



DAILY COVID-19 UPDATE

April 9, 2020

WHAT HAPPENED TODAY

Today, Senate Democrats, seeking a larger aid package for small businesses, blocked legislation to provide an additional \$250 billion for the Paycheck Protection Program. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) had sought unanimous consent in the Senate today for the small business aid, which was originally requested by Treasury Secretary Mnuchin.

Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) are seeking to double the \$250 billion aid request to include more federal aid for state and local governments and additional funding for hospitals.

The Trump administration opposes the Schumer-Pelosi proposal, and Speaker Pelosi has signaled she will not bring Leader McConnell's proposal to the House.

Notably, lawmakers aren't scheduled to return to Washington until the week of April 20. As such, Monday, April 13 may be the next chance to quickly approve more aid without objection from any member in the House or Senate.

Since our last update, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, the Food and Drug Administration, the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health within HHS, Treasury, and the Department of Labor published additional guidance. Please see below for more details.

LATEST PMJ RESOURCES

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

ECONOMIC UPDATE

Congressional

• House

- Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) [published talking points](#) related to House Democrats' demands for an interim emergency coronavirus relief package.
- Financial Services Committee Chairwoman Maxine Waters (D-CA) and Senate Banking Committee Ranking Member Sherrod Brown (D-OH) [sent a letter](#) to Defense Secretary Esper and Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Azar urging them to focus the use of resources provided by the CARES Act "to bolster the production of urgently needed medical supplies and equipment using the powerful authorities of the Defense Production Act (DPA)."

• Senate

- Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) delivered the following [remarks](#) today on the Senate floor regarding the CARES Act.
- Banking Committee Chairman Mike Crapo (R-ID) [issued an update](#) on the Paycheck Protection Program. Chairman Crapo has been working closely with the U.S. Department of Treasury and the Small Business Administration (SBA), [urging them](#) to provide additional clarity to banks, credit unions and non-bank lenders so that these institutions can provide loans to small businesses more quickly and efficiently.

Administration

• Treasury

- Treasury released additional guidance regarding the CARES Act Paycheck Protection Program:
 - [Paycheck Protection Loans: Frequently Asked Questions](#) (Updated yesterday evening)
 - [New Lender Application Form](#) (Non-Bank and Non-Insured Depository Institution Lenders)
 - **Note:** Lenders in the categories requiring the new form should submit by emailing NERLApplicationforPPP@sba.gov. Federally insured banks, credit unions, and farm credits should continue submitting new lender applications to DelegatedAuthority@sba.gov.
- Treasury Secretary Mnuchin today [approved](#) the establishment of a Main Street Business Lending Program and a Municipal Liquidity Facility to support the flow of credit to American workers, businesses, States, counties, and cities impacted by the coronavirus pandemic.
- Treasury issued a [statement](#) noting it stands with governments and citizens around the world in the global war against the COVID-19 global pandemic.

• Federal Reserve

- The Federal Reserve on Thursday [took additional actions](#) to provide up to \$2.3 trillion in loans to support the economy. This funding will assist households and employers of all sizes and bolster the ability of state and local governments to deliver critical services during the coronavirus pandemic.

- The federal bank regulatory agencies today [announced](#) an interim final rule to encourage lending to small businesses through the Small Business Administration's Paycheck Protection Program, or PPP.
- Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC)
 - The Securities and Exchange Commission today [announced](#) that it is providing temporary, conditional exemptive relief for business development companies (BDCs) to enable them to make additional investments in small and medium-sized businesses, including those with operations affected by COVID-19.

Articles of Interest

- 4/9 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, "[Fed Expands Corporate-Debt Backstops, Unveils New Programs to Aid States, Cities and Small Businesses.](#)"
- 4/9 The Washington Post published an article titled, "[6.6 million Americans filed for unemployment last week, bringing the pandemic total to over 17 million.](#)"
- 4/9 Politico published an article titled, "[Mnuchin: Economy could reopen in May.](#)"

PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

Congressional

- **House**
 - Rep. Maloney, the Chairwoman of the House Oversight and Reform Committee, released a [new document](#) from HHS detailing the Administration's insufficient distribution of personal protective equipment and critical medical supplies to states from the Strategic National Stockpile.
 - The Congressional Tri-Caucus Chairs, Reps. Castro, Chu, and Bass sent a [letter](#) to HHS Secretary Azar and CDC Director Redfield, urging them to ensure there are no racial or ethnic health disparities regarding the testing and treatment of the coronavirus.
 - Speaker Pelosi joined Ari Shapiro and Kelsey Snell on NPR's All Things Considered for an [interview](#) to discuss the latest in the ongoing efforts to respond to the coronavirus pandemic, including the new bipartisan House Select Committee on the Coronavirus Crisis and Congressional Democrats' move to pass interim emergency coronavirus relief.
 - In an [interview](#) with the Washington Post, Speaker Pelosi urged Republicans to 'come to the table' and continue talks on small-business funds.
 - Ways and Means Republicans published a [blog post](#) titled, "Hope in Crisis: More Resources for Front Line Workers."
- **Senate**
 - Sens. Alexander and Blunt sent a [letter](#) to HHS Secretary Azar regarding COVID-19 antibodies testing.
 - Sen. Markey sent a [letter](#) to President Trump asking for details on the administration's discussions about the creation of a coronavirus surveillance system. He warned that the idea could raise privacy concerns and inquired about specifics on how patient information would be protected.

Administration

- Health and Human Services

- HHS published an [interim final rule](#) to update the regulatory requirements used by the CDC's National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) to test and approve air-purifying particulate respirators for use in the ongoing public health emergency.
- The Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health issued new [guidance](#) under the Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness Act authorizing licensed pharmacists to order and administer COVID-19 tests that FDA has authorized.
- The Office for Civil Rights (OCR) at HHS [announced](#) that it will exercise its enforcement discretion and will not impose penalties for violations of the HIPAA Rules against covered entities or business associates in connection with the good faith participation in the operation of COVID-19 testing sites during the COVID-19 nationwide public health emergency.
- HHS has updated its [website](#) called the Tracking Accountability in Government Grants System with new information on the grants and funding awarded to providers associated with fighting the COVID-19 outbreak.
- Indian Health Service [expands](#) telehealth services during COVID-19 response
- HHS [awards](#) \$1.3 billion to health centers in historic US response to COVID-19.
- OCR reaches [early case resolution](#) with Alabama after it removes discriminatory ventilator triaging guidelines.
- HHS [announces](#) ventilator contract with Philips under Defense Production Act.
- HHS [announces](#) ventilator contract with GM under Defense Production Act.
- HHS to provide millions of [TYVEK protective suits](#) for U.S. healthcare workers.
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
 - CDC issued [new guidelines](#) aimed at getting critical infrastructure workers who have been exposed to the coronavirus back to work faster. Under the old guidance, workers were told to stay at home for 14 days if they were exposed to someone who had tested positive for coronavirus. The new guidelines will allow critical workers who have been exposed go back to work as long as they are asymptomatic and follow conditions like taking their temperature before going to work, wearing a face mask at all times and practicing social distancing at work as much as possible.
- Food and Drug Administration
 - FDA issued [guidance](#) to provide recommendations to health care providers and investigators on the administration and study of convalescent plasma to patients currently seriously ill with COVID-19.
- Drug Enforcement Agency
 - DEA announced [additional steps](#) to allow increased production of controlled substances used in COVID-19 care.

Articles of Interest

- 4/8 The Hill published an article titled, "[US intelligence warned in November that coronavirus spreading in China could be 'cataclysmic event': report.](#)"
- 4/8 Politico published an article titled, "[Oversight sputters as Trump starts doling out billions in coronavirus aid.](#)"
- 4/9 The Washington Post published an article titled, "[Trump preparing to unveil second coronavirus task force, officials say.](#)"
- 4/9 The Hill published an article titled, "[Coronavirus double whammy: unemployed and uninsured.](#)"
- 4/9 The New York Times published an article titled, "[More Coronavirus Vaccines and Treatments Move Toward Human Trials.](#)"

LABOR UPDATE

Administration

- Department of Labor
 - DOL's OSHA has [expanded temporary guidance](#) provided in a March 13, 2020 memorandum regarding supply shortages of N95s or other filtering facepiece respirators (FFRs) due to the COVID pandemic.
 - DOL published its unemployment insurance weekly claims [report](#), which found that during the first week of April, 6.6 million Americans applied for unemployment benefits. In comparison, more than 10 million Americans applied for unemployment benefits in the last two weeks of March.
 - DOL published in the Federal Register a [temporary rule](#) to implement public health emergency leave under Title I of the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA), and emergency paid sick leave to assist working families facing public health emergencies arising out of COVID-19 global pandemic.

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.