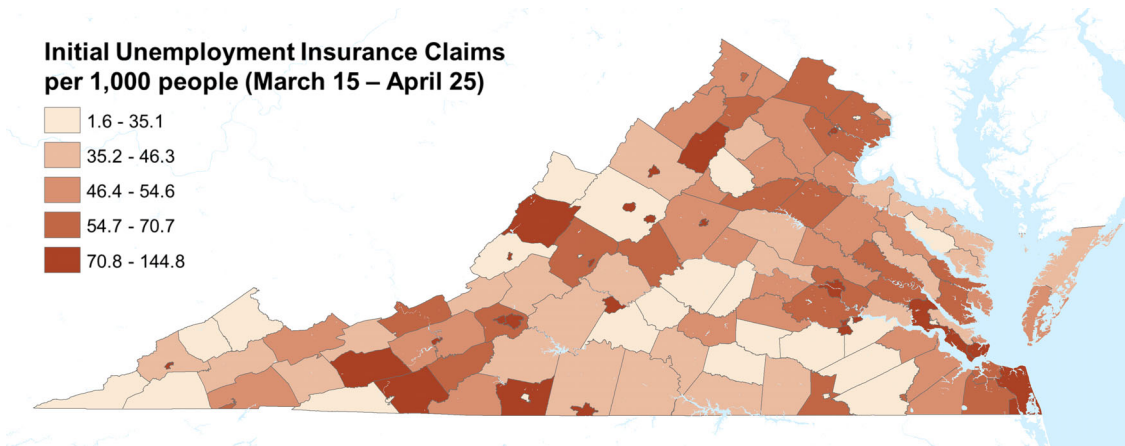




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- [Commonalities Among the Top 30 Virginia Counties with the Highest Unemployment Claims](#)
 - [MITRE Program to Fund Four Virginia Tech Research Projects](#)
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-



Commonalities Among the Top 30 Virginia Counties with the Highest Unemployment Claims

The number of unemployment insurance claims in Virginia has soared at a record pace amid COVID-19. Virginia Employment Commission (VEC) reported a total of 565,979 initial unemployment claims in the most recent six weeks, ending April 25th. According to the VEC, initial claims peaked during the April 4th filing week, although additional claims continue to enter the system.

[Read More](#)

<https://blogs.tlos.vt.edu/cece/2020/05/06/commonalities-among-the-top-30-virginia-counties-with-the-highest-unemployment-claims/>



MITRE Program to Fund Four Virginia Tech Research Projects

MITRE works across government and in partnership with industry to tackle challenges to the safety, stability, and well-being of our nation. Headquartered in McLean, VA and Bedford, MA, MITRE manages seven federally funded research and development centers. MITRE strives to augment internal staff capabilities with academia’s creative ideas and resources to deliver innovative solutions to meet the pressing issues of today. MITRE is a nonprofit organization that works in a variety of fields including artificial intelligence, intuitive data science, quantum information science, health informatics, space security, policy, and economic expertise, trustworthy autonomy, cyber threat sharing, and cyber resilience.

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<https://blogs.tlos.vt.edu/cece/2020/05/05/mitre-program-to-fund-four-virginia-tech-research-projects/>



Vibrant Virginia Initiative Marks Accomplishments Of Past Two Years in Recent

Report

For two years, the Vibrant Virginia initiative has brought together university faculty, researchers, and community stakeholders to further economic development in urban and rural Virginia. The program, which began in 2018, works to grow a network of Virginia researchers and practitioners, enhance university projects and initiatives related to Virginia and urban-rural regional concerns, and strengthen the long-term vibrancy of Virginia through applied research, policy analysis, and engagement projects. Partnering together on the initiative are Virginia Tech's Outreach and International Affairs, Virginia Cooperative Extension, College Access Collaborative, School of Public and International Affairs (SPIA), and the Policy Strategic Growth Area (SGA).

Read More

<https://blogs.tlos.vt.edu/cece/2020/04/23/vibrant-virginia-initiative-marks-accomplishments-of-past-two-years-in-recent-report/>



Less Demand For Beef Puts VA Cattle Farmers At Stake

I was intrigued by a [piece](#) written by two Virginia Tech faculty members in the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics regarding the domestic food

supply chain's resiliency amid the outbreak of COVID-19. This article reminded me of the impressive consolidation, mechanization, and integration of the Nation's agriculture sector. Large producers of virtually every crop and livestock enjoy economies of scale that allow consumers to access high-quality agricultural products at affordable prices. This sector's slow march towards optimization, however, has left many small farms that don't enjoy the same competitive advantages as their larger counterparts in its wake.

[Read More](#)

<https://blogs.tlos.vt.edu/cece/2020/05/19/less-demand-for-beef-puts-va-cattle-farmers-at-stake/>

Please Take This COVID-19 Messaging Survey



May 18, 2020

Dear community partner,

Virginia is facing an unprecedented health care crisis related to the COVID-19 pandemic. As of May 18, 2020, there have been 31,140 cases and 1,014 deaths of Virginians attributed to COVID-19 (Virginia Department of Health, 2020). On March 30, 2020 Governor Northam issued a "stay at home" order.

Right now, one of our most effective tools to reduce harm from COVID-19 is social distancing, which decreases the transmission of the virus to other persons and can help everyone, including those who are especially vulnerable, from infection and severe disease. By keeping the number of cases at a given time low, we can make sure our health care systems are not overwhelmed, can meet demand, and can save lives with limited resources. Despite the present health crisis, many persons have expressed concerns about what to do to protect themselves and their families from the virus and many others may not be taking it seriously and could be putting themselves and others at risk. There

has been contradictory information from multiple sources, leading to misunderstanding and confusion.

Virginia Tech, as a partner institution of the integrated Translational Health Research Institute of Virginia (iTHRIV) represented by UVA, Virginia Tech, Carilion Clinic, and Inova Health System, along with UVA College at Wise, is undertaking a state-wide research study to better understand how Virginians perceive COVID-19 communication and how it affects their actions. This information will help to create a better understanding of how to communicate critical messages to reduce harm to Virginians. The study team includes public health professionals, healthcare providers, educators, and researchers.

We are asking you to share this survey with your Virginia constituents who are 18 and older so we can evaluate how to best prepare and share accurate information. Please share the sample text below on the communication platform(s) of your choosing (i.e., social media, email, handout, etc.). Community members, please help us understand how you heard and responded to information about the coronavirus/COVID-19. By participating in this important 5-10-minute survey about COVID-19, you can help improve efforts to communicate information related to public health. **Take the anonymous survey at: bit.ly/covid19messaging**

Your efforts to help all Virginians are needed at this challenging time. Please contact Dr. Natalie Cook, the project investigator, at necook@vt.edu for more information or if you have any questions.

Reference: IRB #20-353

Thank you for considering this request. We wish you the very best.

Mary Ann Friesen PhD, RN, CPHQ
Nursing Research and Evidence Based Practice Coordinator
Inova Sy