



DAILY COVID-19 UPDATE

April 15, 2020

WHAT HAPPENED TODAY

Yesterday evening, President Trump announced a group of executives, economists, scholars, and industry leaders who together will form various Great American Economic Revival Industry Groups. Major corporate executives are being asked to advise the president on how to revive the economy after the crisis – and the President was set to speak with more than 200 business leaders across all sectors of the economy in a series of phone calls today.

Meanwhile, Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) continued discussions with Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin today, and a meeting has been scheduled with their staff – the first public sign of potentially replenishing the Paycheck Protection Program.

But Democratic leadership remains at odds with Senate Republicans and the Administration. Republicans want to limit action and add \$250 billion now, whereas Democrats want another \$250 billion for state and local governments and hospitals, among other items. However, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) reiterated her claims today and stated, "As has been clear since last week, Republicans' bill which fails to address these critical issues cannot get unanimous consent in the House."

Reportedly, existing PPP funding could be exhausted by the end of this week. The Senate is scheduled to hold a pro forma session tomorrow, which provides a window for any agreement to move through the upper chamber, while the House has its next session scheduled for Friday.

Since our last update, the Federal Reserve published an interim final rule, and the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) announced a joint initiative with the Federal Housing Finance Agency (FHFA). Additionally, in an attempt to reduce lag times for COVID-19 diagnoses and get a better sense of the scope of the pandemic, CMS announced that Medicare will increase its payments from \$51 to \$100 for private labs that have developed highly automated processes to increase testing capacity and achieve faster and more accurate results. 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) issued a [Dear Colleague](#) about the “truth of the coronavirus crisis.”
- Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) issued a [statement](#) on “President Trump Ordering His Name Printed on Stimulus Checks.”
- Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) issued a [statement](#) after President Trump announced he would halt funding to the World Health Organization (WHO).

Administration

• White House

- Yesterday, President Trump [announced](#) “many of the esteemed executives, economists, scholars, and industry leaders who together will form various Great American Economic Revival Industry Groups. These bipartisan groups of American leaders will work together with the White House to chart the path forward toward a future of unparalleled American prosperity.”

• Treasury

- U.S. Treasury Secretary Steven T. Mnuchin issued a [statement](#) on the Payroll Support Program for passenger air carriers.
- Today, on what would have been Tax Day, the U.S. Department of the Treasury and IRS [launched](#) the “Get My Payment” web application. The FREE app allows taxpayers who filed their tax return in 2018 or 2019 but did not provide their banking information on either return to submit direct deposit information. Once they do, they will get their Economic Impact Payments deposited directly in their bank accounts, instead of waiting for a check to arrive in the mail. “Get My Payment” also allows taxpayers to track the status of their payment.
- The Social Security Administration [announced](#) today that Supplemental Security Income (SSI) recipients will automatically receive their Economic Impact Payments directly to their bank accounts through direct deposit, Direct Express debit card, or by paper check, just as they would normally receive their SSI benefits. Treasury anticipates SSI recipients will receive these automatic payments no later than early May.

• Internal Revenue Service (IRS)

- The Internal Revenue Service, working in partnership with the Treasury Department and the Social Security Administration, [announced](#) today that recipients of Supplemental Security Income (SSI) will automatically receive automatic Economic Impact Payments.
- Working with the Treasury Department, the Internal Revenue Service today [unveiled](#) the new Get My Payment with features to let taxpayers

check on their Economic Impact Payment date and update direct deposit information.

- Federal Reserve
 - The federal banking agencies yesterday [issued an interim final rule](#) to temporarily defer real estate-related appraisals and evaluations under the agencies' interagency appraisal regulations. The Federal Reserve Board, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, and the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency are providing this temporary relief to allow regulated institutions to extend financing to creditworthy households and businesses quickly in the wake of the national emergency declared in connection with COVID-19.
- Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB)
 - Today, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) and the Federal Housing Finance Agency (FHFA) [announced](#) the Borrower Protection Program (the Program), a new joint initiative that enables CFPB and FHFA to share servicing information to protect borrowers during the coronavirus national emergency.
 - Yesterday, the federal banking agencies [issued](#) an interim final rule to temporarily defer real estate-related appraisals and evaluations under the agencies' interagency appraisal regulations. The Federal Reserve Board, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, and the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency are providing this temporary relief to allow regulated institutions to extend financing to creditworthy households and businesses quickly in the wake of the national emergency declared in connection with COVID-19.
- Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC)
 - CFTC unanimously [approved](#) 3 proposed rules and 2 final rules at April 14 Open Meeting. On Friday, April 10, the Commission announced it voted to extend certain currently-open comment periods in light of the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic.

Articles of Interest

- 4/15 The Hill published an article titled, [“Hoyer: House eyeing possible Friday vote on next coronavirus bill.”](#)
- 4/15 Politico published an article titled, [“How Trump’s reopening plans could collide with reality.”](#)
- 4/14 The Washington Post published an article titled, [“CDC, FEMA have created a plan to reopen America. Here’s what it says.”](#)
- 4/14 The Washington Post published an article titled, [“In unprecedented move, Treasury orders Trump’s name printed on stimulus checks.”](#)
- 4/14 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, [“A Second Round of Coronavirus Layoffs Has Begun. Few Are Safe.”](#)
- 4/14 The Hill published an article titled, [“Business tax provisions in coronavirus relief law spark controversy.”](#)
- 4/14 CNBC published an article titled, [“US airlines, Treasury Department reach agreement billions in aid.”](#)

PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

Congressional

• House

- Speaker Pelosi issued a [statement](#) after President Trump announced he would halt funding to the World Health Organization (WHO) during the coronavirus pandemic.
- In a Dear Colleague [letter](#), Speaker Pelosi accused Trump of undermining the country's ability to battle a global pandemic by dismantling certain public health offices and then deceiving the public about the administration's progress in the fight.
- Speaker Nancy Pelosi joined Chris Hayes on MSNBC's All In with Chris Hayes for an [interview](#) discussing the latest in the ongoing efforts to respond to the coronavirus pandemic.
- Ways and Means Republicans published a [Coronavirus Bulletin](#) titled, "More Help to Boost Testing On its Way."
- Reps. Pallone and DeGette sent a [letter](#) to HHS Secretary Azar expressing their escalating concerns with the Trump Administration's commitment to the independence of the agency's Office of Inspector General (OIG). They also wrote that they expect HHS to continue cooperating fully with OIG's audits and investigations.
- Reps. Scott, Horsford, and Dingell introduced [legislation](#) that would cover 15 months of health premium payments for workers who are unemployed or furloughed during the COVID-19 pandemic. Workers would be eligible for the benefit if they are affected by the crisis, starting March 1 and ending six months after the public health emergency.

• Senate

- Sen. Warren introduced [legislation](#) that would require HHS to collect and report racial and other demographic data on COVID-19 testing, treatment, and fatality rates, and provide a summary of the final statistics and a report to Congress within 60 days after the end of the public health emergency. It would also require HHS to use all available surveillance systems to post daily updates on the CDC website showing data on testing, treatment, and fatalities, disaggregated by race, ethnicity, sex, age, socioeconomic status, disability status, county, and other demographic information.
- Sen. Markey introduced [legislation](#) that would ensure that Directors of the national research institutes and officials such as Dr. Fauci are removable only for malfeasance, neglect of office, or incapacity – not for having differing views on policy or expressing positions that are politically inconvenient.

Administration

• White House

- The White House released a [fact sheet](#) titled, "President Donald J. Trump Is Demanding Accountability From the World Health Organization."
- The White House released a [fact sheet](#) titled, "President Donald J. Trump Has Led A Historic Mobilization To Combat The Coronavirus." It focuses on personal protective equipment, ventilators, and hydroxychloroquine.
- [Remarks](#) by President Trump in a meeting with healthcare executives on Tuesday.

• Health and Human Services

- HHS, through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), [awarded](#) \$90 million for Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program recipients

across the country to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the coronavirus pandemic.

- Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
 - CMS [announced](#) Medicare will nearly double payment for certain lab tests that use high-throughput technologies to rapidly diagnose large numbers of COVID-19 cases.
- National Institutes of Health
 - NIH researchers conducted a [study](#) and found that N95 respirators can be decontaminated effectively and maintain functional integrity for up to three uses.
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
 - CDC [released](#) a Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report titled, "Characteristics of Health Care Personnel with COVID-19." The report found that 10-20% of U.S. coronavirus cases are healthcare workers.
 - CDC [released](#) a Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR) titled, Timing of Community Mitigation and Changes in Reported COVID-19 and Community Mobility — Four U.S. Metropolitan Areas."
- Food and Drug Administration
 - FDA and the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) issued [warning letters](#) to three sellers of fraudulent COVID-19 products, as part of the agency's effort to protect both people and pets.

Articles of Interest

- 4/14 The Hill published an article titled, ["Trump announces new initiative for hospitals to lend unused ventilators to areas of need."](#)
- 4/14 Politico published an article titled, ["Trump halts funding to World Health Organization."](#)
- 4/14 The Hill published an article titled, ["8 in 10 would wait to resume activities after government lifts coronavirus restrictions: poll."](#)
- 4/14 Bloomberg published an article titled, ["Harvard Researchers Say Some Social Distancing May Be Needed Into 2022."](#)
- 4/14 The Washington Post published an article titled, ["CDC, FEMA have created a plan to reopen America. Here's what it says."](#)
- 4/14 The New York Times published an article titled, ["Trump Announces His 'Opening the Country' Council."](#)

LABOR UPDATE

Administration

- Department of Labor
 - DOL [announced](#) the availability of \$73 million in State Apprenticeship Expansion Grants aimed at expanding apprenticeships throughout the country.
 - DOL [announced](#) the availability of up to \$91.8 million in grant funding to support the economic stability of farmworkers through the National Farmworker Jobs Program (NFJP).

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.