



DAILY COVID-19 UPDATE

March 20, 2020

ECONOMIC UPDATE

Since our last update, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) released the Senate GOP's Phase 3 package, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act (S. 3548). Leader McConnell then indicated he wants the Senate to pass the stimulus bill [on Monday, March 23](#). However, in opening floor remarks today, Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) suggested the CARES Act is "inadequate" and "doesn't help hospitals." Nonetheless, bipartisan talks have been underway in the Senate today, and Leader McConnell tasked the teams to reach an agreement by midnight tonight.

The plan as of now is to move to a motion to proceed tonight on a shell. Then, the Senate will draft the final bill tomorrow, Saturday, March 21, in order to set up votes on Monday.

Reminder: Leader McConnell has suggested Phase 3 may not be the last package and continues to reiterate the Senate will not leave town until the third package is passed.

Congressional

- **House**
 - House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) and Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) issued the following press release: [Pelosi, Schumer Joint Statement on Coronavirus Phase 3 Legislation](#)
- **Senate**
 - The Coronavirus Aid Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act ([S. 3548](#)) – introduced by Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY)
 - Leader McConnell on CARES Act
 - Click [here](#) to watch his full interview on CNN
 - Click [here](#) to read the highlights
 - [McConnell Bill Tax Summary](#)
 - [Section by Section Chart](#)
 - [CARES Act Summary](#)
 - Committee press releases walking through each section
 - [Small Business](#)

- [Appropriations](#)
- [Finance Tax](#)
- [HELP1](#)
- [HELP2](#)
- Press Release: [McConnell Update on Bipartisan Negotiations: “We Are Going to Deliver”](#)
- Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) issued the below list of asks he is requesting from CEOs who are calling for relief:
 - Grant funds can only be used for payroll for front line workers
 - No layoffs for a set period of time
 - No benefit reduction or pay cuts for a set period of time
 - Meaningful executive compensation restrictions
 - Placing a worker representative on the Board of Directors
 - No stock buybacks
- [Senate Democrats’ Tax Proposal – Save America’s Main Street Act of 2020](#)
- Senate Finance Republicans released [tax policy recommendations](#) for the Phase 3 economic stimulus proposal.
- Committees
 - Senate Finance Committee: [Senators Recommend Tax Policies for Phase 3 Coronavirus Response](#)

Administration

- Federal Reserve
 - [Federal Reserve Board encouraged by increase in discount window borrowing to support the flow of credit to households and businesses](#)
 - [Federal Reserve Board expands its program of support for flow of credit to the economy by taking steps to enhance liquidity and functioning of crucial state and municipal money markets](#)
- Treasury
 - Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin [tweeted](#), “At @realDonaldTrump’s direction, we are moving Tax Day from April 15 to July 15. All taxpayers and businesses will have this additional time to file and make payments without interest or penalties.”

ARTICLES OF INTEREST

- [McConnell Unveils GOP Stimulus Plan Amid Coronavirus Crisis](#) – The Wall Street Journal, By Andrew Duehren, Siobhan Hughes and Lindsay Wise
- [McConnell Sets Midnight Deadline for Agreement on Stimulus Package](#) – The Wall Street Journal, By Natalie Andrews, Andrew Duehren and Lindsay Wise

PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

Senate Majority Leader McConnell introduced the legislative text for the 247-page Phase 3 coronavirus aid proposal. The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act would, among other things, suspend a 2% Medicare payment cut to providers until the end of 2020, provide \$1.32 billion in funding for community health centers, give hospitals a 15% Medicare payment for treating COVID-19 patients, and increase flexibility for telehealth services during the pandemic. Senate Republicans began negotiations on Phase 3 legislation with Democrats today. In addition to these congressional efforts, President Trump triggered the Defense Production Act to shore up production of medical supplies and devices.

Congressional

- Speaking on the Senate floor, Majority Leader McConnell stated he hopes to reach a bipartisan agreement on the CARES Act today, with passage out of the chamber on Monday. He also noted this will not be the last stimulus bill.
- Speaking on the Senate floor, Democratic Leader Schumer noted the Phase 3 coronavirus relief bill is inadequate and fails to provide assistance to hospitals. He stated, "...if we don't deal with the health crisis, nothing we do will make the economy any better." He added that he sent a white paper to Leader McConnell outlining Democratic demands for the CARES Act and that President Trump expressed support for these ideas in a conversation they had earlier today.
- Ways and Means Republicans released a summary of the Medicare and health tax portion of the CARES Act.
- Yesterday, House Speaker Pelosi and Senate Democratic Leader Schumer issued a statement in response to Senate Republicans Phase 3 legislation, indicating they are looking forward to working with Republicans "in a bipartisan way to deliver for the American people as soon as humanly possible."
- Yesterday, Senate HELP Committee Ranking Member Murray sent a letter to the HHS Inspector General asking for an investigation into the delays in development and deployment of coronavirus tests.
- Yesterday, the House Oversight and Reform Committee sent a letter to HHS Secretary Azar and CDC Director Redfield, requesting information about the status of coronavirus testing in the U.S.
- Yesterday, the Congressional Progressive Caucus sent a letter to Speaker Pelosi outlining 12 priorities for Phase 3 legislation.

Administration

- During a briefing of the coronavirus task force, President Trump stated he put the Defense Production Act "into gear" last night and that millions of masks will be shipped directly to states.
- In light of the orders to shelter in place in California and New York, NIAID Director Dr. Fauci and Vice President Pence implored Americans to heed their

local authorities, listen to their guidance, and follow recommendations to slow the spread.

- Dr. Fauci clarified that hydroxychloroquine is not considered potential therapy for people who have been infected with COVID-19. He noted information that it may be used as a prophylactic is anecdotal evidence. It was not done in a controlled clinical trial so no definitive statement can be made about it.
- During a briefing of the coronavirus task force, White House Coronavirus Response Coordinator Birx stated we are seeing a very concerning trend from Italy "that the mortality in males seems to be twice in every age group of females."
- The FDA issued a [new policy](#) allowing manufacturers of certain FDA-approved vital sign-measuring devices to expand their use so that healthcare providers can use them to monitor patients remotely.
- The FDA issued [guidance](#) to help meet the demand for alcohol-based hand sanitizer during the COVID-19 outbreak.
- Yesterday, CMS [approved](#) a Section 1135 waiver request for the state of Washington. This waiver authority will grant Washington's state government more flexibility to respond to the outbreak.
- Yesterday, HHS Secretary Azar held a [teleconference](#) with his counterparts from G7 countries to share information and measures each country is taking to combat the coronavirus outbreak.

ARTICLES OF INTEREST

- 3/20 The New York Times published an article titled, ["Before Virus Outbreak, a Cascade of Warnings Went Unheeded."](#)
- 3/20 KHN published an article titled, ["Millions Of Older Americans Live In Counties With No ICU Beds As Pandemic Intensifies."](#)
- 3/20 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, ["Remote-Care Companies Scale Up to Combat Coronavirus Threat."](#)
- 3/20 The Washington Post published an article titled, ["Carnival offers its cruise ships as makeshift hospitals during coronavirus outbreak."](#)
- 3/19 The New York Times published an article titled, ["At War With No Ammo': Doctors Say Shortage of Protective Gear Is Dire."](#)