



DAILY COVID-19 UPDATE

March 31, 2020

WHAT HAPPENED TODAY

In line with [comments](#) from House Democratic leaders, President Trump [tweeted](#) the Phase IV coronavirus relief bill should include a major focus on infrastructure. Meanwhile, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) continues to suggest [Congress should wait](#) and "see what the effect of the current bill is." He added once the Senate reconvenes at the end of April, the chamber's first priority will be confirming federal judges.

In a [Dear Colleague letter](#), House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (D-MD) stated he does not expect the House to reconvene prior to April 20 and said at this time, it is not possible to give a definitive return date.

Since our last update, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Treasury published additional guidances. Please see below for more details.

LATEST PMJ RESOURCES

- [COVID-19 Legislation Tracking Chart](#)
- [Memo - Federal Reserve COVID-19 Announcements](#)
- [Drug Shortage and Medical Supply Chain Tracker](#)
- [COVID-19 Travel Restrictions](#)

ECONOMIC UPDATE

Congressional

- **House**
 - Chairwoman Maxine Waters (D-CA) [released an extended statement for the record](#) on the CARES Act. The statement provides guidance to the Trump Administration on congressional intent behind the law, and serves to fill out the congressional record in the absence of Committee consideration of the legislation.
 - Today, Chairwoman Maxine Waters (D-CA) made the following statement regarding President Trump's signing statement on the CARES Act.
- **Senate**

- Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) joined High Hewitt today to discuss the Senate's 96-0 vote to pass the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. Click [here](#) to listen to the full interview.
- Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL) and Senator Ben Cardin (D-MD), Chairman and Ranking Member of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, along with Senator Susan Collins (R-ME), Chairman of the Senate Special Committee on Aging, and Senator Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH) [sent a letter](#) to Small Business Administration (SBA) Administrator Jovita Carranza and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin requesting immediate commitment and action to implement the Keeping American Workers Paid and Employed Act, which was signed into law as part of the CARES Act.
- Senator Rubio issued a [press release](#) titled, "Bipartisan Task Force to SBA and Treasury: Act Quickly to Implement Small Business Coronavirus Relief."
- Chairman Chuck Grassley (R-IA) [published an FAQ](#) on the employee retention credit portion of the CARES Act.

Administration

- Federal Reserve
 - This morning in a [press release](#), the Fed announced the establishment of a temporary repurchase (repo) agreement facility for foreign and international monetary authorities (FIMA Repo Facility) to help support the smooth functioning of financial markets, including the U.S. Treasury market, and thus maintain the supply of credit to U.S. households and businesses.
 - Today in a [press release](#), the Fed announced it will delay by six months the effective date for its revised control framework, which will reduce operational burden and allow institutions to focus on current economic conditions.
- Internal Revenue Service (IRS)
 - The IRS [published an FAQ](#) on economic impact payments (rebates). The Treasury Department and the Internal Revenue Service yesterday announced that distribution of economic impact payments will begin in the next three weeks and will be distributed automatically, with no action required for most people. However, some seniors and others who typically do not file returns will need to submit a simple tax return to receive the stimulus payment.
- Treasury
 - Treasury issued a [press release](#) titled, "With \$349 Billion in Emergency Small Business Capital Cleared, Treasury and SBA Begin Unprecedented Public-Private Mobilization Effort to Distribute Funds."
 - Treasury today released general documents on the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), including a link for the application. Guidance is still forthcoming.
 - For a top-line overview of the program [CLICK HERE](#).
 - If you're a lender, more information can be found [HERE](#).
 - If you're a borrower, more information can be found [HERE](#).
 - The application for borrowers can be found [HERE](#).
 - Treasury issued a [press release](#) titled, "Treasury Encourages Businesses Impacted by COVID-19 to Use Employee Retention Credit."
- Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC)
 - Today, the SEC [announced](#) that its Small Business Capital Formation Advisory Committee will host a meeting via video conference on April 2, 2020, in response to the challenges small businesses are facing in coping with COVID-19.
- Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC)

- Today, the CFTC's Division of Swap Dealer and Intermediary Oversight (DSIO) [announced](#) that it has issued additional targeted, temporary no-action relief to foreign affiliates of certain futures commission merchants (FCMs) in response to the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic. The relief expires on September 30, 2020.

Regulatory/Implementation Guidance

- Treasury
 - Treasury [published](#) the following resources to assist eligible businesses in applying for payroll support to enable the continued payment of employee wages, salaries, and benefits, and for loans pursuant to the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act:
 - [Guidelines and Application Procedures for Payroll Support to Air Carriers and Contractors under Division A, Title IV, Subtitle B of the CARES Act](#)
 - [Procedures and Minimum Requirements for Loans to Air Carriers and Eligible Businesses and National Security Businesses under Division A, Title IV, Subtitle A of the CARES Act](#)

Articles of Interest

- 3/30 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, "[Government to Begin Sending Stimulus Payments in the Next Three Weeks.](#)"
- 3/30 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, "[The Fed Transformed: Jay Powell Leads Central Bank into Uncharted Waters.](#)"
- 3/30 The New York Times published an article titled, "[Pelosi Floats New Stimulus Plan: Rolling Back SALT Cap.](#)"

PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

Congressional

- 43 senators and 83 representatives sent a [letter](#) to HHS Secretary Azar urging immediate assistance to rural hospitals and clinics.
- **House**
 - During a [teleconference](#) with House Democrats on a Phase IV coronavirus response bill, Speaker Pelosi noted the importance of prioritizing the establishment of protective standards through OSHA for healthcare workers on the frontline during the COVID-19 pandemic. Education and Labor Committee Chairman Scott suggested expanding those protections to other at-risk workers including first responders, grocery workers and Transportation Security Administration agents.
 - During the same [teleconference](#), Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman Pallone recommended having one person in charge of personal protective equipment (PPE) and ventilators at the federal level who is responsible for "not only getting the stuff from overseas but also getting the data to where this stuff is so that it can be redistributed." He added that we also need to re-examine the nation's infrastructure.
 - The office of House Republican Leader McCarthy published a [coronavirus public health update](#), which also includes a Capitol Hill update and information about assistance received from the Executive Branch.

- Ways and Means Republicans released a [blog post](#) summarizing how the federal government is developing and allocating critical medical supplies to healthcare providers.
- Reps. Yarmuth and Barr led 87 lawmakers in a [letter](#) to FDA Commissioner Hahn urging the agency to loosen its guidelines and allow the use of undenatured alcohol to make hand sanitizer during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Senate**
 - Senate Democratic Leader Schumer [praised](#) the appointment of Department of Defense acting Inspector General Glenn Fine to be the head of a new pandemic accountability oversight panel.
 - Sen. Sasse [introduced](#) the *Facilitating Innovation to Fight Coronavirus Act*, emergency legislation to limit the liability for healthcare professionals combatting the coronavirus.

Administration

- Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
 - CMS [announced](#) an unprecedented range of temporary regulatory changes intended to help hospitals and health systems combat the surge of COVID-19 cases, including expanding capacity, boosting the healthcare workforce, eliminating paperwork requirements, and allowing more than 80 services to be furnished via telehealth.
 - CMS issued a [memo](#) to all Medicare Advantage Organizations, Part D Sponsors, Medicare-Medicaid Plans, and all Programs of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) Organizations about reprioritization of audit activities.
- Health and Human Services
 - HHS Assistant Secretary for Health Giroir and Surgeon General Adams issued an open [letter](#) to the healthcare community, encouraging them to aggressively implement four measures to optimize ventilator use during the coronavirus outbreak.
 - HHS [partnered](#) with Janssen Research & Development and Moderna to accelerate the development and manufacturing of vaccines to prevent the coronavirus.
 - HHS' Office of the Inspector General (OIG) posted a [message](#) to providers, informing them that if a healthcare organization needs an extension of any OIG deadlines to "produce data for an OIG review or to comply with a Corporate Integrity Agreement, are encouraged to ask their OIG contact."
- Federal Communications Commission
 - FCC Chairman Ajit Pai [announced](#) his plan for a \$200 million COVID-19 Telehealth Program, appropriated by the *CARES Act*, to support healthcare providers responding to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic.

Regulatory/Implementation Guidance

- Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
 - CMS issued an [interim final rule with comment period](#) (IFC) to give individuals and entities that provide services to Medicare beneficiaries needed flexibilities to respond effectively to the serious public health threats posed by the spread of COVID-19.
- Food and Drug Administration
 - The FDA issued [guidance](#) to help expand the availability of surgical apparel for health care professionals, including gowns, hoods, and surgeon's and patient examination gloves during the COVID-19 pandemic.

- The FDA issued [guidance](#) to help expand the availability and capability of sterilizers, disinfectant devices, and air purifiers during the coronavirus outbreak.

Articles of Interest

- 3/30 CNBC published an article titled, "[Department of Defense watchdog will lead Inspector General committee for \\$2 trillion coronavirus stimulus package.](#)"
- 3/30 The Hill published an article titled, "[Democrats eye major infrastructure component in next coronavirus package.](#)"
- 3/30 The Washington Post an article titled, "[CDC considering recommending general public wear face coverings in public.](#)"
- 3/31 The Hill published an article titled, "[The Memo: Concerns grow over political pressure on coronavirus experts.](#)"
- 3/31 University of Washington's Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation updated its tool projecting hospital resource use based on COVID-19 deaths titled, "[COVID-19 Projections.](#)"

SUPPLY CHAIN/CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATE

- Please click [here](#) to view a readout of today's CISA COVID-19 call.

Please note this daily update may not encompass all public guidance documents on implementation; as such, we encourage you to review public agency websites. Please let us know of any questions.