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| December 10, 2020 |
| [**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%7Cef6498d7e6124aff0a9208d89d4686bf%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637432273525125052%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=oauVjPBU3BdYjTUOayQIA288rrO41ZWwxqplN9c2sgY%3D&reserved=0) |
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| [**Virginia COVID-19 cases rise by 3,915 on Thursday**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2FFy3VJ11srJ7WiTPM6nbL06kpPr28ZRWFGN1T1qh7ocA%3D_1764e366167%3A46cd39%3A13f12be9&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7Cef6498d7e6124aff0a9208d89d4686bf%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637432273525215028%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=AokvuxviXY6RbkFuud%2BFGNTAVp5AqwAK60E4z8ixQnw%3D&reserved=0) |
| [https://www.whsv.com](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.whsv.com%2F2020%2F12%2F10%2Fvirginia-covid-19-cases-rise-by-3915-on-thursday%2F&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7Cef6498d7e6124aff0a9208d89d4686bf%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637432273525215028%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=iAuKVjEJU%2By9K1M1rYY7V%2BnxHyf4%2Bu3lpiSkyCBU7z8%3D&reserved=0) |
| [You can now call WHSV for the latest COVID-19 case numbers in the health districts we cover, as well as the case numbers in Grant, Hardy and Pendleton Counties, W. Va. Our COVID-19 hotline will be updated daily.](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2FFy3VJ11srJ7WiTPM6nbL06kpPr28ZRWFGN1T1qh7ocA%3D_1764e366167%3A46cd39%3A13f12be9&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7Cef6498d7e6124aff0a9208d89d4686bf%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637432273525225022%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=ywE8%2BmNNDnuJ5VE2s2C67ORPNDmy1JZ8ETzEfG%2B6i0A%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_1764e34b279%3A46ad11%3A13f12be9&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7Cef6498d7e6124aff0a9208d89d4686bf%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637432273525235018%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=FGvCbcbRSkiYEfpwWfNrVF0XtnHvHX7vaTDPaabqFAE%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%7Cef6498d7e6124aff0a9208d89d4686bf%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637432273525245014%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=6gXoUMSdQB0jreJO6NAycYgZk3wnKpBJMu6bqe9vK7s%3D&reserved=0) |
| [RICHMOND—The Virginia Employment Commission (VEC) announced that the number of initial claims filed during the December 5 filing week jumped to its highest level since the August 8 filing week, according to figures released today.](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2FFy3VJ11srJ7WiTPM6nbL06kpPr28ZRWFGN1T1qh7ocA%3D_1764e34b279%3A46ad11%3A13f12be9&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7Cef6498d7e6124aff0a9208d89d4686bf%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637432273525245014%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=nSyWMZOnHN%2Fbb59m8%2FFHLzfrSxZCz2TlTT5Q%2FHAHuhI%3D&reserved=0)  |

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| **[Gatherings capped at 10, mask mandate expanded in latest round of COVID-19 restrictions - Virginia Mercury](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2Fs9CTgOD2rBeTJKl68FD0GbsxW6yVPw0NK2yeedQsWnQ%3D_1764e1a5ea0%3A43551c%3A98974d07&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7Cef6498d7e6124aff0a9208d89d4686bf%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637432273525255018%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=yP2pvidzJcAzXwDoXjszsQlR9WqRb2DhDhRAzu%2Bd8FU%3D&reserved=0" \t "_blank)** |  |
| [Virginia Mercury](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.virginiamercury.com%2F2020%2F12%2F10%2Fgatherings-capped-at-10-mask-mandate-expanded-in-latest-round-of-covid-19-restrictions%2F&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7Cef6498d7e6124aff0a9208d89d4686bf%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637432273525265020%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=DDwnWIpM9Wp4TMUsxGg0NeSMPOQnzKdrGoA0m21RIwQ%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| [Gov. Ralph Northam at a press conference in October. (Ned Oliver/Virginia Mercury)Starting Monday, gatherings in Virginia will be capped at 10 people and the state’s mask mandate will be expanded to include outdoor settings where social distancing isn’t possible.](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2Fs9CTgOD2rBeTJKl68FD0GbsxW6yVPw0NK2yeedQsWnQ%3D_1764e1a5ea0%3A43551c%3A98974d07&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7Cef6498d7e6124aff0a9208d89d4686bf%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637432273525275005%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=9Q0aPY3TPbx9MY34dDy1UDkIR88FU4gcMb04ZTkDkc8%3D&reserved=0)  |  |

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| [**Va. initial jobless claims nearly doubled last week | Virginia Business**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2Fs9CTgOD2rBeTJKl68FD0GbsxW6yVPw0NK2yeedQsWnQ%3D_1764dfaf973%3A4472d0%3Ae0561be3&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7Cef6498d7e6124aff0a9208d89d4686bf%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637432273525285005%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=6pXHh6VI9K5kTHhwtlwD1Tawuyqm%2BXHSdrZQ8VCe%2Br4%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| [Virginia Business](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.virginiabusiness.com%2Farticle%2Fva-initial-jobless-claims-nearly-doubled-last-week%2F&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7Cef6498d7e6124aff0a9208d89d4686bf%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637432273525285005%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=G5EVD8c8I7yLZt4sZ2fmQIf5HcuoYAZmsHY5e8JlTOg%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| [Va. initial jobless claims nearly doubled last week 16,000 new claims came in the week ending Dec. 5 Published December 10, 2020 by Sydney Lake The number of initial jobless claims filed last week jumped 93.5% — its highest level since the Aug.](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2Fs9CTgOD2rBeTJKl68FD0GbsxW6yVPw0NK2yeedQsWnQ%3D_1764dfaf973%3A4472d0%3Ae0561be3&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7Cef6498d7e6124aff0a9208d89d4686bf%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637432273525294998%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=F%2BnLKdWh2%2BftbzC4r3oXYTxZxzi4drVZnbwh0%2FX3LuU%3D&reserved=0)  |  |

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| [**Virginia Allocates $100 Million Rebuild VA Economic Recovery Fund, Benefitting 2,500 Small Businesses and Nonprofits Impacted by COVID-19 Pandemic**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2FFy3VJ11srJ7WiTPM6nbL06kpPr28ZRWFGN1T1qh7ocA%3D_176494473c0%3A583359%3A13f12be9&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7Cef6498d7e6124aff0a9208d89d4686bf%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637432273525314994%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=1kDRGWjoVIWd%2FIaaP0YAhkS4VbwIqW8NnAEWS8yLWOA%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| [Virginia](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.governor.virginia.gov%2Fnewsroom%2Fall-releases%2F2020%2Fdecember%2Fheadline-886167-en.html&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7Cef6498d7e6124aff0a9208d89d4686bf%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637432273525324988%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=FIZ%2FSxToMAmSMoSPbmMMd9ynII1%2B3xM0MDwnaHQpuQ0%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| * Virginia Allocates $100 Million Rebuild VA Economic Recovery Fund, Benefitting 2,500 Small Businesses and Nonprofits Impacted by COVID-19 Pandemic Governor Northam urges Congress to quickly pass a bipartisan COVID-19 relief package so Virginia can continue program RICHMOND —Governor Ralph Northam today announced that the $100 million Rebuild VA economic recovery fund has awarded grants to 2,500 Virginia businesses and nonprofits whose normal operations were disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic.
* Rebuild VA, which is administered by the Department of Small Business and Supplier Diversity (SBSD), launched in August with an initial $70 million from the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. In October , Governor Northam directed an additional $30 million in CARES Act dollars to expand the program.
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| [**Virginia now set to receive 480,000 COVID-19 vaccine doses by end of December**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2FFy3VJ11srJ7WiTPM6nbL06kpPr28ZRWFGN1T1qh7ocA%3D_17648faf8a1%3A536030%3Aa2747ccb&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7Cef6498d7e6124aff0a9208d89d4686bf%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637432273525334987%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=KLcTK1wgEMh4HTNQk5UarSOcIz7ihMy%2B%2BEuBZfMS%2B70%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| [https://www.nbc12.com](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.nbc12.com%2F2020%2F12%2F04%2Fvirginia-now-expected-receive-covid-vaccine-doses-by-end-december%2F&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7Cef6498d7e6124aff0a9208d89d4686bf%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637432273525334987%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=88OI3agJ6HJVAdWwVc6GfLBc27%2BKcBXwAPr5gu7oqDw%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| [“Vaccine will be provided to Virginians in a way that is fair, ethical, and transparent,” said Virginia State Health Commissioner M. Norman Oliver, M.D., M.A. “We will focus initially on the groups that have been most at risk for severe illness from COVID-19 infections and those whose work puts them at greatest risk of contracting COVID-19 infections.](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2FFy3VJ11srJ7WiTPM6nbL06kpPr28ZRWFGN1T1qh7ocA%3D_17648faf8a1%3A536030%3Aa2747ccb&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7Cef6498d7e6124aff0a9208d89d4686bf%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637432273525344981%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=LNdL4VO0U4b0AtgxVn3oc78Y1yR%2B4MQ4q16a1UOZG9Y%3D&reserved=0)  |  |

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| [**Surging COVID-19 cases overwhelm local contact tracing efforts - Virginia Mercury**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2Fs9CTgOD2rBeTJKl68FD0GbsxW6yVPw0NK2yeedQsWnQ%3D_17642342408%3A1fbdf1%3Ad00d0446&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7Cef6498d7e6124aff0a9208d89d4686bf%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637432273525364973%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=oeaOJ%2Fb3O7%2FyTQxWPbZctDob6AiQWBDdIZYEOvww0Fw%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| [Virginia Mercury](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.virginiamercury.com%2F2020%2F12%2F08%2Fsurging-covid-19-cases-overwhelm-local-contact-tracing-efforts%2F&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7Cef6498d7e6124aff0a9208d89d4686bf%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637432273525374966%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=%2B7FxmyRUkK9e3XrNIsQjMHdZ7EnWwEkgAIh5GQAcIwc%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| * As COVID-19 infections continue to surge across Virginia, the state’s Department of Health released new guidelines to prioritize contact tracing for cases most likely to fuel transmission.
* Virginia Health Commissioner Dr. Norman Oliver announced the recommendations in a letter to health care providers on Monday, writing that “substantial levels” of community transmission “have forced many local health departments to prioritize contact tracing efforts for key elements of the population.”
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| [**Can employers force workers to get COVID-19 vaccine? Virginia gives businesses the option**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2Fa7ygYK4H%2BO92hOf1WNl7nib1addh8vp%2BrvFuRIia7o8%3D_17631023e44%3A9578ec%3A83b8064d&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7Cef6498d7e6124aff0a9208d89d4686bf%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637432273525384972%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=JZgio%2FPJ0v%2FQtJCvxuiVYNEjCxKkL24DPerZwvmAai8%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| [8News](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.wric.com%2Fhealth%2Fcoronavirus%2Fcan-employers-force-workers-to-get-covid-19-vaccine-virginia-gives-businesses-the-option%2F&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7Cef6498d7e6124aff0a9208d89d4686bf%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637432273525394969%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=VCrIwee7dzido%2BZdjs%2Fp92kidtTdbOwBiSU39%2BX0XwM%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| * (WRIC) -- While many remain skeptical of a COVID-19 vaccine, Virginians wondering if their employers can require their workers to get the injection may not be up for debate.
* Can employers force workers to get COVID-19 vaccine?
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| [**Va. employment may not fully recover until 2023 to 2025**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2FPJWScc%2F4lkEqQ6JyrrO1ZjVBLh6YO03KX5MqTz5ah0A%3D_1762e983be6%3A545a5f%3A829dff8f&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7Cef6498d7e6124aff0a9208d89d4686bf%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637432273525404965%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=e6DZuMaqbvyR8Bmyrk09D8G7lKq%2FJrZ3ADnawN45%2Fzo%3D&reserved=0) |
| [Virginia Business](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.virginiabusiness.com%2Farticle%2Fva-unemployment-may-not-fully-recover-until-2023-to-2025%2F&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7Cef6498d7e6124aff0a9208d89d4686bf%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637432273525404965%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=xlcx%2F8MxFvBDqMFQmsJXMzX9WcOR3ekxmndx7H%2B%2FKJw%3D&reserved=0) |
| * Virginia may not get back to full, pre-pandemic employment until 2023 to 2025, according to Moody’s Analytics employment forecasting, but Stephen Moret, president and CEO of Virginia Economic Development Partnership (VEDP) is hopeful that the commonwealth could recover sooner.
* VEDP’s proposals for the blueprint include increasing manufacturing, international trade and workforce development programs while establishing new supply chains and bringing internationally outsourced jobs back to the United States and Virginia.
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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%7Cef6498d7e6124aff0a9208d89d4686bf%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637432273524905139%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=o2Mlx2Y%2FpKq1AHdqfbEEfLHWKEO7TmXZoi1%2FpcdvX6c%3D&reserved=0) |

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| [**Food Insecurity Among Students Continues During Pandemic**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2Fo3SSqIWWG2gYayKaXccfVpg%2FzOCVxn%2FqF9iZLeGk8SI%3D_1764bb9ed04%3Aca3733%3A83b8064d&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7Cef6498d7e6124aff0a9208d89d4686bf%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637432273524985106%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=RrmVB6q%2FBOK2gGmQd86UvfMqlfWVOtOQkTrGoXjUf44%3D&reserved=0) |
| [Inside Higher Ed](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.insidehighered.com%2Fquicktakes%2F2020%2F12%2F10%2Ffood-insecurity-among-students-continues-during-pandemic&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7Cef6498d7e6124aff0a9208d89d4686bf%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637432273524995105%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=nVWm7l%2BYBmJ8TW28YE6LXiSgIIu1st7fiAhXDk5d1g8%3D&reserved=0) |
| * The report, part of a Chegg.org survey series on how students are faring during the pandemic, is fairly consistent with other research highlighting the impact of COVID-19 on students’ basic needs , but it focuses specifically on food insecurity.
* Male students were more likely to say they had access to food -- both on and off campus from food banks -- than female students, the report said.
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| [**Weekly initial jobless claims surge to 853,000 vs. 730,000 expected**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2Fezz8A7EWGAHy1UC0ms%2Fm0qRAagR5Qp4dpGm%2Fx4aLZpc%3D_1764cdddf36%3Aec44a9%3A995acef7&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7Cef6498d7e6124aff0a9208d89d4686bf%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637432273524995105%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=dZyoxRjvIDPTD6ESbnacCNpKlc4qUgN%2FApcl2dQTjlc%3D&reserved=0) |
| [NBC News Top Stories](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.nbcnews.com%2Fbusiness%2Feconomy%2Fweekly-initial-jobless-claims-surge-853-000-vs-730-000-n1250676&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7Cef6498d7e6124aff0a9208d89d4686bf%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637432273525005100%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=hQ4RnqJyFYI9jrKWwG%2FX77qbvm6mojjjggcMXI%2BBO2U%3D&reserved=0) |
| * Initial jobless claims soared to 853,000 last week, as the surge in coronavirus cases pushed more businesses to implement stricter measures on social distancing, forcing more people out of their job.
* Economists had predicted the latest weekly jobless claims total would be around 730,000, higher than the prior week's tally of 712,000 , but still more than three times the pre-pandemic average of 200,000.
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| [**Fewer new high school grads attended college this fall**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2FyT%2BeOE3Q975AwLALTpvdZ%2FHttzCyCe5XsEd8RhhAhk0%3D_1764b0f125b%3Aafd292%3A829dff8f&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7Cef6498d7e6124aff0a9208d89d4686bf%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637432273525015097%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=OSJFb0ipjLGXURW7HxSuzebmV0%2BT6KbAwdZ%2F6Ly0ZvY%3D&reserved=0) |
| [Community College Daily](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.ccdaily.com%2F2020%2F12%2Ffewer-new-high-school-grads-attended-college-this-fall%2F&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7Cef6498d7e6124aff0a9208d89d4686bf%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637432273525025092%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=fz2hozPXw%2Be%2FU3D67fGx%2FrhOEH2XQnLkoc6ji1g7GuA%3D&reserved=0) |
| * Although the pandemic appears to have had little effect on the number of high school students graduating this spring, there was a 30% drop among those graduates who enrolled in community colleges this fall, with a staggering 37% fewer students from low-income high schools, according to preliminary data from the National Student Clearinghouse Research Center .
* The numbers are down across all higher education sectors, but the changes among new high school graduates going to community colleges are the largest in terms of percentage, especially among students from low-income high schools, the report shows.
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| [**The Real Covid-19 Enrollment Crisis: Fewer Low-Income Students Went Straight to College**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2FpJObj60hhd4Ufvbp8Z4fAm4U%2BG1RmbCaFfwanQquVGk%3D_1764b186300%3Ab6f066%3A995acef7&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7Cef6498d7e6124aff0a9208d89d4686bf%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637432273525025092%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=Ne%2Br4qzPqv8iBMDPKxWspyUA1eb448BvqpAndd7vB0Y%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| [The Chronicle of Higher Education](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.chronicle.com%2Farticle%2Fthe-real-covid-19-enrollment-crisis-fewer-low-income-students-went-straight-to-college&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7Cef6498d7e6124aff0a9208d89d4686bf%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637432273525035090%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=2IX9mu4xnNgsmMrdqQrlBiiJ06shUSpKC2vKf0TtvIY%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| * This year, 21.7 percent fewer high-school graduates went straight to college compared with 2019, according to a new report from the National Student Clearinghouse Research Center.
* Across all types of institutions, immediate enrollment of students from low-income high schools fell 29.2 percent, compared with 16.9 percent for graduates of higher-income schools, according to the report.
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| [**More than 42 million student loan borrowers don't have to resume payments until February**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2FFy3VJ11srJ7WiTPM6nbL06kpPr28ZRWFGN1T1qh7ocA%3D_17649090625%3A54718f%3Aa2747ccb&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7Cef6498d7e6124aff0a9208d89d4686bf%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637432273525045089%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=q2oe7LY8iTyl0c5v9dr0EzhJ0P55R1CAcNEB0GIpsEM%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| [CNBC](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cnbc.com%2F2020%2F12%2F08%2Fstudent-loan-payments-paused-by-covid-wont-restart-until-february.html&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7Cef6498d7e6124aff0a9208d89d4686bf%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637432273525055084%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=p%2BzyEGUk5ZqyGmRgvp0Jj1Jj8NcSby8HdHX9xjpL0C8%3D&reserved=0" \t "_blank) |  |
| * Those on a standard repayment plan can switch to an income-driven one, which will generally lower monthly payments by increasing the time it will take to pay off the loan in full, said Bridget Haile, head of borrower success at Summer.
* While it seems likely that Biden will extend the payment moratorium, it's not yet known that he will, said Will Sealy, co-founder and CEO of Summer, a company that helps borrowers simplify and save on student debt.
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| [**Supporting an Equitable Distribution of COVID-19 Vaccines - National Governors Association**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2FFy3VJ11srJ7WiTPM6nbL06kpPr28ZRWFGN1T1qh7ocA%3D_176484d84ca%3A44ca59%3A95647c79&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7Cef6498d7e6124aff0a9208d89d4686bf%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637432273525055084%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=hVaghI8cAO%2BdIO5zIUD9BSrJ8yGAMS6VmUcVFNpwpTU%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| [National Governors Association](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.nga.org%2Fcenter%2Fpublications%2Fsupporting-equitable-distribution-covid-19-vaccines%2F&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7Cef6498d7e6124aff0a9208d89d4686bf%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637432273525065080%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=jtRBnbhVvaL3V%2FC%2FKfHtyQurXrDQcnxDo4YZWsHuw4E%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| * Governors of states and territories, working in close collaboration with local partners, will have responsibility for the “last mile” of COVID-19 vaccine distribution, which will include receiving vaccine allocations from the federal government; managing the systems for ordering, distributing, and monitoring them; and supporting the administration of vaccines in a wide variety of health care and community settings.
* Federal, state, territorial, tribal, and local governments and partners must work collaboratively to ensure that vaccines are distributed in a manner that protects public health and safeguards those at highest risk for severe COVID-19 disease.
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| [**How the Pandemic Worsened — and Highlighted — Community Colleges' Chronic Challenges**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2FpJObj60hhd4Ufvbp8Z4fAm4U%2BG1RmbCaFfwanQquVGk%3D_17644fc1979%3A12bd6a%3A829dff8f&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7Cef6498d7e6124aff0a9208d89d4686bf%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637432273525075079%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=UaGVfIkM3kMBm6JaQMikvptFVdpwkdZhm8zWVS4q%2F1k%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| [The Chronicle of Higher Education](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.chronicle.com%2Farticle%2Fhow-the-pandemic-worsened-and-highlighted-community-colleges-chronic-challenges&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7Cef6498d7e6124aff0a9208d89d4686bf%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637432273525085071%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=KTeIOgDvLdI9tiO34WqhSvfFBuK11RBLy6bJO8nyHX4%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| * “The students who were less likely to enroll were minority, refugee, undocumented, and low income,” says Joseph Garcia, chancellor of the Colorado Community College System.
* Data collected by the National Student Clearinghouse Research Center found that two-year public institutions nationwide suffered the largest fall undergraduate-enrollment decrease of any higher-education sector by far — 9.5 percent.
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| [**College completion rate stays flat: report**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2FFy3VJ11srJ7WiTPM6nbL06kpPr28ZRWFGN1T1qh7ocA%3D_17642fcb6ef%3A2e4daf%3Ace8a054b&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7Cef6498d7e6124aff0a9208d89d4686bf%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637432273525095072%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=Bj%2FjgQC9%2Fj1LNaOmumjVdctsqhWqAysSlNFyjobZ%2Bx4%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| [Higher Ed Dive](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.highereddive.com%2Fnews%2Fcollege-completion-rate-stays-flat-report%2F591574%2F&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7Cef6498d7e6124aff0a9208d89d4686bf%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637432273525095072%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=GhE9OYp6jdGxXrnyeBHoF%2B74aH3hCilS81SLGq72G7Y%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| * Slight decreases in completion rates among traditional-age and community college students drove the slowdown, according to the National Student Clearinghouse Research Center, which examined rates for first-time students, including those who transferred.
* The pace at which students are finishing college continues to slow , according to new data showing the six-year graduation rates of undergraduate learners who started in the fall of 2014.
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| [**New Data: Sharp Declines in Community College Enrollment Are Being Driven By Disappearing Male Students**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffeedly.com%2Fi%2Fentry%2FFy3VJ11srJ7WiTPM6nbL06kpPr28ZRWFGN1T1qh7ocA%3D_17642ea18c0%3A2df6be%3Ad00d0446&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7Cef6498d7e6124aff0a9208d89d4686bf%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637432273525105063%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=5wNHgA%2BW%2Bxxuz7%2Bgs2H3ac3jILW%2BBVJtU8cwo5FANTY%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| [The 74](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.the74million.org%2Farticle%2Fnew-data-sharp-declines-in-community-college-enrollment-are-being-driven-by-disappearing-male-students%2F&data=04%7C01%7Cjandre%40vccs.edu%7Cef6498d7e6124aff0a9208d89d4686bf%7Cfab6beb5360442dfbddcf4e9ddd654d5%7C0%7C0%7C637432273525115056%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=ZhTd5qYDkmIOXAgwLWk9h54v%2FyOyIdOIylP6%2FFebre4%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| * At Southwest Tennessee Community College in Memphis, fully half of the Black male students enrolled in the spring of 2020 and still working toward graduation did not enroll this fall.
* The latest fall college enrollment figures released this month tell a startling story that alarms educators: The sharp declines at community colleges — far larger than at four-year colleges — are due mostly to disappearing male students.
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