

## COVID-19 Resource Links for Colleges, Businesses and Individuals Friday, March 20, 2020

### COVID-19 Pandemic Information

*For information regarding the global pandemic and the latest guidance from Virginia public health officials,*

[Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#)

[Virginia Department of Health \(VDH\)](#)

*The New York Times* is providing free access to the most important news and useful guidance on the coronavirus outbreak to help readers understand the pandemic. [Sign up](#) with an email address to read all the articles on this page. <https://www.nytimes.com/news-event/coronavirus>

### Communicating about COVID-19

To help with our writing about the new coronavirus disease, called COVID-19, The Associated Press has prepared a guide based on the AP Stylebook and common usage in AP stories. [https://www.apstylebook.com/topical\\_most\\_recent](https://www.apstylebook.com/topical_most_recent)

### Unemployment and other Public Benefits

*How to access current benefits to respond to people showing up at the colleges.*

### Support for Impacted Businesses

Following a request [submitted](#) by Governor Northam on March 18, the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) today approved an Economic Injury Disaster Loan declaration for Virginia. Small businesses and nonprofit organizations throughout the Commonwealth affected by the COVID-19 public health crisis can now apply for low-interest federal disaster loans of up to \$2 million from the SBA to pay fixed debts, payroll, accounts payable, and other expenses. To submit a loan application through the SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loan program, please visit [disasterloan.sba.gov/ela/](https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela/).

Businesses impacted by COVID-19 can also request to defer the payment of state sales tax due tomorrow, March 20, 2020, for 30 days. When granted, businesses will be able to file no later than April 20, 2020 with a waiver of any penalties.

The Governor has requested that the Department of Taxation to extend the due date of payment of Virginia individuals and corporate income taxes. While filing deadlines remain the same, the due date for individual and corporate income tax will now be June 1, 2020. Please note that interest will still accrue, so taxpayers who are able to pay by the original deadlines

## Unemployment Insurance

For those who need to file for unemployment due to COVID-19, the best way to file is online through [www.vawc.virginia.gov](http://www.vawc.virginia.gov). While the call center number is still functioning, the wait times are higher than normal at this time due to call volume.

The filing website is mobile friendly and can be accessed from smart phones.

The website has Live Chat capability and our Centers are still accepting calls at this time if you need additional assistance.

Governor's Office Guidance: <https://www.virginia.gov/coronavirus-updates/>

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

Virginia Chamber COVID Resource Center: <https://www.vachamber.com/covid-19/>

Virginia Employment Commission: <http://www.vec.virginia.gov/>

Virginia is in the process of applying for small business administration emergency loans. Reference here: <https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela/>

For unemployment benefits, individuals can apply online at: <http://www.vec.virginia.gov/node/11699>. The Governor has waived wait times and called for expedited processing of claims.

To determine eligibility for any and all social services programs, individuals can apply via [CommonHelp](#) or by phone at 1-855-635-4370. They are processing claims for assistance.

Virginia Career Works centers have limited access right now.

## Online Connectivity for Students Who Lack It

- [FCC agreement](#) stating that providers will waive late fees, not cutoff service for lack of payment, and open hot-spots.
- [Comcast COVID-19 response](#): offers free WiFi for 2 months to low income families plus all Xfinity hot-spots are free to the public during this time
- [Charter Free Internet offer for 2 months](#)
- [AT&T COVID-19 response](#): offers open hot-spots, unlimited data to existing customers, and \$10/month plans to low income families
- [Verizon COVID-19 response](#): no special offers, but following the FCC agreement.
- [Sprint COVID-19 response](#): follows FCC agreement, provides unlimited data to existing customers, and, starting Tuesday, 3/17/2020, will allow all handsets to enable hot-spots for 60 days at no extra charge (I expect others will follow).

- [T-Mobile COVID-19 response](#): follows FCC agreement, plus unlimited data to existing customers, and, coming soon, will allow all handsets to enable hot-spots for 60 days at no extra charge (I expect others will follow).
- [Altice/Suddenlink response](#): offers 30 MB internet to any new subscriber free for 60 days. No late fees or terminations for existing customers. Applicable to some rural localities

## Minimizing Your Risks of Getting COVID-19

What students can do in the wake of a natural disaster:

<https://www.affordablecollegesonline.org/college-resource-center/natural-disasters/>

How to cope emotionally in the wake of a disaster:

<https://www.apa.org/helpcenter/recovering-disasters>

Print and social media materials for the CDC's Life is Better with Clean Hands campaign, which can be printed and hung around campuses and/or posted online:

<https://www.cdc.gov/handwashing/campaign.html>

You'll probably still need to go to the store and open doors. Here are 10 ways to help avoid coronavirus when you must leave the house: <https://www.cnet.com/how-to/10-ways-to-help-avoid-coronavirus-when-you-have-to-leave-the-house/>

## Working (From Home) in This New Reality

How to lead in a crisis (faculty, administration):

<https://www.chronicle.com/article/How-to-Lead-in-a-Crisis/248253>

A retired general and Navy SEAL on how to be a true leader during the coronavirus outbreak

<https://www.cnn.com/2020/03/15/perspectives/leadership-ceo-coronavirus-outbreak/index.html>

If you're working from home, you've probably worked with your IT team on technical details. Here are some other tips to help set realistic expectations and make your time as productive as possible. <https://www.npr.org/2020/03/15/815549926/8-tips-to-make-working-from-home-work-for-you>

## Virtual Escapes

*If you're feeling stir-crazy from being cooped-up and cut off from the outside world, these next few links offer some **sanity relief**: access to some of the world's most beautiful art galleries and natural parks via online virtual tours. Here are a few links to get you started:*

Five top world art galleries:

<https://thespaces.com/5-galleries-you-can-tour-digitally-on-your-lunch-break/>

12 Amazing Livestreams of Animals around the world:

<https://www.tripsavvy.com/best-livestreams-animals-around-the-world-4800070>

Virtually Tour These U.S. National Parks:

<https://www.apartmenttherapy.com/free-us-national-parks-virtual-tours-36735495>

The Smithsonian Institution's 19 museums, galleries, gardens and National Zoo have [temporarily shut their doors](#) as a public health precaution aimed at slowing the spread of COVID-19. But while these brick-and-mortar buildings may be closed, the Smithsonian remains active in the digital sphere, making it easy for museum lovers, creatives and lifelong learners alike to experience its offerings from the comfort of their couch.

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smithsonian-institution/how-virtually-explore-smithsonian-your-living-room-180974436/>