



DAILY COVID-19 UPDATE

April 6, 2020

WHAT HAPPENED TODAY

Over the weekend, in a [Dear Colleague letter](#) to House members, Speaker Pelosi stated Phase IV legislation, also referred to as 'CARES 2,' will extend and expand on the CARES Act and provide the "desperately needed resources for our state and local governments, hospitals, community health centers, health systems and health workers, first responders and other providers on the frontlines of this crisis." She announced legislation may be ready for a vote on the floor "later this month."

Since our last update, the Food and Drug Administration, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Department of Labor, and the Treasury Department published additional guidance. 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**
 - Today, Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) [sent a Dear Colleague letter](#) to all members regarding electronic submission of floor documents in light of the coronavirus pandemic. Beginning Tuesday (tomorrow), staff must electronically submit all Floor documents – including bills, resolutions, co-sponsors and extensions of remarks – to a dedicated and secure email system, rather than deliver these materials by hand to staff in the Speaker's Lobby or Cloakrooms.
 - Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) on Saturday [sent a Dear Colleague letter](#) to all members on next steps on the CARES Act and CARES 2 (Phase IV).

- Rep. Andy Biggs (R-AZ) led a [letter](#) with Republican Study Committee Chairman Mike Johnson (R-LA) and 20 other Members of Congress encouraging the President to oppose any additional coronavirus relief while the nation awaits the impact of the \$2.2 trillion CARES Act.
- **Senate**
 - Banking Committee Chair Mike Crapo (R-ID) sent a [letter](#) to Treasury Secretary Mnuchin and SBA Administrator Carranza on the P3 program.
 - Banking Committee Ranking Member Sherrod Brown (D-OH) released a [statement](#) on the Federal Reserve's decision to relax leverage ratio requirements.
 - Banking Committee Ranking Member Sherrod Brown (D-OH) [sent letters](#) to Zoom Video Communications, Inc. and the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) about the company's virtual meeting technology, including concerns that Zoom may have engaged in deceptive practices by inaccurately advertising end-to-end encryption of its virtual meetings, putting consumers' information and privacy at risk.
 - Banking Committee Ranking Member Sherrod Brown (D-OH) issued a [statement](#) on President Trump's intention to nominate Brian Miller for Special Inspector General for Pandemic Recovery (SIGPR).
 - The Senate Joint Economic Committee published an [issue brief](#) on the coronavirus pandemic.

Administration

- The Federal Reserve
 - Today, the Federal Reserve [announced](#) it will establish a facility to provide term financing backed by PPP loans. Additional details will be announced this week.
 - This morning, the federal bank regulatory agencies [announced](#) the issuance of two interim final rules to provide temporary relief to community banking organizations. The two rules will modify the community bank leverage ratio framework.
 - Federal financial institution regulatory agencies and the state financial regulators [issued a joint policy statement](#) providing needed regulatory flexibility to enable mortgage servicers to work with struggling consumers affected by the coronavirus. The actions announced Friday by the agencies inform servicers of the agencies' flexible supervisory and enforcement approach during the COVID-19 pandemic regarding certain communications to consumers required by the mortgage servicing rules.
- Treasury
 - The Treasury Department issued a [Q&A](#) regarding payroll support to air carriers and contractors.
 - On Friday, Treasury released additional guidance regarding the Paycheck Protection Program:
 - [Paycheck Protection Program – Applicable Affiliation Rules](#)
 - [Paycheck Protection Program – Interim Final Rule on Affiliation](#)
- Small Business Administration (SBA)
 - The SBA [published](#) the PPP affiliation interim final rule.
 - The SBA issued an [FAQ](#) regarding participation of faith-based organizations in PPP and EIDL loan programs.
- Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC)
 - The CFTC today in a [press release](#) issued a COVID-19 customer advisory on fee scams.
- Congressional Budget Office (CBO)

- CBO released a [blogpost](#) discussing updating CBO's economic forecast to account for the pandemic. CBO expects that the economy will contract sharply during the second quarter of 2020 as a result of the continued disruption of commerce stemming from the spread of the novel coronavirus.
- CBO released a [preliminary estimate](#) of the budgetary effects of H.R. 6201, the Families First Coronavirus Response Act. On a preliminary basis, CBO and JCT estimate that the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127; enacted March 18, 2020) will increase federal deficits by \$192 billion over the 2020-2030 period, mostly in fiscal years 2020 and 2021.
- CBO released [CBO's Work in Progress](#) as of March 31, 2020. Each quarter, CBO provides information about its work in progress. As of March 31, the agency was working on 159 cost estimates for legislation in addition to 25 analytic products.
- CBO released [estimates of the Cost of Federal Credit Programs in 2021](#). Using FCRA procedures, CBO estimates that new loans and loan guarantees issued in 2021 would result in savings of \$41.8 billion. But using fair-value estimates, CBO projects that they would have a lifetime cost of \$46.8 billion.
- CBO released [how CBO Models Firms' Behavior in HISIM2 in Its Baseline Budget Projections](#) as of March 6, 2020. CBO uses HISIM2 to model firms' decisions to offer health insurance and households' decisions to enroll in health insurance. This slide deck describes the analytical methods used in HISIM2 to model firms' decisions in CBO's most recent baseline budget projections.
- CBO released an [analysis of the President's 2021 Budget](#). On February 10, the Administration transmitted its annual set of budgetary proposals to the Congress. CBO estimates that in the coming decade deficits under those proposals would be smaller and debt held by the public would be lower than amounts in CBO's baseline projections—but larger than the Administration projected. CBO's estimates do not account for changes to the nation's economic or fiscal outlook arising from the recent public health emergency.

Articles of Interest

- 4/6 The New York Times published an article titled, ["U.S. Is Nowhere Close to Reopening the Economy, Experts Say."](#)
- 4/4 Bloomberg published an article titled, ["Mnuchin's Unfilled Jobs Leave Treasury Stretched in Virus Crisis."](#)
- 4/3 The Washington Post published an article titled, ["Thousands flood banks as federal small-business loan program has a chaotic first day."](#)

PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

Congressional

- **House**
 - Ways and Means Republicans issued a [press release](#) highlighting examples of how non-profits, corporations, and others are innovating to help their communities overcome the COVID-19 outbreak.
 - Ways and Means Republicans published a [Coronavirus Bulletin](#) providing an update of what the Trump administration is doing to implement the Families First Coronavirus Response Act and the CARES Act.

- Reps. Fitzpatrick and Brindisi [introduced](#) H.R.6443, the Securing the National Supply Chain Act of 2020, a bill that aims to drive consolidation of manufacturing of medical supplies out of foreign jurisdictions and towards Puerto Rico by providing a dollar-for-dollar credit against Federal taxes to U.S. companies for wages, investments, and purchases.
- Speaker Pelosi issued a [Dear Colleague letter](#) to House members outlining next steps on the CARES Act and Phase IV legislation, now being called CARES 2.

Administration

- White House
 - During a press briefing last Friday evening, President Trump [announced](#) new federal guidance that encourages Americans to use homemade cloth face coverings when in public, a new effort intended to slow the spread of the novel coronavirus.
- Department of Health and Human Services
 - HHS announced it is purchasing the ID NOW COVID-19 [rapid point-of-care test](#), developed by Abbott Diagnostics Scarborough Inc., for state, territorial and tribal public health labs.
 - HHS announced upcoming action by CDC to provide \$186,000,000 in [funding for additional resources](#) to state and local jurisdictions in support of our nation's response to the 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19).
 - The Office of Inspector General (OIG) released a [report](#) on hospital experiences responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. It found "severe" shortages of tests for hospitals to use and "widespread" shortfalls of personal protective equipment to keep healthcare workers safe.
 - HHS Secretary Azar issued a [statement](#) on CDC's face covering guidance.
 - OIG released a [policy statement](#) regarding the application of certain administrative enforcement authorities due to the declaration of a coronavirus outbreak in the U.S. as a national emergency.
- Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
 - CMS released [guidance](#) for processing attestations from ambulatory surgical centers (ASCs) temporarily enrolling as hospitals during the COVID-19 outbreak.
 - CMS released a [video](#) providing answers to common questions about the Medicare telehealth services benefit.
 - CMS has approved 46 Section 1135 [Medicaid waivers](#) for states and the District of Columbia.
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
 - CDC's National Vital Statistics System (NVSS) [released](#) provisional death counts for the coronavirus.
 - CDC launched a new weekly COVID-19 surveillance [report](#).
 - CDC issued a [recommendation](#) to wear cloth face coverings in public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain (e.g., grocery stores and pharmacies) especially in areas of significant community-based transmission.
- Food and Drug Administration
 - FDA issued [guidance](#) to provide a policy to help expand the availability of clinical electronic thermometers to address the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - FDA issued [guidance](#) to provide a policy to help expand the availability of general use face masks for the general public and particulate filtering facepiece respirators (including N95 respirators) for health care professionals during this pandemic.

- FDA published a [frequently asked questions page](#) on shortages of surgical masks and gowns.
- FDA issued an [emergency use authorization](#) on non-NIOSH-approved disposable filtering facepiece respirators manufactured in China.

Articles of Interest

- 4/4 Politico published an article titled, "[CDC begins blood tests to find undetected coronavirus cases.](#)"
- 4/4 The Washington Post published an article titled, "[All across the United States, the coronavirus is killing more men than women, data show.](#)"
- 4/6 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, "[Coronavirus Cases Rise Sharply, as U.S. Braces for Most Challenging Days Ahead.](#)"
- 4/6 NBC published an article titled, "[Government watchdog: Hospitals face severe shortages of medical gear, confusing guidance from government.](#)"
- 4/6 Scientific American published an article titled, "[Heart Damage in COVID Patients Puzzles Doctors.](#)"

LABOR UPDATE

Administration

- DOL [announced](#) the publication of Unemployment Insurance Program Letter (UIPL) [16-20](#) providing guidance to states for implementation of the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) program.
- DOL [announced](#) the publication of Unemployment Insurance Guidance Letter [15-20](#) (UIPL) providing guidance to states for Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC).

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.