



May 06, 2021

COVID 19 UPDATE - VIRGINIA NEWS

Va. sees 67% drop in weekly jobless claims

Virginia Business

- The state's number of initial unemployment claims continues to fluctuate wildly, with only 12,231 Virginians submitting new jobless claims for the week ending May 1, a drop of 25,125 claims from the previous week, the Virginia Employment Commission reported Thursday.
- A year ago, 59,631 Virginians filed initial claims, 79.4% higher than last week.

Virginia Employment Commission

Virginia

- For the filing week ending May 1, the figure for seasonally unadjusted initial claims in Virginia was 12,231.
- The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 504,670 in the week ending May 1, a decrease of 107,390 (or -17.5 percent) from the previous week.

Virginia COVID restrictions-- capacity & social distancing-- to be lifted June 15

WSET

Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam announced Thursday that the Commonwealth will soon lift COVID-19 restrictions. June 15: That's the day Gov. Northam says he will lift all capacity and social distancing measures-- and potentially the mask mandate.

'An awakening'

Virginia Business

- At VCU Health, Mishra says, telehealth surpassed in-person care in April 2020, and 20% to 30% of visits were still being conducted virtually in early March 2021.
- Health care systems such as VCU Health System and UVA Health, both of which started telemedicine initiatives in the 1990s, were able to open the floodgates, transforming telehealth from a limited service used to target underserved populations into a powerful tool that could allow providers to take care to patients more directly.

Virginia officials ask to delay lawsuit over unemployment insurance delays

Virginia Mercury

- The Virginia Employment Commission asked a judge this week for extra time to respond to a class-action lawsuit over long delays processing jobless claims.
- “In defense of a lawsuit premised on the allegation that the VEC cannot timely respond to Virginians seeking federal insured unemployment, the VEC suggests that it also cannot timely respond to them here,” wrote lawyers for the plaintiffs who have been waiting months for benefits.

Virginia emergency SNAP benefits will continue in May

8News

RICHMOND, Va. (WRIC) -- The Virginia Department of Social Services announced it will release emergency allotment for its Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP) again in May.

Patrick Henry Community College to pay off student debt accrued during COVID-19

WFXRtv

- (WFXR) – Some students at Patrick Henry Community College (PHCC) will be getting an early Christmas gift.

- PHCC announced that it will be paying off debts of students with delinquent accounts that arose during the pandemic.

JLARC to give updates on Virginia Employment Commission study after lawmakers raise concerns

[8News](#)

- The Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission has been tasked with reviewing how the Virginia Employment Commission has processed unemployment insurance claims, including its response during the pandemic and IT program, with a report expected on Nov. 15.
- (WRIC) – The Virginia General Assembly’s watchdog agency will provide updates on its ongoing study into the state’s Employment Commission to ensure lawmakers don’t have to wait for a final report to be aware of any pressing issues.

Vaccine wastage is rare in Virginia. But experts say it's getting harder to avoid.

[Virginia Mercury](#)

- In March, Sentara Norfolk General Hospital recorded 140 wasted Moderna doses — the second-largest single report in the state — after what Jon Horton, the system’s pharmacy director, described as a one-time error.
- “I think we’re at a point where, since we have supply exceeding demand, we have to understand there will be more wasted vaccines,” said Dr. Costi Sifri, the director of hospital epidemiology at UVA Health.

COVID roundup: Northern Va. could reach herd immunity by June/July

[Virginia Business](#)

- As of Monday, 45.1% of all Virginians have received at least one COVID-19 vaccine dose, and 32% are fully vaccinated, according to the Virginia Department of Health.

- State vaccine coordinator Dr. Danny Avula said Friday that 57% of all eligible Virginia residents age 16 and older have received at least one dose.

Virginia college students react to possible COVID vaccine requirement

<https://www.nbc29.com>

“Virginia’s college and university students deserve the chance to go to classes in-person and take advantage of all that their schools have to offer, but over the past year we have seen numerous COVID outbreaks on school campuses, so we must make sure that they are doing so with the health and safety of their peers and communities in mind,” Herring stated.

Virginia considering ‘vaccine passports,’ not ruling out mandate if hesitancy persists

[8News](#)

- Avula said it’s too soon to say whether the state will mandate the vaccine for entry into public schools, since the shots haven’t been authorized for emergency use in children under 16 yet.
- “If we do have a scenario where we have disease raging, we have new variants and we still have a significant resistant portion of the population then I think a mandate isn’t out of the question,” Dr. Avula said.

COVID 19 UPDATE - NATIONAL NEWS

Less than a third of parents say they'd let their child get Covid-19 vaccine right away, survey finds

[CNN](#)

- About 29% of parents of children under age 18 said they would get their child vaccinated "right away" as soon as the child was eligible, according to Kaiser Family Foundation Covid-19 Vaccine Monitor data

- Among parents who have already received at least one dose or want it as soon as possible, three-fourths said they would get their children vaccinated right away (48%) or wait and see (29%), KFF

Manufacturers seeking workers face competition for talent and an image problem

Marketplace

- Manufacturing is one of the industries that had to ramp up during the pandemic, so there's more intense competition for certain types of workers.
- This is especially true in manufacturing, where only 60% of the jobs lost in the pandemic have been recouped, according to a new report from Deloitte and The Manufacturing Institute.

This community college is having none of the inequitable economic recovery

New America

- While many students have found jobs after completing their free programs, the college is working to build non-credit to credit articulation pathways, so students can count their courses towards credit-bearing certificates and degrees at Broward when and if desired.
- She leveraged her certification to complete her associate's degree and is now pursuing her bachelor's degree in Supply Chain Management at Broward .

Biden commits to waiving vaccine patents, driving wedge with pharmaceutical companies

Washington Post

- The Biden administration on Wednesday threw its support behind a controversial proposal to waive intellectual property protections for coronavirus vaccines, with liberals framing it as a necessary bid to speed the shots to billions in the developing world, while the drug industry warned of devastating effects to vaccine production.

- The decision to go forward with the waiver after weeks of internal deliberations was finalized at a White House meeting on Tuesday with President Biden, said senior administration officials who spoke on the condition of anonymity to describe the deliberations.

Mapping Out a ‘Credential As You Go’ Movement For Higher Education - EdSurge News

[EdSurge](#)

- The way college degree programs are currently organized, “a lot of students are not going to finish.
- A new initiative called “Credential As You Go” aims to shift this status quo by making it easier for students and workers to earn recognition for their learning—in increments smaller than the colossal college degree.

First-time weekly jobless claims fall to 498,000, a new pandemic low

[NBC News Top Stories](#)

- While the jobs market still has a long way to go before it fully heals from the pandemic damage, improvement has accelerated in recent weeks as restrictions on activity continue to be lifted.
- The decline in initial jobless claims comes a day before the Labor Department releases its closely watched monthly jobs report for April.

At Some Colleges, Remote Work Could Be Here to Stay

[The Chronicle of Higher Education | News, Opinion, Advice about Higher Education](#)

[By Lindsay Ellis For months, colleges have weighed the risks and rewards of bringing students back to campuses disrupted by Covid-19. Now they’re considering what to do about their employees.](#)

Five lessons for improving student success as colleges rebuild from the pandemic (opinion)

Inside Higher Ed

- Our experiences from our time at the State University of New York at Fredonia with rethinking the course schedule -- the backbone of the learning endeavor -- can provide useful insights to the kind of change process that colleges and universities need pursue going forward.
- In recent years, more and more colleges and universities have worked hard to fundamentally rethink their structures to improve student success, moving beyond their deeply rooted habit of creating ever more programs to address the challenges.

7 Dos & Don'ts for Post-Pandemic Teaching With Technology

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

Here's what students hope you'll keep doing in the fall — and what they hope you'll drop. By Flower Darby Here's what students hope you'll keep doing in the fall — and what they hope you'll drop.

US birth rate sees biggest fall for nearly 50 years

the Guardian

- The US birth rate has fallen 4% in the largest single-year drop in nearly 50 years, according to a government report.
- The rate dropped for mothers of every major race and ethnicity, and in nearly all age groups, falling to the lowest point since federal health officials started tracking it more than a century ago, the report due to be published on Wednesday said.

How School Closures Damaged U.S. Children's Mental Health

Time

- Nobody ever believed the pandemic would go easy on children. The virus might target them less directly than it targets older people, but other challenges—the loss of school, the loss of play, the loss of time with friends—would exact their

own emotional toll. A study published April 29 in JAMA Network Open sheds light on how serious that harm has been.

3 Ways to Support Early Career Teachers Beyond the COVID-19 Pandemic

Ed Note

- Given the particularly difficult circumstances brought by the COVID-19 pandemic, policymakers may consider research-based strategies to show appreciation for new teachers and improve retention — including flexibility around clinical experience, effective mentorship and compensation.
- As states consider new learning support initiatives, tutoring and summer programs could help provide teacher candidates and new teachers with the in-person teaching experience they need to be successful while also helping students recover from the interrupted learning they experienced throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

Children Now Account For 22% Of New U.S. COVID Cases. Why Is That?

News : NPR

A year ago, COVID-19 cases in children made up less than 3% of the U.S. total. On Monday, the American Academy of Pediatrics said children represented 22.4% of new cases. (Image credit: Tang Ming Tung/Getty Images)

Herd immunity to COVID-19 unlikely in US, experts say

8News

- (WTRF) -- Scientist and public health experts believe that herd immunity can't be reached in the U.S. due to the dropping COVID-19 vaccination rates, according to a report from The New York Times .
- Dr. Anthony Fauci, the nation's top infectious disease expert, has previously estimated 70% to 85% of the U.S. population needs to be vaccinated to achieve herd immunity.

Community College Students Need Better Options, Not Free Tuition

[Forbes](#)

- Therefore, Biden's free tuition program might leave out exactly the subset of students who are least able to afford community college.
- A degree-seeking student who enrolls in community college has just a 40% chance of earning a credential within six years.

Covid has hit minority groups hard. But where's the data?

[NBC News](#)

- Kate Fowlie, a spokesperson, said CDC vaccination data are incomplete because of a combination of people not reporting, providers not collecting and state laws or policies that prohibit sharing the information with the federal government.
- Covid-19 vaccination providers are required to use the system, said Christy Gray, director of the state Health Department's Division of Immunization.

Community college leaders and others react to Biden's \$1.8 trillion plan

[Inside Higher Ed | Higher Education News, Career Advice, Jobs](#)

- The combination of free community college, paired with two subsidized years at a minority-serving institution, would be impactful for Latinx students, too, said Antonio Flores, president and CEO of the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities.
- President Joe Biden's American Families Plan is a game-changer for community colleges and minority-serving institutions, campus leaders say.

U.S. Vaccinations May Be Reaching A Tipping Point To Stop The Virus, Experts Say

[NPR.org](#)

- While some researchers says it's still too soon to know for sure, a growing number of epidemiologists, infectious disease researchers and public health

experts think the country might have reached — or be about to reach — that crucial inflection point.

- "I think we've hit a tipping point." says Dr. Ashish Jha, the dean of the Brown University School of Public Health.