162%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=GzlrF%2Fnww3y42QULLfh1nZkBoHQ5sHuig7tgU81I1U4%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| [WAVY.com](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.wavy.com%2Fnews%2Fhealth%2Fcoronavirus%2Fvirginia-jan-21-covid-19-update-4013-new-cases-79-new-deaths-hospitalizations-dip-again-northam-to-speak-at-2%2F&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C9aabce3e75ca4bdbc3ea08d8be4ff981%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637468597992955162%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=6vqAGIOkzK%2FPfXxJ4%2FMbX9KZaQUrFn52J05VVpxNRPA%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| * Cases, deaths and hospitalizations are still on the rise overall in Hampton Roads, though the percentage of positive tests is slightly lower in recent days.
* (WAVY) — Virginia reported 4,013 new cases and 79 new COVID-19 deaths on Thursday ahead of Gov. Ralph Northam’s vaccine briefing at 2 p.m.
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| [**Emergency legislation aims to expand the pool of COVID-19 vaccinators in Virginia**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2FZlfaun7gHjf%2BezBb4FuuczpsZ%2FrJH5fsT39QwuFW9Bk%3D_17726299989%3A578f67%3Afa0a53c4&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C9aabce3e75ca4bdbc3ea08d8be4ff981%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637468597992965155%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=glMrTIK%2FDNP6PQeBPnvFtZNQHV0u0QrAXMWSxHOMTA8%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| [Virginia Mercury](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.virginiamercury.com%2F2021%2F01%2F21%2Fbipartisan-legislation-aims-to-expand-the-pool-of-covid-19-vaccinators-in-virginia%2F&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C9aabce3e75ca4bdbc3ea08d8be4ff981%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637468597992965155%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=CF6%2Fh8HNwsGxd32nS%2Fstbk4FvAAzXujwopYahC%2BAmNk%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| * Sen. Siobhan Dunnavant, R-Henrico (a practicing OB-GYN), is the lead patron on an emergency bill that would allow any qualified health care provider in Virginia to volunteer as a vaccinator.
* Hospitals asked Northam to issue an executive order that would allow recently retired staff and other qualified employees to administer vaccines after a brief refresher course.
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| [**Virginia's economic development posts 'solid year' despite pandemic, but recovery uneven**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2FFy3VJ11srJ7WiTPM6nbL06kpPr28ZRWFGN1T1qh7ocA%3D_1772606426f%3Afc383%3A72ef3cf7&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C9aabce3e75ca4bdbc3ea08d8be4ff981%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637468597992975147%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=TbMDZrEN5qyPz%2B02zsmdD%2B5ao91osIBDfEoKHj7yGu0%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| [Richmond Times-Dispatch](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Frichmond.com%2Fnews%2Fstate-and-regional%2Fgovt-and-politics%2Fvirginias-economic-development-posts-solid-year-despite-pandemic-but-recovery-uneven%2Farticle_3549af80-07a6-5afb-ac02-5ef9087f025d.html&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C9aabce3e75ca4bdbc3ea08d8be4ff981%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637468597992975147%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=QMx%2BHRusrdLuDZE60l5Gyl2XxZmk6wLf%2BS63hRi633s%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| [For example, the Senate Finance Committee later unanimously endorsed a bill sponsored by Chair Janet Howell, D-Fairfax, to create the Digital Technology Grant Fund, which would give $5.6 million a year in incentives to Microsoft Corp.](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2FFy3VJ11srJ7WiTPM6nbL06kpPr28ZRWFGN1T1qh7ocA%3D_1772606426f%3Afc383%3A72ef3cf7&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C9aabce3e75ca4bdbc3ea08d8be4ff981%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637468597992985138%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=WtCfwN98gU%2BkMgc9NFZMlC%2FV%2B9QyBd4ZIy%2FtNobGS9Y%3D&reserved=0)  |  |

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| [**Va. unemployment claims remain high, but new claims drop**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2FPJWScc%2F4lkEqQ6JyrrO1ZjVBLh6YO03KX5MqTz5ah0A%3D_17725e087ce%3A564bd6%3A49029f4e&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C9aabce3e75ca4bdbc3ea08d8be4ff981%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637468597992985138%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=gwwlobCYVK2D6a0NzadwrLO4brzONdGJnLcJ%2BV7YGW4%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| [Virginia Business](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.virginiabusiness.com%2Farticle%2Fva-unemployment-claims-remain-high-but-new-claims-drop%2F&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C9aabce3e75ca4bdbc3ea08d8be4ff981%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637468597992995136%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=2xaSzGd8zm4ELNSR3SOHbjI4phN0KLOiLPkigcjmiI8%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| * Although the number of initial jobless claims filed last week dropped relative to the previous week, unemployment numbers remain high, according to figures released by the Virginia Employment Commission on Thursday.
* During the week ending Jan. 16, 21,073 Virginians filed initial claims, a 25.3% decline from the previous week, which saw 28,227 people file new claims, the highest number since July 2020.
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| [**Coronavirus update: Nearly 40,000 people have been fully vaccinated in Virginia**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2Fa7ygYK4H%2BO92hOf1WNl7nib1addh8vp%2BrvFuRIia7o8%3D_17725aa1dac%3A506708%3Acafbbc00&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C9aabce3e75ca4bdbc3ea08d8be4ff981%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637468597992995136%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=jczVCh3QyRkxMEwfdmaf4wp9ohSg2E7iJQAujYeS%2FyE%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| [8News](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.wric.com%2Fnews%2Fvirginia-news%2Fcoronavirus-update-nearly-40000-people-have-been-fully-vaccinated-in-virginia%2F&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C9aabce3e75ca4bdbc3ea08d8be4ff981%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637468597992995136%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=iUmzZ4NmQr3uc6tlaiFBJEvKcUoYER%2BeqC%2Bkx3KyRF4%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| * The Virginia Department of Health is reporting 4,013 new COVID-19 cases.
* VDH is reporting that 320,593 first doses of the COVID-19 vaccine have been administered as of Jan. 20.
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| [**Virginia reports 6th highest increase in weekly unemployment claims in US since start of pandemic**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2FFy3VJ11srJ7WiTPM6nbL06kpPr28ZRWFGN1T1qh7ocA%3D_177215e18fc%3A1cbe6e%3A32974955&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C9aabce3e75ca4bdbc3ea08d8be4ff981%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637468597993005133%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=UWg5l1b3IqTUGihiHGDYO3RZknp62EPaF2%2FgrwoLbuY%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| [WTKR](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.wtkr.com%2Fnews%2Fvirginia-reports-6th-highest-increase-in-weekly-unemployment-claims-in-us-since-start-of-pandemic&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C9aabce3e75ca4bdbc3ea08d8be4ff981%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637468597993005133%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=xH6F%2B%2FaDbrQiRe3xE9nYachYvD9gRq9KgOmqPHRlDM8%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| * Virginia ranked 5th for highest unemployment claims made in the U.S. for the first week in 2021 versus last year.
* The Commonwealth also ranked 6th for highest claims made in the nation since the start of the pandemic compared to last year.
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| [**VEC: Renewed CARES Act unemployment benefit programs delayed**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2FFy3VJ11srJ7WiTPM6nbL06kpPr28ZRWFGN1T1qh7ocA%3D_177215cd929%3A1c5103%3A72ef3cf7&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C9aabce3e75ca4bdbc3ea08d8be4ff981%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637468597993015125%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=PlFWOGBai2bx2tXJGaw8p2pXlGESatYniUNPc2JUqOY%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| [https://www.nbc12.com](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.nbc12.com%2F2021%2F01%2F15%2Fvec-renewed-cares-act-unemployment-benefit-programs-delayed%2F&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C9aabce3e75ca4bdbc3ea08d8be4ff981%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637468597993015125%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=6YfGQEAhWOnugIsyi%2F46DKfRH0scnwBdVS3Lmrxpucg%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| [“This additional benefit will be added to weeks claimed beginning with the week ending January 2, 2021,” the website stated. “FPUC will be payable as long as you are eligible through benefit week ending March 14, 2021.”](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2FFy3VJ11srJ7WiTPM6nbL06kpPr28ZRWFGN1T1qh7ocA%3D_177215cd929%3A1c5103%3A72ef3cf7&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C9aabce3e75ca4bdbc3ea08d8be4ff981%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637468597993025120%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=WcgVslZAqff48z9dIHBLepg7aDxLynJVVmvV1XMaabU%3D&reserved=0)  |  |

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| [**Virginians age 65 and older can now receive COVID-19 vaccine as state ramps up vaccinations | WTOP**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2FFy3VJ11srJ7WiTPM6nbL06kpPr28ZRWFGN1T1qh7ocA%3D_1772149f070%3A19ca52%3A9f2ecd7a&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C9aabce3e75ca4bdbc3ea08d8be4ff981%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637468597993025120%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=LKGMV7jkH2tjhAWM3xj1BBIUgDuKdZRsy1jwEBRzkwc%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| [WTOP](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwtop.com%2Fcoronavirus%2F2021%2F01%2Fvirginia-coronavirus-update-january-14%2F&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C9aabce3e75ca4bdbc3ea08d8be4ff981%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637468597993035111%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=GQfF9W7Ej8HU%2B2gdhNwjsfbw19iRUxLiwDEKoJJj9nc%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| * Virginia is steadily working its way through its list of Priority 1 recipients of the COVID-19 vaccines, but a health official said that more would need to be done to stop the steady rise of coronavirus cases.
* Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam said Thursday that the commonwealth is following federal guidance to immediately open vaccinations up for people who were not initially included in the earlier phases of the rollout.
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| [**VDH sets COVID-19 vaccine timetable to reach distribution goals**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2FFy3VJ11srJ7WiTPM6nbL06kpPr28ZRWFGN1T1qh7ocA%3D_17721480c3d%3A1c453a%3Af94bb466&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C9aabce3e75ca4bdbc3ea08d8be4ff981%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637468597993035111%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=HgdsppbMMvagAbXgrSkN4hbR8Dul%2BAcH0gx1AU5oUOA%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| [https://www.nbc12.com](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.nbc12.com%2F2021%2F01%2F19%2Fvdh-sets-covid-vaccine-timetable-reach-distribution-goals%2F&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C9aabce3e75ca4bdbc3ea08d8be4ff981%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637468597993045104%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=LJOgyRYBXYomfC98bDjvzvGRUQU1LMfK01hUmZIKBo0%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| [The governor’s office is firing back saying in a statement, “Todd Gilbert and his crew have spent a year pretending this pandemic is not a problem—we’re pleased he’s finally realized the scope of federal mismanagement.](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2FFy3VJ11srJ7WiTPM6nbL06kpPr28ZRWFGN1T1qh7ocA%3D_17721480c3d%3A1c453a%3Af94bb466&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C9aabce3e75ca4bdbc3ea08d8be4ff981%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637468597993045104%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=M2p4LCaQbPpS2G6ASWcmF2eaU0HQRc32OLpKXr%2F97mM%3D&reserved=0)  |  |

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| [**Dashboards track COVID-19 cases, outbreaks at Virginia colleges**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2Fs9CTgOD2rBeTJKl68FD0GbsxW6yVPw0NK2yeedQsWnQ%3D_177204eda15%3A8d8b2%3Add73d858&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C9aabce3e75ca4bdbc3ea08d8be4ff981%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637468597993055100%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=4gsLTDjuzFzpZdxEiZrXz1WWEzbJNHERB9MfEWOMjKE%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| [Roanoke Times](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Froanoke.com%2Fnews%2Feducation%2Fdashboards-track-covid-19-cases-outbreaks-at-virginia-colleges%2Farticle_631ebef4-5a92-11eb-9a0a-3bd19f48ce1d.html&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C9aabce3e75ca4bdbc3ea08d8be4ff981%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637468597993055100%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=a9eRQxOnKhYt8V2yY5NXN%2B9rpvxwp90k0B%2FGzPIwu1A%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| * The department also said Tuesday that a separate dashboard hosted by colleges and universities — accessible at [www.covid19.va.education](http://www.covid19.va.education/) — will compile case counts across institutions.
* Another 27 outbreaks are “pending closure,” meaning 28 days have passed without a new case, but official closure may be delayed due to a lag in data processing, according to the department.
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| [**Virginia Releases December 2020 Revenue Report**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2FFy3VJ11srJ7WiTPM6nbL06kpPr28ZRWFGN1T1qh7ocA%3D_177074be888%3A3b0373%3A99065010&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C9aabce3e75ca4bdbc3ea08d8be4ff981%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637468597993065095%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=qUhsmynN5cw54omgnNtIzFMvXDOk01cOTpM9lAoXD%2BQ%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| [Virginia](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.governor.virginia.gov%2Fnewsroom%2Fall-releases%2F2021%2Fjanuary%2Fheadline-891368-en.html&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C9aabce3e75ca4bdbc3ea08d8be4ff981%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637468597993065095%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=FSUIHWPnQbwGvp3th7pDmWXwMgutYCgzSzQN7piSvAQ%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| * RICHMOND —Governor Ralph Northam today announced that total General Fund revenues rose 15.1 percent in December, driven by solid growth in payroll withholding, corporate income tax, sales and use taxes, and recordation tax collections.
* On a fiscal year-to-date basis, total revenue collections rose 7.8 percent through December, well ahead of the annual forecast of 1.2 percent growth.
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| [**'I can't believe I did this': Grant supports VA Ready's work to retrain commonwealth's unemployed population**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2Fa7ygYK4H%2BO92hOf1WNl7nib1addh8vp%2BrvFuRIia7o8%3D_1770348e6c1%3A120a24f%3A7c281fd8&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C9aabce3e75ca4bdbc3ea08d8be4ff981%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637468597993075088%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=2Q3z0qKRKHNmqw6QHU8W28OQAWVNpc5LaFvSY5y5d8w%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| [8News](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.wric.com%2Fbusiness%2Fi-cant-believe-i-did-this-grant-supports-va-readys-work-to-retrain-commonwealths-unemployed-population%2F&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C9aabce3e75ca4bdbc3ea08d8be4ff981%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637468597993075088%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=KWWz1ywFryDVV%2FuwuO%2BuWAToO2Xl9p16gHCZkXhXcNQ%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| * Becca Austin of Richmond and Tracey Delagarza of Newport News each recently completed programs through VA Ready.
* Reynolds Foundation is awarding a two-year grant of $50,000 to the Virginia Ready Initiative (VA Ready), a public-private partnership dedicated to retraining unemployed Virginians and helping them secure in-demand positions.
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| [**Northam directs school divisions to start making plans for reopening**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2FZlfaun7gHjf%2BezBb4FuuczpsZ%2FrJH5fsT39QwuFW9Bk%3D_177046fe925%3A12ad79b%3A1e82ad8f&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C9aabce3e75ca4bdbc3ea08d8be4ff981%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637468597993085084%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=m5ZsPHbHmPQCvncK5HfiDq%2FamyZmTQVnswP9gkVUr94%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| [Virginia Mercury](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.virginiamercury.com%2F2021%2F01%2F15%2Fnortham-directs-school-divisions-to-start-making-plans-for-reopening%2F&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C9aabce3e75ca4bdbc3ea08d8be4ff981%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637468597993085084%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=tnzCdlaVCAzSrp7lRuHvi5MB8LoRpJJnSgthkNVQLiA%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| * In a separate briefing later on Thursday, Lane said many divisions have been basing their reopening decisions primarily on top indicators from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which advise schools to consider community case rates and the percentage of positive tests over the last two weeks.
* But a new letter from Virginia Superintendent of Public Instruction James Lane and state Health Commissioner Dr. Norman Oliver assured superintendents, school leadership and local health departments that “data increasingly suggest that school reopenings are unlikely to contribute significantly to community transmission when rates of community transmission are low and schools have infection prevention measures in place.”
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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%7C9aabce3e75ca4bdbc3ea08d8be4ff981%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637468597992735283%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=%2Fm2I08cYuSAQ3HnIkyjtMCP30EW6VfeJni7UQagsxfY%3D&reserved=0) |

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| [**Unemployment Claims Stay Stubbornly High As Biden Takes Office**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2FsADHxtZ%2FiQmNqUemqKPsHsrALS27IXrQCntkDFMbl00%3D_177259b9fa8%3A4e207d%3A49029f4e&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C9aabce3e75ca4bdbc3ea08d8be4ff981%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637468597992785250%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=ZGOaj5nCLmSQZ5GlPMn8ypVk0bf%2Fi8y1FbQComySmZI%3D&reserved=0) |
| [News : NPR](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.npr.org%2F2021%2F01%2F21%2F959151638%2Funemployment-claims-stay-stubbornly-high-as-biden-takes-office&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C9aabce3e75ca4bdbc3ea08d8be4ff981%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637468597992795252%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=7HxknhHjvDgpq50H4FpirE9WJY8cAkouOjlG0dUUDp4%3D&reserved=0) |
| [New claims for state unemployment benefits dipped last week but remained high, showcasing the economic challenges facing President Biden. (Image credit: Jim Watson/AFP via Getty Images)](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2FsADHxtZ%2FiQmNqUemqKPsHsrALS27IXrQCntkDFMbl00%3D_177259b9fa8%3A4e207d%3A49029f4e&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C9aabce3e75ca4bdbc3ea08d8be4ff981%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637468597992795252%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=428ou5LZFS5njTTv299SFYq6JNe7N9dspqUYdqpLCDw%3D&reserved=0)  |

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| [**Adding College Transfer to the Biden Administration's Agenda**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2Fo3SSqIWWG2gYayKaXccfVpg%2FzOCVxn%2FqF9iZLeGk8SI%3D_17724081065%3A20baf5%3A49029f4e&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C9aabce3e75ca4bdbc3ea08d8be4ff981%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637468597992795252%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=q%2FXhxQwkXGdhwDulVJOxoo8Ix4Z7GcUoD1F0d%2Fb1QoE%3D&reserved=0) |
| [Inside Higher Ed](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.insidehighered.com%2Fblogs%2Ftackling-transfer%2Fadding-college-transfer-biden-administrations-agenda&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C9aabce3e75ca4bdbc3ea08d8be4ff981%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637468597992805244%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=TpOKzOqGlQFEPmbIkHnuh1yLXz6XO4JWKPS0PIiesBw%3D&reserved=0) |
| * For too long, we have sold students and families across the country false promises about transfer, encouraging them to enroll in community college as a more affordable way to achieve the same end goal of a bachelor’s degree.
* He laid out a robust college access and affordability agenda that included increasing need-based aid for low-income students, encouraging community college enrollment and reining in ballooning student loan debt.
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| [**Biden extends break on repaying student loans**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2Fo3SSqIWWG2gYayKaXccfVpg%2FzOCVxn%2FqF9iZLeGk8SI%3D_17724081065%3A20baf9%3A49029f4e&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C9aabce3e75ca4bdbc3ea08d8be4ff981%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637468597992805244%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=nUGp%2Bn9VmBWl%2BCM8UdLzxiAngY0R8BgcHv4FOJnJBC0%3D&reserved=0) |
| [Inside Higher Ed](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.insidehighered.com%2Fnews%2F2021%2F01%2F21%2Fbiden-extends-break-repaying-student-loans&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C9aabce3e75ca4bdbc3ea08d8be4ff981%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637468597992815237%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=slW0CcMJRN%2FSJu5yfo42JCK5%2BtEyI8w8QrfWaW9%2FAWc%3D&reserved=0) |
| * The Education Department said Wednesday night that at President Joe Biden's request, it is continuing to give student loan borrowers a break from making their monthly payments for another nine months, until Sept.
* The pandemic has only increased the economic hardship of the millions of Americans who have student debt,” Biden said in an executive order he issued after being sworn in as president.
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| [**Free college could become a reality under a Biden administration**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2FFy3VJ11srJ7WiTPM6nbL06kpPr28ZRWFGN1T1qh7ocA%3D_17720475311%3A83747%3Add73d858&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C9aabce3e75ca4bdbc3ea08d8be4ff981%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637468597992815237%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=m1TFC2ypwSKGNcIpx9bVHW%2BTkmyZ5oqENOWWYAH0OgA%3D&reserved=0) |
| [CNBC](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cnbc.com%2F2021%2F01%2F18%2Fbiden-administration-free-college.html&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C9aabce3e75ca4bdbc3ea08d8be4ff981%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637468597992825233%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=ufdHKH%2BbEHWhyx3oLGV0JaXyaXN5j%2BW%2Fu094KtitqoE%3D&reserved=0) |
| * "You've got a net effect of almost two million more students enrolled in college," said Robert Shapiro, the lead author of the study and a former economic advisor to President Bill Clinton.
* On the campaign trail, Biden said he will enact legislation to ensure that students can go to community college for up to two years without having to pay tuition.
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| [**Moving toward multiple assessments for placement**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2FyT%2BeOE3Q975AwLALTpvdZ%2FHttzCyCe5XsEd8RhhAhk0%3D_1771dfe3e58%3A187326%3A49029f4e&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C9aabce3e75ca4bdbc3ea08d8be4ff981%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637468597992825233%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=1gOxKOouqXAuHt6aJWEp4RsDGU3eFT9htkMm2JfBhmQ%3D&reserved=0) |
| [Community College Daily](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.ccdaily.com%2F2021%2F01%2Fmoving-toward-multiple-assessments-for-placement%2F&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C9aabce3e75ca4bdbc3ea08d8be4ff981%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637468597992835228%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=J5G0Bvi01ZZ%2B2dDApDct1w5zwpLKd%2BW7LuQ0F4kSUVs%3D&reserved=0) |
| * Community college leaders have for many years talked about moving away from single-source placement tests to other ways to measure whether students should be placed in developmental education courses, including looking at high school grade point averages.
* State systems can play an important role by providing guidance and resources to community colleges that want to expand the measures they use to assess whether students need developmental education, according to a new brief from the Center for the Analysis of Postsecondary Readiness at Columbia University.
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| [**Covid-19 Is Accelerating Changes in Standardized Testing. Expect to See More.**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2FpJObj60hhd4Ufvbp8Z4fAm4U%2BG1RmbCaFfwanQquVGk%3D_1771d61d7fb%3A77fff%3Afa0a53c4&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C9aabce3e75ca4bdbc3ea08d8be4ff981%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637468597992835228%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=YplUkfJYE1gcYw7SLEqfaG0VzdYd5bTPDCB5J4vAZEY%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%2Fcovid-19-is-accelerating-changes-in-standardized-testing-expect-to-see-more&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C9aabce3e75ca4bdbc3ea08d8be4ff981%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637468597992845228%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=dyU8m4ksIKKxFPtxq%2FJspSudp8ZTPbUe%2BqkdxQNPBXE%3D&reserved=0" \t "_blank) |
| * In case you never took them, the multiple-choice exams — given in 20 subjects, including biology, history, and mathematics — were long a means for high-achieving students to load up their college applications with additional evidence of academic prowess.
* Then Covid-19 upended the admissions realm, limiting students’ access to exams and prompting most colleges to at least temporarily suspend their testing requirements.
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| [**The pandemic is speeding up the mass disappearance of men from college**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2F7GREM7CplKRZjsJIjPDQXp7LmhRctFTvaXgASsiiVtw%3D_1771a872037%3A17e894f%3A4e066f02&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C9aabce3e75ca4bdbc3ea08d8be4ff981%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637468597992845228%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=XNX61JmUSMTN3fYkNn8LoSPhE%2BszO54flIW0Khmxz%2Bw%3D&reserved=0) |
| [The Hechinger Report](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fhechingerreport.org%2Fthe-pandemic-is-speeding-up-the-mass-disappearance-of-men-from-college%2F&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C9aabce3e75ca4bdbc3ea08d8be4ff981%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637468597992855216%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=w9OQIg%2BOZ3HZyGMDLPP1WL7W4XBL0FmXpEB%2B%2B4gWlWU%3D&reserved=0) |
| * “In a sense, we have lost a generation of men to Covid-19,” said Adrian Huerta, an assistant professor of education at the University of Southern California who studies college-going among boys and men.
* It’s also opened jobs for young men from Worcester high schools at grocery stores and at Amazon, FedEx and other delivery companies, said Lynnel Reed, head guidance counselor at University Park, nearly two-thirds of whose students are considered economically disadvantaged .
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| [**‘It’s just too much’: Why students are abandoning community colleges in droves**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2F7GREM7CplKRZjsJIjPDQXp7LmhRctFTvaXgASsiiVtw%3D_177084d92a9%3A1b51438%3A83b8064d&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C9aabce3e75ca4bdbc3ea08d8be4ff981%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637468597992855216%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=SMJlsToMWSS0Tx4T4m0E5u8ojy7GYIeIwsCNWFjqeaM%3D&reserved=0) |
| [The Hechinger Report](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fhechingerreport.org%2Fits-just-too-much-why-students-are-abandoning-community-colleges-in-droves%2F&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C9aabce3e75ca4bdbc3ea08d8be4ff981%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637468597992855216%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=NWWDS%2FGUoc4bVBjL%2BfzqKmwdpojbgQ5rys1Uv9FFHZ4%3D&reserved=0) |
| * Fall enrollment at community colleges was down 10 percent from a year earlier, according to National Student Clearinghouse data from mid-December.
* If those trends continue, they could exacerbate existing racial and socioeconomic gaps in higher education, as four-year schools, which tend to serve wealthier and whiter populations, bounce back more quickly while the pandemic hollows out community colleges that have been slowly leaking students for a decade.
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| [**Education Department releases billions in aid to colleges**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2Fo3SSqIWWG2gYayKaXccfVpg%2FzOCVxn%2FqF9iZLeGk8SI%3D_177052357fd%3A15c9c81%3A83b8064d&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C9aabce3e75ca4bdbc3ea08d8be4ff981%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637468597992865212%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=DOPtIjSXiSep2ypWqjV2e6eTdJY57znSY1o%2BQk6oWJM%3D&reserved=0) |
| [Inside Higher Ed](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.insidehighered.com%2Fnews%2F2021%2F01%2F15%2Feducation-department-releases-billions-aid-colleges&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7C9aabce3e75ca4bdbc3ea08d8be4ff981%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637468597992865212%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=4lmJvlKUIS8TLW2N68QsF%2BZi5L%2BwzeIj%2BhovBH%2F5EpA%3D&reserved=0) |
| * The U.S. Education Department on Thursday made available the $21.2 billion in help to higher education included in the coronavirus relief legislation Congress and President Trump approved in December, but undocumented students could be left out of getting help through emergency student grants again.
* As for the latest round of approved coronavirus relief, it will allow more flexibility on how colleges and universities can spend the money than in last spring’s CARES Act, and allows for more students to be eligible to receive emergency student grants.
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