



## DAILY COVID-19 UPDATE

April 14, 2020

### WHAT HAPPENED TODAY

While some press reports have indicated Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) and Treasury Secretary Mnuchin could reach a deal this week on an interim coronavirus relief bill, there does not appear to be any progress in those negotiations as of today. In fact, the White House and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) continue to be aligned on efforts to replenish the Paycheck Protection Program while dealing with other issues in a later bill.

Along those lines, Members were advised today the Senate is not expected to meet prior to Monday, May 4, 2020. Yesterday, the House also indicated they will return to D.C. before May 4.

Since our last update, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, Treasury, and the Food and Drug Administration 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](#)
- [Federal Reserve Lending Facilities Deck](#)

### ECONOMIC UPDATE

#### **Congressional**

- **House**
  - Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) published a [Dear Colleague](#) on urging the Federal Reserve to include nonprofits and universities in the CARES Act lending facilities.
  - In a [letter](#) led by Oversight and Reform Committee Chairwoman Carolyn Maloney (D-NY) and Financial Services Committee Chairwoman Maxine Waters (D-CA), House Democrats requested a briefing from Federal Deposit

Insurance Corporation (FDIC) Chairman Jelena McWilliams on the FDIC's preparedness for a financial crisis.

- **Senate**

- Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) issued a [statement](#) today regarding the upcoming Senate schedule and the need for additional action regarding the Paycheck Protection Program portion of the CARES Act. The situation is fluid but as of now, the Senate is not expected to be in session until May 4 at the earliest.
- The Republican Policy Committee published a [paper](#) on sustaining the Paycheck Protection Program.
- Senator Rubio (R-FL) published [information](#) on the PPP.

### **Administration**

- Treasury
  - Treasury updated its [PPP FAQs](#). Questions 22-28 are new.
  - Please find attached the [Interim Final Rule](#) containing additional eligibility criteria and requirements for certain pledges of loans.
  - Treasury issued a [press release](#) on the G7 finance ministers and central bank governors' virtual meeting. Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors met virtually today to reaffirm their close coordination to fight the pandemic and mitigate its impacts, including by enacting wide-ranging health, economic, and financial stability measures in their respective countries. Ministers and Governors reiterated their pledge to do whatever is necessary to restore economic growth and protect jobs, businesses, and the resilience of the financial system.
  - Treasury issued a [press release](#) that millions of Americans are starting to see Economic Impact Payments deposited directly in their bank accounts. The U.S. Department of the Treasury and IRS expect tens of millions of Americans will receive their payments via direct deposit by Wednesday, April 15.
- Internal Revenue Service (IRS)
  - The Internal Revenue Service and its Security Summit partners today [urged](#) tax professionals to take additional security steps immediately to protect taxpayer data as more practitioners telework and security risks increase.
- Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB)
  - Yesterday, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (Bureau) [took steps to make it easier](#) for consumers to receive pandemic-relief payments, including the economic impact payments authorized in the CARES Act, through prepaid accounts. Federal, State, and local governments are considering a variety of approaches to providing consumers relief from the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Financial Stability Board
  - Please see attached [letter](#) from Financial Stability Board Chairman Randal K. Quarles to the G20 finance ministers and central bank governors about the COVID-19 crisis.

### **Articles of Interest**

- 4/14 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, "[Small-Business Funding Dispute Challenges Community Lenders.](#)"
- 4/13 The Washington Post published an article titled, "[White House aides, outside groups launch effort to reopen economy, but Mnuchin says decision poses risks.](#)"
- 4/13 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, "[The Coronavirus Economic Reopening Will Be Fragile, Partial and Slow.](#)"

- 4/13 The New York Times published an article titled, "[Economic Pain Will Persist Long After Lockdowns End.](#)"
- 4/13 Reuters published an article titled, "[New York Fed says it will reduce frequency of repo operations.](#)"

## PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

### ***Congressional***

#### • **House**

- Reps. Engel and Upton lead over 180 House members in [urging](#) the Trump Administration to temporarily allow seniors to receive lifesaving drug infusions in their homes to prevent unnecessary trips to hospitals, which could potentially expose them to COVID-19.
- Speaker Pelosi's office issued a [document](#) titled, "Talking Points: With Bipartisan Support from Across America, Democrats Seek to Pass Interim Funding Bill for Underserved Small Businesses and Families."
- Ways and Means Republicans published a [Coronavirus Bulletin](#) titled, "Update: More Questions Answered on the Public Health and Social Service Emergency Fund."
- Ways and Means Republicans published a [blog post](#) titled, "Hope in Crisis: Neighbors Helping Neighbors."
- 121 members sent a [letter](#) to Speaker Pelosi and House Minority Leader McCarthy urging funding for community health centers in the next coronavirus relief package.

#### • **Senate**

- Senators Capito, Klobuchar and Casey introduced [legislation](#) to enhance telehealth support for seniors and increase access to technology for "virtual visits" during the coronavirus pandemic.
- Democratic Sens. Schumer, Murray, and Wyden sent a [letter](#) to HHS Secretary Azar urging the Trump administration to allocate the remaining \$70 billion of the \$100 billion provider relief enacted in the CARES Act are quickly and efficiently allocated to places hardest hit by COVID-19.
- Sen. Daines sent a [letter](#) to President Trump urging him to take steps to strengthen and secure the medical and pharmaceutical supply chain in the U.S.

### ***Administration***

#### • **Health and Human Services**

- HHS will [collaborate](#) with multiple non-government organizations on the development of convalescent plasma and hyperimmune globulin immunotherapies. These treatments would use antibodies against SARS-CoV-2 from COVID-19 survivors and are intended to stimulate the immune systems of people currently ill from the virus.
- HHS' issued an [amendment to declaration](#) under the Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness Act for Medical Countermeasures against COVID-19, regarding respiratory protective devices and covered countermeasures.
- HHS [announced](#) five new contracts for ventilator production rated under the Defense Production Act (DPA), to General Electric, Hill-Rom, Medtronic, ResMed, and Vyair, as well as two other contracts for ventilator production, to Hamilton and Zoll. HHS has finalized contracts to supply 6,190 ventilators for

the Strategic National Stockpile by May 8 and 29,510 by June 1. The seven new ventilator contracts announced by HHS this month will provide a total of 137,431 ventilators by the end of 2020.

- Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
  - CMS issued [guidance](#) for transferring or discharging residents between skilled nursing facilities and/or nursing facilities for the purposes of cohorting residents based on COVID-19 status (i.e., positive, negative, unknown/under observation).
  - CMS [announced](#) the postponement of the 2019 benefit year HHS Risk Adjustment Data Validation (HHS-RADV) process. This action will allow individual and small group health insurance issuers and providers to focus on the health and safety threats currently faced by enrollees, participants, and other impacted individuals due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
  - CMS released additional guidance to states on the Families First Coronavirus Response Act and the CARES Act. The [Frequently Asked Questions](#) (FAQs) address enhanced federal Medicaid funding and other topics during the COVID-19 national emergency.
  - CMS has approved 50 [emergency waivers](#), 28 [state amendments](#), 9 COVID-related Medicaid Disaster Amendments and one CHIP COVID-related Disaster Amendment in record time.
- Food and Drug Administration
  - FDA published [product-specific guidances](#) (PSGs) to support generic drug development for chloroquine phosphate and hydroxychloroquine sulfate given the anticipated increase in demand to ensure that adequate supply of these drug products is available for patients.
  - FDA issued a Consumer Update: [How You Can Make a Difference During the Coronavirus Pandemic](#). It explains ways to help, such as donating blood, protecting yourself and others, saving protective equipment for front line workers and reporting fraudulent products to the agency.
  - FDA issued an [Emergency Use Authorization](#) (EUA) for the emergency use of the Perfusor Space Syringe Infusion Pump System, Infusomat Space Volumetric Infusion Pump System, and Outlook ES (“B. Braun Space and Outlook Pumps”) for use in the tracheal delivery of continuous nebulized medications into a nebulizer to treat patients of all ages with or suspected of having COVID-19 and decrease the exposure of healthcare providers to such patients during the COVID-19 pandemic.
  - FDA issued an [Emergency Use Authorization](#) (EUA) to Advanced Sterilization Products, Inc. (ASP) for the ASP STERRAD Sterilization Systems that has the potential to [decontaminate approximately 4 million compatible N95 or N95-equivalent respirators](#) per day in the U.S. for single-user reuse by health care workers in hospital settings. This authorization is intended to help increase the availability of respirators so health care workers on the front lines can be better protected and provide the best care to patients with COVID-19.

### **Articles of Interest**

- 4/14 The Atlantic published an article titled, [“Our Pandemic Summer.”](#)
- 4/14 The Hill published an article titled, [“COVID-19 fatality rates vary widely, leaving questions for scientists.”](#)
- 4/14 CNN published an article titled, [“Why positioning Covid-19 patients on their stomachs can save lives.”](#)

- 4/13 Daily Mail published an article titled, "[Coronavirus is TEN TIMES deadlier than the 2009 swine flu pandemic which killed 200,000, WHO reveals as it stresses a vaccine will be needed to fully halt transmission.](#)"
- 4/13 CNBC published an article titled, "[WHO officials say it's unclear whether recovered coronavirus patients are immune to second infection.](#)"
- 4/13 NBC published an article titled, "[Swift coronavirus testing needed before reopening country, CDC director says.](#)"

## LABOR UPDATE

### ***Congressional***

- The Office of Congressional Workplace Rights published a [document](#) titled, "Families First Coronavirus Response Act: Questions & Answers." It provides answers to frequently asked questions about paid sick leave and expanded family and medical leave.
- **Senate**
  - 34 Democratic Senators sent a [letter](#) to DOL Secretary Scalia regarding the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance Program and urging the Department to issue additional guidance.

### ***Administration***

- Department of Labor
  - DOL's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) [announced](#) an interim enforcement response [plan](#) with instructions and guidance to OSHA Area Offices and compliance safety and health officers (CSHOs) for handling coronavirus-related complaints, referrals, and severe illness reports.
  - DOL published a [list](#) of resources related to the coronavirus pandemic, including statements, guidance, and other helpful documents.

## 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.*