



DAILY COVID-19 UPDATE

April 16, 2020

WHAT HAPPENED TODAY

Today, the White House invited a bipartisan, bicameral group of [lawmakers](#) to join a task force to advise President Trump on when and how to reopen the U.S. economy. President Trump is expected to hold a news conference today at 6:00 p.m. ET to unveil guidelines for states to gradually relax social distancing restrictions while simultaneously reopening businesses.

Meanwhile, on the Senate floor this afternoon, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) said "absolutely no progress" has been made regarding the replenishing of the Paycheck Protection Program. The program exhausted its \$350 billion funding capacity this morning. Nonetheless, Congressional Democrats continued their talks with the Trump administration today on whether a deal can be reached that can pass Congress unanimously.

Notably, in a press call yesterday, CMS Administrator Verma told reporters that the department will be [distributing](#) the next tranche of the \$100 billion emergency fund to medical providers this week. While she declined to provide details around how much funding will be distributed, she did mention that hospitals in coronavirus hotspots as well as practices suffering financially as a result of cancelled elective surgeries will be prioritized.

Since our last update, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) published a final rule. 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

- Financial Services Committee Chairwoman Maxine Waters (D-CA) and Banking Committee Ranking Member Sherrod Brown (D-OH) [sent a letter](#) to Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin urging them to ensure the stability of the housing market in the face of the Coronavirus pandemic.
- House Ways and Means Republican Leader Kevin Brady (R-TX) [joined NBC](#) to talk about the importance of replenishing the Paycheck Protection Program in order to support America's small businesses and their workers.
- Rules Committee Chairman James P. McGovern (D-MA) [released a statement](#) on his presentation to the Democratic Caucus today recommending rules changes that would temporarily implement remote voting during the coronavirus pandemic.

• Senate

- This afternoon, Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) [delivered the following remarks](#) on the Senate floor regarding the need for additional action regarding the Paycheck Protection Program portion of the CARES Act.
- Yesterday, Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) and House Republican Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-CA) issued a [statement](#) regarding the urgent need to replenish the Paycheck Protection Program portion of the CARES Act.
- Banking Committee Ranking Member Sherrod Brown (D-OH) and Senator Elizabeth Warren (D-MA) today [sent letters](#) to banks and credit unions, through their trade organizations the American Bankers Association, Bank Policy Institute, Consumer Bankers Association, Independent Community Bankers of America, National Association of Federally-Insured Credit Unions, and the Credit Union National Association, urging them to cease the seizure of CARES act stimulus payments from hardworking American families.

Administration

• Federal Reserve

- The Federal Reserve today [announced](#) that its Paycheck Protection Program Liquidity Facility is fully operational and available to provide liquidity to eligible financial institutions, which will help support small businesses.
- Treasury
 - U.S. Treasury Secretary Steven T. Mnuchin [issued](#) a Joint IMFC and Development Committee Statement.
 - Yesterday, U.S. Treasury Secretary Steven T. Mnuchin and Small Business Administration (SBA) Administrator Jovita Carranza [issued a statement](#) regarding the Paycheck Protection Program and Economic Injury Disaster Loan Program.
- Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB)
 - The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (Bureau) [issued a final rule](#) raising the loan-volume coverage thresholds for financial institutions reporting data under the Home Mortgage Reporting

Act (HMDA). The Bureau recognizes the operational challenges confronted by institutions due to the current COVID-19 pandemic. The Bureau anticipates that this final rule, once effective, will reduce regulatory burden on smaller institutions to help those institutions to focus on responding to consumers in need now and in the longer term.

- [Final Rule](#)
- [Summary of Final Rule](#)

Articles of Interest

- 4/16 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, "[Trump Set to Unveil Guidelines for Lifting Coronavirus Restrictions.](#)"
- 4/16 Politico published an article titled, "[Small business rescue funds depleted with Congress deadlocked.](#)"
- 4/16 The Washington Post published an article titled, "[U.S. now has 22 million unemployed, wiping out a decade of job gains.](#)"
- 4/16 The New York Times published an article titled, "[Some Banks Keep Customers' Stimulus Checks if Accounts Are Overdrawn.](#)"
- 4/15 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, "[Business Leaders Urge Trump to Dramatically Increase Coronavirus Testing.](#)"
- 4/15 The New York Times published an article titled, "[Fed Faces Calls for Bailout Transparency from New Oversight Commission.](#)"
- 4/15 Politico published an article titled, "[IRS launches second web tool to expedite stimulus payments.](#)"

PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

Congressional

- **House**
 - Reps. Pappas and McBath led freshman House members of Congress in a [letter](#) to Speaker Pelosi and Minority Leader McCarthy, imploring them to guarantee that patients will be able to maintain an adequate supply of their medications during the COVID-19 pandemic and urging action on prescription drug access and affordability in upcoming aid legislation.
- **Senate**
 - Senate Finance Committee Ranking Member Ron Wyden, along with 11 Democratic members of the Senate Finance Committee sent a [letter](#) to HHS Secretary Azar calling on the Trump administration to distribute the remaining \$70 billion in the provider fund in an equitable and transparent way. The senators also noted the distribution of the first \$30 billion dollars failed to deliver funds to where they are needed most.
 - Sens. Grassley and Cassidy penned an [op-ed](#) in the Daily Caller titled, "An Ounce Of Coronavirus Prevention Is Worth A Pound Of Cure."
 - Sen. Alexander issued a statement on COVID-19 testing saying and reopening the country. He said, "Without more tests with quick results, it will be difficult to contain this disease and give Americans confidence to go back to work and back to school."
 - Sen. Murray released a [white paper](#) titled, "The Democratic COVID-19 Response: A Roadmap to Reopening By Ensuring a Speedy and Ubiquitous

Lab Testing System (RESULTS)." It outlines Democrats proposals to expand COVID-19 testing capacity across the country.

- The Senate Democratic Policy & Communications Committee (DPCC), led by Sen. Stabenow, released a [report](#) titled, "U.S. Lags the World in Testing, Leads the World in COVID-19 Cases." The report calls out the Trump administration for being "drastically behind in testing compared to other countries."
- Sen. Cruz [announced](#) his intention to introduce two pieces of legislation when Congress returns to expand healthcare access and make testing more accessible and widely available.

Administration

- White House
 - The White House released a [fact sheet](#) titled, "President Donald J. Trump is Demanding Accountability from the World Health Organization."
- Health and Human Services
 - HHS [announced](#) a new contract for ventilator production rated under the Defense Production Act (DPA), to General Electric (GE), in partnership with Ford. GE's contract, at a total contract price of \$336 million, is for 50,000 ventilators to be produced by July 13.
 - The Office for Civil Rights (OCR) at HHS [announced](#) that it has resolved a complaint filed against the Pennsylvania Department of Health (PDH) after PDH revised its Interim Pennsylvania Crisis Standards of Care for Pandemic Guidelines (CSC Guidelines) to ensure that persons will not be discriminated against based on disability if providers in the state were to begin triaging life-saving health care services.
- Food and Drug Administration
 - FDA provided an [update](#) on one potential treatment called convalescent plasma and encouraged those who have recovered from COVID-19 to donate plasma to help others fight this disease.
 - FDA provided an [update](#) that the Department is continuing its user-fee related reviews during the coronavirus pandemic.
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
 - The CDC Foundation released a [series of communications resources](#), including graphics and animations, on COVID-19. Many materials are available in both English and Spanish.

Articles of Interest

- 4/15 Peterson-KFF Health System Tracker published an article titled, "[How health costs might change with COVID-19.](#)"
- 4/15 The Hill published an article titled, "[Health experts pushed to side at Trump briefings.](#)"
- 4/15 The Washington Post published an article titled, "[Chaotic search for coronavirus treatments undermines efforts, experts say.](#)"
- 4/15 CNN published an article titled, "[Trump told testing is key to reopening during business panel call.](#)"
- 4/16 NPR published an article titled, "[What's It Going To Take To End The Shutdown? 5 Keys To Containing Coronavirus.](#)"
- 4/16 The Hill published an article titled, "[Pelosi warns of deadly risks if country reopens too soon.](#)"
- 4/16 The New York Times published an article titled, "[W.H.O., Now Trump's Scapegoat, Warned About Coronavirus Early and Often.](#)"

- 4/16 The New York Times published an article titled, [“FEMA’s ‘Air Bridge’ to Coronavirus Hot Spots Leaves Other Regions on Their Own.”](#)

LABOR UPDATE

Administration

- Department of Labor
 - The Office of Inspector General for the DOL [released](#) the Department's Pandemic Response Oversight Plan.
 - DOL released its unemployment insurance weekly claims [report](#). 5.2 million Americans filed for unemployment benefits during the second week of April, raising the unemployment rate to 8.2%.
 - Labor Secretary Scalia issued a [statement](#) regarding Unemployment Insurance claims.
 - DOL [awarded](#) the first installment of 26 Dislocated Worker Grants (DWGs) totaling \$131,384,557 to help address the workforce-related impacts of the coronavirus public health emergency.

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.