



DAILY COVID-19 UPDATE

April 3, 2020

WHAT HAPPENED TODAY

This morning, Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) pivoted from her earlier remarks for a massive infrastructure package and instead called for a much more focused Phase IV relief package that would address immediate needs related to the coronavirus outbreak. Speaking with reporters, Speaker Pelosi said it's clear the next tranche of relief funds should be an expansion of the \$2 trillion package the president signed into law last week — more money to aid states, cities and small businesses, expand unemployment benefits and another round of direct cash payments for Americans. Speaker Pelosi did not provide a timeline for drafting the bill.

Since our last update, the Department of Labor published additional guidance. Notably, the Small Business Administration published guidance on the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP). Please see below for more details.

LATEST PMJ RESOURCES

- [Phase IV Outlook Deck](#)
- [Global COVID-19 Export Controls](#)
- [Drug Shortage and Medical Supply Chain Tracker](#)
- [COVID-19 Travel Restrictions](#)
- [COVID-19 Legislation Tracking Chart](#)
- [Memo - Federal Reserve COVID-19 Announcements](#)

ECONOMIC UPDATE

Congressional

- **House**
 - House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) issued a [statement](#) on next steps for the coronavirus response.
 - Financial Services Committee Chairwoman Maxine Waters (D-CA) [sent a letter](#) to Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and Small Business Administration (SBA) Administrator Jovita Carranza calling for Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) funds to not be used to pay private equity or other funds.
- **Senate**

- The Senate Finance Committee [updated its FAQ](#) on CARES Act Retirement Provisions.
- Banking Committee Ranking Member Sherrod Brown (D-OH), Finance Committee Ranking Member Ron Wyden (D-OR) and Senator Elizabeth Warren (D-MA) today in a [letter](#) called for Secretary Mnuchin to act immediately to ensure that Americans receive the full amount of their direct payments, provided for by Congress in the CARES Act.

Administration

- Treasury
 - All of Treasury's Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) documents can be accessed through this [link](#). The Paycheck Protection Program prioritizes millions of Americans employed by small businesses by authorizing up to \$349 billion toward job retention and certain other expenses. Small businesses and eligible nonprofit organizations, Veterans organizations, and Tribal businesses described in the Small Business Act, as well as individuals who are self-employed or are independent contractors, are eligible if they also meet program size standards.
 - Attached is the [agreement](#) for new lenders (insured depository institutions like banks, credit unions, and farm credit associations).
 - The Treasury Department has opened the [online portal application](#) for Payroll Support.
 - The Treasury Department published a [Q&A](#) document on Payroll Support.
- Small Business Administration (SBA)
 - The SBA released an [interim final rule](#) announcing the implementation of the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP).
 - The SBA issued a press release titled, "[SBA's Paycheck Protection Program for Small Businesses Affected by the Coronavirus Pandemic Launches](#)."
- Internal Revenue Service (IRS)
 - The IRS issued a [press release](#) to encourage taxpayers, businesses, tax professionals, and others to follow the IRS on social media, and to sign up for e-news subscriptions for urgent updates on COVID-19, scams and economic impact payment information.
- Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB)
 - The CFPB released a [video](#) on how struggling homeowners can obtain mortgage forbearance if their finances are impacted due to COVID-19.

Articles of Interest

- 4/2 The Washington Post published an article titled, "[Pelosi announces new select committee to oversee coronavirus response, setting up clash with Trump over \\$2 trillion law](#)."
- 4/2 The Associated Press published an article titled, "[Memo: Some in US may not get stimulus checks until August](#)."
- 4/2 The New York Times published an article titled, "[Trump Administration Scales Back Paid Leave in Coronavirus Relief Law](#)."

PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

Congressional

- **House**
 - Speaker Pelosi released a [statement](#) on next steps in the coronavirus response.
 - Ways and Means Republicans posted a [blog post](#) outlining options for healthcare insurance for Americans, particularly those who have been laid off.
 - 11 Democratic House members sent a [letter](#) to House Democratic leaders on the New Democratic Coalition's priorities for COVID-19 legislation.
 - Rep. Maloney (D-NY) issued a [statement](#) and released new documents obtained from FEMA, which show the agency has provided just some or none of the medical equipment requested by five states and the District of Columbia. The press release ultimately advocates for FEMA to take a more active role in private sector supply chains.
 - House Majority Leader Hoyer (D-MD) released a [statement](#) on FEMA's procurement.
- **Senate**
 - Sen. Warren (D-MA) sent a [letter](#) to FDA Commissioner Hahn, urging the agency to address reports of shortages of hydroxychloroquine and chloroquine.
 - Sen. Bennet (D-CO) sent a [letter](#) to President Trump and Acting Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Wolf urging them to designate a senior National Security Council (NSC) official as a pandemic coordinator and implored DHS to resume its vital pandemic modeling program.

Administration

- **White House**
 - President Trump [invoked his authority](#) under the Defense Production Act to require 3M to produce more N-95 respirators for the U.S. and ramp up imports of the respirators from overseas as the coronavirus pandemic unfolds.
 - In response to Sen. Schumer (D-NY) calling on President Trump to establish a czar with a military background to oversee the production of medical equipment and criticizing the Administration's handling of the global pandemic, Trump sent a scathing [letter](#) to Schumer.
 - During yesterday's [Coronavirus Task Force briefing](#), Vice President Mike Pence announced that guidance from the CDC regarding mask use would be coming in the next several days. Additionally, Rear Adm. Polowczyk, the supply chain stabilization task force lead, provided an update on how much protective medical equipment it has given to states from the strategic national stockpile (SNS).
- **Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services**
 - CMS, in consultation with CDC, issued [critical recommendations](#) to state and local governments, as well as nursing homes, to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in nursing homes.
 - CMS Administrator Verma posted a [guest blog](#) on the the Social Security Administration (SSA), providing important information on Medicare coverage and recently expanded coverage of telehealth services.
 - CMS issued a third set of [frequently asked questions](#) and answers (FAQs) to aid state Medicaid and CHIP agencies in their response to COVID-19.
 - CMS released an [Informational Bulletin](#) to states that explains how states can use telehealth delivery methods to expand access to Medicaid services, including substance use disorder (SUD) treatment and services.
 - CMS [approved](#) its 44th state Medicaid Section 1135 waiver delivering urgent regulatory relief to ensure States can quickly and effectively care for their most vulnerable citizens during the coronavirus outbreak.

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
 - CDC released a vital statistics reporting guidance [document](#) for certifying deaths due to the coronavirus.
- National Institutes of Health
 - Dr. Nora D. Volkow, director of the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) [outlined](#) potential risks to people who smoke and use drugs during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Articles of Interest

- 4/2 TIME published an article titled, [“Over 95% of People Who Died of Coronavirus in Europe Were Over 60, Says WHO.”](#)
- 4/2 KFF published an article titled, [“KFF Health Tracking Poll - Early April 2020: The Impact Of Coronavirus On Life In America.”](#)
- 4/2 Wall Street Journal published an article titled, [“Questions About Accuracy of Coronavirus Tests Sow Worry.”](#)
- 4/2 Politico published an article titled, [“FEMA tells lawmakers most new ventilators won't be ready until June.”](#)
- 4/3 Wall Street Journal published an article titled, [“U.S. and Europe Turn to Phone-Tracking Strategies to Slow Spread of Coronavirus.”](#)

LABOR UPDATE

Congressional

- **House**
 - Rep. Brady (R-TX) released a [statement](#) in response to the March 2020 jobs report, emphasizing the importance of the CARES Act.
- **Senate**
 - Sen. Gardner (R-CO) sent a [letter](#) to OIG Principal Deputy Inspector General Grimm, urging an immediate investigation into reports that thousands of ventilators in the Strategic National Stockpile are not operational, contributing to a shortage around the country during the pandemic.

Administration

- DOL announced additional [guidance](#) to provide information to workers and employers about how each will be able to take advantage of the protections and relief offered by the FFCRA, including a comprehensive webinar, a new Q&A from the Wage and Hour Division (WHD), and workplace posters.
- DOL's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) issued [interim enforcement guidance](#) to help combat supply shortages of N95 respirators.
- DOL Secretary Scalia issued a [statement](#) on the March 2020 jobs report, clarifying that it only takes into consideration "the week and pay periods that include March 12; we know that our report next month will show more extensive job losses, based on the high number of state unemployment claims reported yesterday and the week before."
- According to a [monthly jobs report](#) released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the U.S. economy lost 701,000 jobs in March, raising the unemployment rate from 3.5% to 4.4%. Additionally, the healthcare sector added 32,000 jobs.

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.