



DAILY COVID-19 UPDATE

April 13, 2020

WHAT HAPPENED TODAY

A Congressional stalemate over Republican's small business aid bill continued through the weekend. On Saturday, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) and House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-CA) stated, "Republicans reject Democrats' reckless threat to continue blocking job-saving funding unless we re-negotiate unrelated programs which are not in similar peril." In response, Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) and Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) issued a joint statement this morning indicating they will not agree to the Trump administration's insistence on more money for small business loans unless their demands are met for additional funding for hospitals, state and local governments, and food stamp recipients.

Moreover, Members were advised today the House is not expected to meet prior to Monday, May 4, 2020.

Since our last update, the Department of Health and Human Services and 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 Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-CA) and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) issued a [statement](#) regarding the urgent need to replenish the Paycheck Protection Program portion of the CARES Act.

- House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) and Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) issued a [statement](#) on Democrats' urgent priorities for small businesses, families and working Americans in an interim emergency coronavirus relief package.

Administration

- Treasury
 - Today, the U.S. Department of the Treasury [launched](#) a web portal to allow eligible State, local, and tribal governments to receive payments to help offset the costs of their response to the coronavirus pandemic.
 - On Friday, U.S. Treasury Secretary Steven T. Mnuchin [announced certain details](#) of the Payroll Support Program under the CARES Act. After consultation with the Secretary of Transportation and Treasury's outside financial and legal advisors, Secretary Mnuchin has determined that as a result of benefits to the public—including but not limited to maintaining needed air service, refraining from involuntary furloughs, and limiting share buyback and executive compensation—Treasury will not require passenger air carriers that will receive \$100 million of payroll assistance or less to provide financial instruments as appropriate compensation. As such, for passenger air carriers with payroll support payments up to \$100 million, funds will be available promptly upon approval of their applications. The majority of these requests seek less than \$10 million.
 - This week, the U.S. Department of the Treasury and IRS [will launch](#) the “Get My Payment” web application. The FREE app—which will be found at IRS.gov—will allow taxpayers who filed their tax return in 2018 or 2019 but did not provide their banking information on their return to submit direct deposit information.
- Internal Revenue Service (IRS)
 - The Internal Revenue Service [reminds](#) taxpayers they have several options to schedule and pay federal taxes electronically that are due on July 15. Taxpayers with payments scheduled for April 15 also have a midnight Monday deadline to reschedule payments.
 - The IRS is committed to helping you get your Economic Impact Payment as soon as possible. The payments, also referred to by some as stimulus payments, are automatic for most taxpayers. No further action is needed by taxpayers who filed tax returns in 2018 and 2019 and most seniors and retirees. Click [here](#) for more details.
- Social Security Administration
 - Social Security Administration Commissioner Andrew Saul authored [a blog piece](#) on the new guidance about COVID-19 Economic Impact Payments.
- Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC)
 - The Commodity Futures Trading Commission Friday [announced](#) that it has voted to extend certain currently-open comment periods in light of the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic. The extensions encompass rules proposed by the Division of Market Oversight (DMO) for which current comment periods started in January and February of 2020.

Articles of Interest

- 4/13 The Hill published an article titled, [“Trump claims he, not governors, has authority on opening state economies.”](#)
- 4/13 Bloomberg published an article titled, [“Three Areas Economists Are Watching to Gauge Recovery's Strength.”](#)

- 4/12 Politico published an article titled, "[White House still has no road map for restarting the economy.](#)"
- 4/12 The Hill published an article titled, "[Coronavirus mortgage relief poses risk to housing industry.](#)"
- 4/10 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, "[This Year's Stress Test For Big Banks Is Real: the Coronavirus Pandemic.](#)"

PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

Congressional

- Democratic Reps. Pallone, Neal, and Scott, along with Sens. Wyden and Senate Murray sent a [letter](#) to HHS Secretary Azar, Treasury Secretary Mnuchin, and Labor Secretary Scalia asking them to make it as easy as possible for Americans to access comprehensive care through the Affordable Care Act's marketplaces.
- **House**
 - Speaker Pelosi and Senate Minority Leader Schumer issued a [joint statement](#) on Democrats' urgent priorities for small businesses, families and working Americans in an interim emergency coronavirus relief package.
 - Speaker Pelosi's office issued a [document](#) titled, "Talking Points: Democrats Seek to Pass Interim Emergency Relief to Protect the Lives and Livelihoods of the American People." Among other things, the document notes the importance of ensuring that healthcare workers on the frontlines of the crisis are protected and that we address the "dire shortages of personal protective equipment, ventilators, and other medical supplies."
- **Senate**
 - The Senate Republican Policy Committee (RPC) released a [policy paper](#) titled, "Health Care Support in Coronavirus Legislation."

Administration

- Health and Human Services
 - HHS' Office for Human Research Protections (OHRP) issued [guidance](#) on COVID-19 for investigators, institutional review boards, and institutions conducting human subjects research during the coronavirus pandemic.
- Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
 - CMS, DOL, and the Department of Treasury issued [guidance](#) to ensure Americans with private health insurance have coverage of COVID-19 diagnostic testing and certain other related services, including antibody testing, at no cost.
- Food and Drug Administration
 - FDA issued an [emergency use authorization](#) (EUA) that has the potential to decontaminate approximately 4 million N95 or N95-equivalent respirators per day in the U.S. for reuse by health care workers in hospital settings.
- National Institutes of Health
 - NIH begins recruiting for a [new study](#) to determine how many adults in the U.S., without a confirmed history of infection with SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, have antibodies to the virus.
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
 - CDC published a [study](#) in its Emerging Infectious Diseases journal titled, "Aerosol and Surface Distribution of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 in Hospital Wards, Wuhan, China, 2020." The study found the

virus can travel through the air at least 13 feet, more than twice the social distancing guidelines, and also travel on shoes.

Articles of Interest

- 4/11 Reuters published an article titled, "[WHO is investigating reports of recovered COVID patients testing positive again.](#)"
- 4/11 The New York Times published an article titled, "[He Could Have Seen What Was Coming: Behind Trump's Failure on the Virus.](#)"
- 4/12 Politico published an article titled, "[U.S. still falling short on accurate testing, FDA chief says.](#)"
- 4/12 Politico published an article titled, "[Governors, health experts push back on Trump's goal to reopen economy in May.](#)"
- 4/12 NBC News published an article titled, "[Despite encouraging signs, coronavirus is 'advancing' worldwide, WHO envoy warns.](#)"
- 4/13 The Hill published an article titled, "[WHO: 70 coronavirus vaccines are in development globally.](#)"
- 4/13 International Business Times published an article titled, "[Coronavirus Transmission Distance Is 13 Feet, Spreads Through Shoes: CDC Report.](#)"

LABOR UPDATE

Congressional

- Senate
 - The Senate Republican Policy Committee (RPC) released a [policy paper](#) outlining coronavirus response resources for families and workers provided by Congress. This includes information about paid sick and family leave as well as unemployment insurance.

Administration

- Department of Labor
 - DOL released [guidance](#) to implement the new Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation program (PEUC) included in the CARES Act. PEUC provides up to 13 additional weeks of benefits to individuals who have exhausted their regular unemployment benefits and also provides funding to states to administer the program.
 - DOL is [soliciting comments](#) concerning a proposed extension of the information collection request (ICR) titled, "Paid Leave under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act."
 - DOL's Employment and Training Administration (ETA) [announced](#) the publication of Unemployment Insurance Program Letter (UIPL) [17-20](#), which provides further guidance to states as they implement the CARES Act, including the Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC) program.
 - DOL's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) issued [interim guidance](#) for enforcing OSHA's recordkeeping requirements (29 CFR Part 1904) as it relates to recording cases of COVID-19.

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.