



## DAILY COVID-19 UPDATE

April 1, 2020

### WHAT HAPPENED TODAY

This morning, senior House Democrats held a press conference to further discuss their priorities as they relate to a Phase IV coronavirus aid bill and rebuilding the nation's infrastructure program. The [plan](#), as outlined by Speaker Pelosi, would include funding for community health centers, expanded broadband access, improvements to drinking water systems, and upgrades to public transit, roads, and bridges, among other items. Speaker Pelosi stated she is "pleased the President has returned to his interest" in the issue, and suggested an infrastructure proposal is "essential because of the historic nature of the health and economic emergency that we are confronting."

Since our last update, the Department of Labor (DOL) published additional guidance. Please see below for more details.

### LATEST PMJ RESOURCES

- [Phase IV Outlook Deck](#)
- [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**
  - This morning, Speaker Pelosi held a press conference regarding critical infrastructure investments to overcome coronavirus and support economic recovery. She acknowledged House Democrats are building on their [Moving Forward infrastructure framework](#), introduced in January 2020, to include funding for community health centers, clean water, broadband, and mobility.
- **Senate**
  - Banking Committee Ranking Member Sherrod Brown (D-OH), Finance Committee Ranking Member Ron Wyden (D-OR) and Senate Democratic

Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) yesterday [sent a letter](#) to Secretary Mnuchin and called on him to provide Congress with a plan and timeline for the Special Inspector General for Pandemic Recovery's (SIGPR) creation and implementation.

- The Senate Finance Committee [updated its FAQ](#) on the CARES Act: Employee Retention Credit.
- The Senate Republican Policy Committee (RPC) [published a compilation](#) of Senate committee materials on the CARES Act.
- Banking Committee Ranking Member Sherrod Brown (D-OH) today (April 1) [released a statement](#) as rent and mortgage payments are due for millions of households whose jobs have been affected by the coronavirus. Ranking Member Brown plans to introduce legislation to help homeowners and renters during the COVID-19 pandemic.

### **Administration**

- Treasury
  - The Treasury Department and the IRS [released FAQs](#) to help small- and mid-sized businesses navigate paid sick and family leave tax credits.
- Internal Revenue Service (IRS)
  - The IRS [published a notice](#) to provide penalty relief with respect to certain employers' deposits of Federal employment taxes.
  - The IRS [published an FAQ](#) on the Employee Retention Credit under the CARES Act.

### **Articles of Interest**

- 3/31 The New York Times published an article titled, "[How Powell and Mnuchin Became the Duo in Charge of Saving the Economy.](#)"
- 3/31 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, "[Bigger Unemployment Payments to Reach States This Week, Labor Secretary Says.](#)"
- 3/31 Politico published an article titled, "[McConnell and Pelosi draw coronavirus battle lines.](#)"
- 4/1 The Washington Post published an article titled, "[The list of those who won't get a \\$1,200 stimulus check is growing — and includes some surprising groups.](#)"

## **PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE**

### **Congressional**

- **House**
  - Reps. Kuster and McBeth [introduced](#) legislation to help consumers fill prescriptions during emergencies.
  - Rep. Rose [introduced](#) new legislation to provide critical relief for medical providers who have been gravely impacted by the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. H.R. 6426 would establish a program to provide very low-interest loans to healthcare organizations to assist them with anticipated revenue loss or higher operating costs as a result of COVID-19.
  - Rep. Thompson, Chairman of the Committee on Homeland Security, released [legislation](#) he will be introducing in the coming days to establish an independent, bipartisan, Congressionally-chartered commission to produce a

full and complete accounting of the nation's preparedness and response to COVID-19.

- Rep. Walden [praised](#) recent action by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to lower barriers for providing care to rural communities during COVID-19.
- Rep. Walden [penned](#) an op-ed on the *CARES Act* in The Hill.
- Rep. Schneider sent a [letter](#) to Speaker Pelosi and House Energy & Commerce Chairman Pallone urging the creation of a singular emergency COVID-19 medical supply chain authority, or "supply chain czar," with statutory authority to oversee the acquisition and distribution of ventilators, PPE, and other supplies.
- **Senate**
  - Sen. Coons [called for](#) the U.S. to update and expand domestic vaccine manufacturing capacity to respond to COVID-19 and future pandemics.
  - Sen. Brown [spoke out](#) against the Trump Administration for refusing to reopen enrollment for the ACA's federal exchanges amid the coronavirus pandemic.
  - Sen. Brown [called for](#) pandemic pay and health protections for all frontline workers during the COVID-19 outbreak.
  - The Senate Republican Policy Committee (RPC) posted a [compilation](#) of Senate committee materials on the CARES Act.

### **Administration**

- Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
  - CMS [approved](#) four additional Medicaid Section 1135 waiver requests to give states flexibility to address the coronavirus pandemic, bringing the total number of approved waivers to 38.
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
  - New [data](#) released by the CDC shows that people who have chronic medical conditions, such as diabetes, lung disease and heart disease, face an increased chance of being hospitalized with COVID-19 and put into intensive care.
- Food and Drug Administration
  - FDA [initiated](#) a new program, the Coronavirus Treatment Acceleration Program (CTAP) to expedite the development of potentially safe and effective life-saving treatments.
  - FDA posted information regarding shortages of hydroxychloroquine and chloroquine to its drug shortage [webpage](#) due to a surge in demand. The agency [reported](#) it is working with manufacturers to evaluate supply and market demand for patients dependent on these drugs for treatment of malaria, lupus and rheumatoid arthritis.

### **Articles of Interest**

- 3/31 Reuters published an article titled, "[Trump warns Americans of a tough two weeks ahead in coronavirus fight.](#)"
- 3/31 CNN published an article titled, "[Trump administration won't reopen Obamacare enrollment for uninsured as coronavirus spreads.](#)"
- 3/31 Politico published an article titled, "[Pence task force freezes coronavirus aid amid backlash.](#)"
- 3/31 The New York Times published an article titled, "[At the Top of the Covid-19 Curve, How Do Hospitals Decide Who Gets Treatment?](#)"
- 4/1 Social Science Research Network published an article titled, "[Pandemics Depress the Economy, Public Health Interventions Do Not: Evidence from the 1918 Flu.](#)"

# LABOR UPDATE

## **Regulatory/Implementation Guidance**

- The Department of Labor
  - DOL announced [new action](#) regarding how American workers and employers will benefit from the protections and relief offered by the Emergency Paid Sick Leave Act and Emergency Family and Medical Leave Expansion Act, both part of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA). The department's Wage and Hour Division (WHD) posted a [temporary rule](#) issuing regulations pursuant to this new law, effective today, April 1, 2020.

# SUPPLY CHAIN/CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATE

## **Congressional**

- House Homeland Security Committee Democrats [announced](#) they will introduce the COVID-19 Commission Act, which would establish a bipartisan commission to investigate the circumstances surrounding the emergence of the virus and identify lessons learned regarding preparedness, response, and recovery nationwide. The Commission would include individuals with expertise in emergency preparedness, supply chain and logistics, and election security. ([fact sheet](#), [bill text](#))

*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.*

