



DAILY COVID-19 UPDATE

April 17, 2020

WHAT HAPPENED TODAY

While the PPP negotiations seem to be at a standstill, House Minority Leader McCarthy's [comments](#) in support of a Democratic proposal to add additional hospital funding to a \$250 billion relief package for small businesses could be an early sign of a deal coming together.

During yesterday's daily press conference, President Trump unveiled an 18-page, three-phase plan outlining guidelines for "[Opening Up America Again](#)", which defers to governors on when and how to ease their social distancing protocols.

Notably, the distribution of the second tranche of the \$100 billion emergency fund for hospitals appears to be on hold. Yesterday, HHS Secretary Azar told House Democrats it would take another week and a half to calculate how the funds will be distributed.

Since our last update, the Food and Drug Administration, the Department of Labor, and the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency 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***

- Yesterday, Financial Services Committee Chairwoman Maxine Waters (D-CA) sent a [letter](#) to Jerome Powell, Chair of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, urging him to address concerns regarding the implementation of programs and facilities authorized by the CARES Act.
- Ways and Means Republicans [posted](#) the Wall Street Journal Editorial Board's piece entitled, "No More Paycheck Protection" on its Coronavirus Bulletin page.
- **Senate**
 - Banking Committee Chairman Mike Crapo (R-ID) [sent two letters](#) to the U.S. Department of Treasury and Federal Reserve Board of Governors today on provisions under Title IV of the CARES Act. The [first letter](#) highlights the Committee's robust oversight role over Title IV of the CARES Act. The [second letter](#) urges action on several issues with respect to 13(3) emergency lending facilities announced recently, including the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) Loan Facility, Main Street Lending Facilities, TALF, Primary and Secondary Market Corporate Credit Facilities and the Municipal Lending Facility.
 - Banking Committee Ranking Member Sherrod Brown (D-OH), Senator Kamala Harris (D-CA), and Reps. Ayanna Pressley (D-MA) and Gregory Meeks (D-NY) yesterday [led](#) Democratic lawmakers in calling for the Small Business Administration (SBA) and Treasury Department to ensure that minority-owned businesses are not shut out of the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP).
 - The Senate Democratic Caucus sent a [letter](#) to Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin to allow state and local governments to use stabilization funds to fix state budget shortfalls. Currently, funds can only be used to reimburse for COVID-19 related expenses.
 - Banking Committee Ranking Member Sherrod Brown (D-OH) and Senator Cory Booker (D-NJ) today [urged](#) more than a dozen bank CEOs to temporarily ban charging customers burdensome bank overdraft fees during the coronavirus emergency.

Administration

- White House
 - The White House issued a [press release](#) entitled, "President Donald J. Trump Announces Guidelines for Opening Up America Again." Yesterday, President Trump [convened](#) two bipartisan dialogues with Members of the Opening Up America Again Congressional Group to discuss the next chapter of the COVID-19 recovery. Then, President Trump presented his [guidelines](#) on the three phases of Opening Up America Again.
- Treasury
 - The Treasury Department updated its [FAQs](#) on Economic Impact Payments.
 - The Treasury Department updated its [FAQs](#) on Get My Payment.
 - The U.S. Department of the Treasury and IRS [announced](#) today that they are working directly with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to ensure Veterans and their beneficiaries who receive Compensation and

Pension (C&P) benefit payments will receive their Economic Impact Payments automatically and without additional paperwork.

- Today, the U.S. Treasury Secretary Steven T. Mnuchin and Small Business Administration (SBA) Administrator Jovita Carranza [issued](#) a statement regarding the success of the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP).
- Small Business Administration
 - The SBA [released](#) a state-by-state PPP lending update.

Articles of Interest

- 4/17 The Hill published an article titled, "[Millions wait for virus relief checks in major test for IRS.](#)"
- 4/17 The Hill published an article titled, "[Key senators negotiating potential deal to allow remote Senate hearings.](#)"
- 4/16 The New York Times published an article titled, "[Trump Says States Can Start Reopening While Acknowledging the Decision Is Theirs.](#)"
- 4/16 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, "[Mnuchin Under Growing Pressure to Help Struggling Mortgage Companies.](#)"
- 4/16 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, "[Fed's Williams Cites Improved Markets, Prospect of Extended Fed Economic Support.](#)"
- 4/16 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, "[Stimulus to Add Nearly \\$1.8 Trillion to U.S. Budget Deficit Over Decade, CBO Says.](#)"
- 4/16 Reuters published an article titled, "[Senator Warren takes Treasury, Fed to task over 'little oversight' of stimulus programs.](#)"
- 4/16 The Wall Street Journal Editorial Board published an opinion piece titled, "[No More Paycheck Protection.](#)"

PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

Congressional

- Reps. Pallone and Maloney as well as Sen. Murray sent a [letter](#) to HHS Secretary Azar urging the Department to lift its restrictions on fetal tissue use when it comes to federally supported research related to the coronavirus.
- **House**
 - The Office of Speaker Pelosi released a [document](#) titled, "Talking Points: Democrats Work to Provide Emergency Relief for Underserved Small Businesses in Rural and Urban Communities Across America."
 - Rep. DeLauro wrote in a [letter](#) to HHS Secretary Azar that the second wave of emergency funding for hospitals is on hold after CMS Administrator Verma suggested it would be distributed this week.
 - Reps. Wenstrup, Kind, Kelly, and Schneider sent a [letter](#) to HHS Secretary Azar and CMS Administrator Verma regarding lower Medicare accelerated and advance payment interest rates.
 - Rep. Arrington penned an [op-ed](#) in the Washington Examiner titled, "We must also flatten the curve of rural hospital closures."
- **Senate**
 - Sen. Durbin led eight Democratic senators in a [letter](#) to HHS Secretary Azar urging the Department to alter the formula for the next round of hospital funding.

- Sen. Lankford led 25 senators in a [letter](#) to HHS Secretary regarding Public Health and Social Services Emergency Fund support for nursing homes and skilled nursing centers.
- The Senate Democratic Caucus sent a [letter](#) to Majority Leader McConnell and Treasury Secretary Mnuchin urging them to include "robust, dedicated, and flexible funding to all units of state and local government in the next interim emergency coronavirus package to support their ongoing efforts in the fight against this pandemic."

Administration

- White House
 - President Donald J. Trump announced [guidelines](#) for opening up America again.
 - The White House released a [fact sheet](#) titled, "President Donald J. Trump Is Beginning the Next Phase In Our Fight Against Coronavirus: Guidelines for Opening Up America Again."
- Health and Human Services
 - HHS Secretary Azar issued a [statement](#) on NIH's new public-private partnership to develop a national strategy for COVID-19 therapies and vaccines.
- Food and Drug Administration
 - FDA [announced](#) a further expansion of COVID-19 testing options through the recognition that spun synthetic swabs – with a design similar to Q-tips – could be used to test patients by collecting a sample from the front of the nose. As part of this effort, UnitedHealth Group, Quantigen, and the Gates Foundation will be collaborating to perform and support the clinical studies necessary for this advancement. Additionally, U.S. Cotton will be manufacturing a new type of swab for COVID-19 testing that can be produced at scale.
 - FDA launched a [new webpage](#) to guide recovered COVID-19 patients to local blood or plasma collection centers to discuss their eligibility and potentially schedule an appointment to donate.
 - FDA issued a [guidance](#) for immediate implementation setting forth a temporary policy for outsourcing facilities to compound certain human drugs for hospitalized patients during the COVID-19 public health emergency. This guidance is being issued to provide patient access to treatment options for COVID-19 when hospitals experience difficulties accessing certain FDA-approved drugs.
 - FDA issued [guidance](#) to help expand the availability of telethermographic systems used for body temperature measurements for triage use for the duration of the public health emergency.
 - FDA added [content](#) to the question-and-answer appendix in its guidance titled "Conduct of Clinical Trials of Medical Products during COVID-19 Public Health Emergency."
 - FDA posted [tips](#) on [Shopping for Food During the COVID-19 Pandemic - Information for Consumers](#) and a downloadable PDF. These materials reassure consumers that there is currently no evidence of human or animal food or food packaging being associated with transmission of the coronavirus that causes COVID-19.
- National Institutes of Health
 - NIH and the Foundation for NIH [announced](#) plans underway to launch a public-private partnership, known as the Accelerating COVID-19 Therapeutic Interventions and Vaccines (ACTIV) partnership, with more than a dozen biopharmaceutical companies, HHS's Biomedical Advanced Research and

Development Authority, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Food and Drug Administration, and the European Medicines Agency, to develop a national strategy for a coordinated research response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Articles of Interest

- 4/16 Trust for America's Health published an article titled, "[The Impact of Chronic Underfunding on America's Public Health System: Trends, Risks and Recommendations, 2020.](#)"
- 4/16 CNN published an article titled, "[Trump completes reversal, telling govs 'you are going to call your own shots' and distributes new guidelines.](#)"
- 4/16 Stat published an article titled, "[Early peek at data on Gilead coronavirus drug suggests patients are responding to treatment.](#)"
- 4/16 Bloomberg published an article titled, "[These Are the Drugs and Vaccines That Might End the Coronavirus Pandemic.](#)"
- 4/17 Fierce Healthcare published an article titled, "[Healthcare leaders urge CMS, ONC to incentivize telehealth adoption as part of the 'new normal.'](#)"
- 4/17 KFF published an article titled, "[Data Note: 2020 Medical Loss Ratio Rebates.](#)"

LABOR UPDATE

Congressional

- Sen. Gillibrand, along with Reps. DeLauro and Pressley held a press call with the "Paid Leave for All" campaign to advocate for expanded paid leave provisions in the next coronavirus relief package.
- **Senate**
 - Sen. Gillibrand penned an [op-ed](#) in Time Magazine titled, "Now is the Time for a National Paid Sick Leave Policy."

Administration

- Department of Labor
 - DOL's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) issued [interim guidance](#) to advise compliance safety and health officers to evaluate an employer's good faith efforts to comply with safety and health standards during the coronavirus pandemic.
- Internal Revenue Service
 - The Internal Revenue Service posted [new Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#) regarding COVID-19-related tax credits for required paid sick and family leave provided by small and midsize businesses.

SUPPLY CHAIN/CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATE

Please click [here](#) to view a readout of today's DHS and FEMA COVID-19 Business and Infrastructure Partners Call.

Please click [here](#) to view a readout of yesterday's CISA COVID-19 call.

Administration

- The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA)
 - CISA released [Version 3.0 of the Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers Guidance](#). The guidance incorporates feedback received from a variety of industry stakeholders.

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.