



## DAILY COVID-19 UPDATE

April 10, 2020

### WHAT HAPPENED TODAY

Congress remains at a standoff over injecting billions of dollars more into the CARES Act. Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) said today he talked with Treasury Secretary Mnuchin, who agreed to pursue bipartisan talks on the next steps. Democratic Leader Schumer stated, "There is no reason why we can't come to a bipartisan agreement by early next week."

Shortly thereafter, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) tweeted, "I hope Democrats stop blocking more funding for the Paycheck Protection Program very soon. American jobs depend on it."

It is unclear how quickly Congress will act, given most lawmakers are out of town, but the goal is to pass the bill by unanimous consent. Notably, yesterday, Speaker Pelosi and Sen. Blunt (R-MO) [signaled](#) the House and Senate are unlikely to return to Washington on April 20 as originally scheduled.

Meanwhile, President Trump said he is appointing a "council" that will help decide how to reopen the U.S. economy, and a formal announcement may come as soon as Tuesday.

Since our last update, the Department of Health and Human Services began distributing \$30 billion of the \$100 billion hospital fund to all facilities and providers that received Medicare fee-for-service reimbursements in 2019. Additionally, the Food and Drug Administration, the Treasury Department, and the Internal Revenue Service 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) issued the following press release titled, "[Critical Small Business Needs Ignored in McConnell Bill.](#)"
- Financial Services Committee Chairwoman Maxine Waters (D-CA) and Small Business Committee Chairwoman Nydia Velazquez (D-NY) [wrote](#) to the Chief Executive Officers of Citigroup, JP Morgan Chase, Bank of America, and Wells Fargo to express strong concerns with a lack of access to the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) for small businesses that need immediate help, and to request periodic updates on their participation in the program and related pandemic recovery efforts.

### **• Senate**

- Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer today released a [statement](#) regarding the interim Emergency Coronavirus Relief legislation.
- Banking Committee Ranking Member Sherrod Brown (D-OH) and Senator Josh Hawley (R-MO) [sent a letter](#) to Treasury Secretary Mnuchin urging him to act immediately to ensure that Americans receive the full amount of their direct payments, provided for by Congress in the CARES Act.
- Banking Committee Ranking Member Sherrod Brown (D-OH) and Senator Jack Reed (D-RI) [are seeking to create legislation](#) that would provide a new \$75 billion Housing Assistance Fund to help households struggling to make ends meet.
- Banking Committee Ranking Member Sherrod Brown (D-OH), Senator Elizabeth Warren (D-MA), and Senator Brian Schatz (D-HI) sent a [letter](#) to Jerome Powell, Chairman of the Federal Reserve, calling for the Fed to end capital distributions like stock buybacks, dividends, and executive bonuses as the economy recovers from the Coronavirus pandemic.
- The Senate Republican Policy Committee (RPC) published [agency](#) resources about the coronavirus response and [committee](#) resources about the CARES Act.
- Finance Committee Chairman Chuck Grassley (R-IA) published a [Q&A](#) on COVID-19 scams.

## **Administration**

### **• Internal Revenue Service (IRS)**

- Treasury and the IRS announced more extensions of tax filing, payment, and other deadlines. The IRS [press release](#) is here and full notice detailing the extensions is [here](#). Yesterday, the IRS also issued [guidance](#) for taxpayers with net operating losses (under the CARES Act), as well as a [reminder](#) about electronic options for tax returns, refunds, and payments.
- The IRS published an [FAQ](#) on the deferral of employment tax deposits and payments through December 31, 2020.
- The Internal Revenue Service yesterday in a [press release](#) reminded taxpayers and tax professionals to use electronic options to support social distancing and speed the processing of tax returns, refunds and payments.
- The Internal Revenue Service yesterday [issued guidance](#) providing tax relief under the CARES Act for taxpayers with net operating losses.

### **• Treasury**

- Today, the U.S. Department of the Treasury and the Internal Revenue Service [launched](#) "Non-File: Enter Payment Info Here," a web portal where Americans who did not file a tax return in 2018 or 2019 can submit basic

personal information to the IRS so that they can receive payments. In order to speed payments, individuals should enter their bank account information and their payment will be directly deposited in their bank account.

- The U.S. Department of the Treasury and the Internal Revenue Service today [announced](#) they are extending the deadline for many administrative acts under the tax law as well as the tax filing and payment deadlines for fiscal year businesses, tax-exempt organizations and certain estates and trusts.

### **Articles of Interest**

- 4/9 Politico published an article titled, "[Pelosi warns Trump not to reopen country too soon.](#)"
- 4/9 Politico published an article titled, "[Treasury expected to get started on stimulus payments Friday.](#)"
- 4/9 Business Insider published an article titled, "['There's every reason to think' the economy can recover quickly if the government continues issuing aid, Fed chair Jerome Powell says.](#)"
- 4/9 The Hill published an article titled, "[Senate Democrats unveil \\$500 billion short-term coronavirus relief plan.](#)"

## **PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE**

### **Congressional**

- Sen. Warner (D-VA), Sen. Blumenthal (D-CT), and Rep. Eshoo (D-CA) sent a [letter](#) to White House Senior Adviser Jared Kushner about the administration's discussions of building a public health surveillance network, warning that health security rules "have not aged well" and that efforts to use patient data to fight the COVID-19 outbreak could undermine health confidentiality restrictions.
- **House**
  - House Majority Leader Hoyer released a [statement](#), urging the Trump administration to fully use its powers to address stockpile shortages. he wrote, "states should not be forced to bid against each other for scarce resources or face price gouging."
  - Reps. Cárdenas (D-CA), Pallone D-NJ), Nadler (D-NY), Schakowsky (D-IL) and Cicilline (D-RI) [introduced](#) the COVID-19 Price Gouging Prevention Act, which would prohibit the sale of consumer goods and services at an unconscionably excessive price during the public health emergency declared as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.
  - House Energy & Commerce, Ways & Means, and Small Business Committee Republican Staff released a [document](#) outlining resources as part of the federal government's COVID-19 response that support health providers who are also employers.
  - Ways and Means Republicans published a [blog post](#) titled, "FAQ: Public Health and Social Security Emergency Fund."
  - Rep. Lee (D-NV) sent a [letter](#) to DOL Secretary Scalia urging guidance on telehealth coverage.
- **Senate**
  - Sens. Chuck Grassley (R-IA) and Amy Klobuchar (D-MN) sent a [letter](#) to Attorney General Barr urging DOJ to take vigorous action to protect consumers from price gouging during the coronavirus pandemic.

- The Senate Republican Policy Committee (RPC) released a [document](#) consolidating all of the agency resources for coronavirus response. The document will be updated as further resources are released.

### **Administration**

- Health and Human Services
  - HHS [began](#) the delivery of the initial \$30 billion in relief funding to providers in support of the national response to COVID-19 as part of the distribution of the \$100 billion provider relief fund provided for in CARES Act. Click [here](#) for the state-by-state breakdown.
- Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
  - CMS [temporarily suspended](#) a number of rules so that hospitals, clinics, and other healthcare facilities can boost their frontline medical staffs as they fight to save lives during the COVID-19 pandemic. These changes affect doctors, nurses, and other clinicians nationwide, and focus on reducing supervision and certification requirements so that practitioners can be hired quickly and perform work to the fullest extent of their licenses.
- Food and Drug Administration
  - FDA issued the second [emergency use authorization](#) (EUA) to decontaminate compatible N95 or N95-equivalent respirators for reuse by healthcare workers in hospital settings. This EUA will support decontamination of approximately 750,000 N95 respirators per day in the U.S.
  - FDA issued an [emergency use authorization](#) for a blood purification system to treat patients 18 years of age or older with confirmed COVID-19 admitted to the intensive care unit (ICU) with confirmed or imminent respiratory failure.
  - FDA issued [guidance](#) to communicate its policy for the temporary use of certain gas containers for oxygen and nitrogen intended for medical use for the duration of the COVID-19 outbreak.
- National Institutes of Health
  - NIH launched a [clinical trial](#) of the anti-malaria drug, hydroxychloroquine, that President Trump has touted as a possible 'game changer' in the fight against the coronavirus.
- Federal Communications Commission
  - FCC [announced](#) that its Wireline Competition Bureau will begin accepting applications for \$200 million in funding through the COVID-19 Telehealth Program beginning on Monday, April 13, 2020 at 12:00 PM ET. These funds, appropriated by the CARES Act, will help healthcare providers purchase the connectivity and devices they need to care for patients remotely in response to COVID-19.

### **Articles of Interest**

- 4/9 Politico published an article titled, "[‘Surprise’ billing fix could hitch ride on next coronavirus relief bill.](#)"
- 4/9 MedPage Today published an article titled, "[Heart Groups: Clear Risks With HCQ for COVID-19 — AHA/ACC/HRS caution on malaria drug plus antibiotic.](#)"
- 4/9 The Associated Press published an article titled, "[‘Outcry over racial data grows as virus slams black Americans.’](#)"
- 4/9 The Hill published an article titled, "[Trump downplays need for widespread testing before reopening economy.](#)"
- 4/10 The Hill published an article titled, "[Surgeon General: Most of US won't be ready to open by May 1.](#)"
- 4/10 The Atlantic published an article titled, "[The Pandemic Will Cleave America in Two.](#)"

## LABOR UPDATE

### ***Congressional***

- Sen. Murray (D-WA) and Rep. DeLauro (D-CT) sent a [letter](#) to DOL Secretary Scalia urging him to use the \$15,000,000 provided in the CARES Act to protect workers exposed to health and safety risks associated with COVID-19 as they deliver healthcare services, provide transportation services, and make available other essential services the public requires, and to implement new paid leave rights.

## 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.*