



## DAILY COVID-19 UPDATE

April 20, 2020

### WHAT HAPPENED TODAY

Today, the Trump administration issued a [memorandum](#) to the heads of executive agencies on reopening the federal government and aligning federal agency operations with the national guidelines for [Opening Up America Again](#).

Congressional Democrats and the Trump administration are closing in on a deal on an interim coronavirus relief bill, which could include \$310 billion for the Paycheck Protection Program, \$50 to \$60 billion for a separate Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) program for businesses, \$75 billion for hospitals, and \$25 billion for virus testing, among other items. Things are still somewhat fluid, but a deal seems within reach.

Notably, the Senate is scheduled to hold a pro forma session tomorrow afternoon in hopes of passing the bill by unanimous consent. House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (D-MD) notified members over the weekend the chamber could return to Washington, D.C. as soon as Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. for a recorded vote on the legislation.

Since our last update, the Trump administration, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, the Treasury Department, and the Internal Revenue Service 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***

- Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (D-MD) issued a floor schedule [update](#) advising Members that pending agreement on interim legislation related to the coronavirus response and the Paycheck Protection Program, the House could meet as early as Wednesday, April 22, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. to consider that legislation.
- **Senate**
  - The Senate announced a pro forma session was added for Tuesday, April 21 at 4:00 p.m.
  - Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) delivered these [remarks](#) today on the Senate floor regarding the need for additional action regarding the Paycheck Protection Program portion of the CARES Act.
  - Senators Sherrod Brown (D-OH), Chris Van Hollen (D-MD), Elizabeth Warren (D-MA), and Chuck Schumer (D-NY) [sent a letter](#) to Federal Reserve (Fed) Chairman Jerome Powell “expressing serious concern with the arbitrary population thresholds used to determine eligibility for cities and counties to receive relief under the newly created Municipal Liquidity Facility program.”
  - Banking Committee Ranking Member Sherrod Brown (D-OH) and Senators Jack Reed (D-RI), Elizabeth Warren (D-MA), Brian Schatz (D-HI), and Tina Smith (D-MN) today [sent a letter](#) to Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin urging the Trump Administration to prioritize workers in CARES Act stimulus lending.

### **Administration**

- White House
  - President Trump issued an executive order which “temporarily extended deadlines for importers suffering significant financial hardship” due to the coronavirus pandemic.
- Federal Reserve
  - The Federal Reserve Board on Friday [announced](#) a rule change to bolster the effectiveness of the Small Business Administration's (SBA) Paycheck Protection Program (PPP). The change will temporarily modify the Board's rules so that certain bank directors and shareholders can apply for PPP loans for their small businesses.
- Treasury
  - The U.S. Department of the Treasury and Internal Revenue Service today [urged](#) social security, railroad retirement and veterans benefit recipients who have qualifying children and did not file a 2018 or 2019 tax return to go to the IRS Non-Filer tool by Wednesday, April 22, and enter basic information to receive the \$500 per eligible child added to their automatic \$1,200 Economic Impact Payment.
  - On Sunday, the Treasury Department and Customs and Border Protection issued a joint [Temporary Interim Final Rule](#) providing importers, who have faced a significant financial hardship due to the outbreak, with the option for a 90-day deferment period on the payment of duties, taxes, and fees.
- Internal Revenue Service (IRS)
  - The IRS published new [FAQs](#) on sick and family leave.
  - The IRS on Friday released a Rev. Proc. on qualified improvement property. The guidance can be accessed [here](#).
- U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)
  - U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue on Friday [announced](#) the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP). This new U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) program will take several actions to assist farmers, ranchers, and consumers in response to the COVID-19 national emergency.

President Trump directed USDA to craft this \$19 billion immediate relief program to provide critical support to our farmers and ranchers, maintain the integrity of our food supply chain, and ensure every American continues to receive and have access to the food they need.

### **Articles of Interest**

4/20 Politico published an article titled, "[The IRS is drowning in unopened tax refund requests amid pandemic.](#)"

4/19 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, "[Mnuchin, Democrats Say They Are Close on Small-Business Funding Agreement.](#)"

4/18 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, "[Spending Overseers Are Sidelined as Stimulus Checks Roll Out.](#)"

4/17 Roll Call published an article titled, "[Pelosi, McConnell name oversight board members.](#)"

## **PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE**

### **Congressional**

#### **• House**

- Ways and Means Republicans published a [blog post](#) titled, "CMS Takes Important Step to Help Patients Access Non-COVID-19-related Care."
- Reps. Maloney and Krishnamoorthi sent a [letter](#) to CMS Administrator Verma, demanding an explanation for whether CMS is continuing with a proposed rule to roll back nursing home protection and requested that the agency provide a briefing to their staff by April 24, 2020.
- The 50-member, bipartisan Problem Solvers Caucus released its [Reopening and Recovery "Back to Work" Checklist](#), a multi-prong, data driven proposal focused on reopening America safely and reigniting the economy.
- Rep. Neal sent a [letter](#) to CMS Administrator Verma expressing concern about the current situation facing residents of skilled nursing facilities (SNFs) during the COVID-19 crisis and urging the agency to take quick action to assist facilities in protecting their residents.
- Reps. Kennedy, Upton, and Blunt Rochester [introduced](#) the Modernized Medicine Act to temporarily increase Medicaid reimbursement rates during a declared emergency if a state expands their telehealth services.
- Reps. Malinowski and DeLauro [introduced](#) the Providing Protective Equipment (PPE) Act of 2020 to ensure that the United States has a properly stocked and maintained Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) to combat future health crises

#### **• Senate**

- Sens. Smith and Barrasso [announced](#) they will be introducing their bipartisan Rural health Relief Act, which would provide relief to rural hospitals amid the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic by making them eligible for the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) created through the CARES Act.
- Sen. Grassley sent a [letter](#) to HHS Secretary Azar and CMS Administrator Verma expressing concerns faced by healthcare providers such as long-term care facilities during the COVID-19 pandemic and urging the Department to respond directly and promptly to these challenges.

### **Administration**

- White House

- OMB Acting Director Vought and U.S. Office of Personnel Acting Director Rigas issued a [guidance memo](#) to the heads of executive agencies on aligning federal agency operations with President Trump's national guidelines for Opening Up America Again.
- Health and Human Services
  - The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) [expedited](#) its process to release emergency grants to strengthen access to treatments for substance use disorders and serious mental illnesses during the COVID-19 pandemic.
  - HHS [announced](#) an ongoing partnership with Oracle, including Oracle's donation to HHS of the Therapeutic Learning System, an online platform designed to collect real-time medical data related to COVID-19.
  - HHS issued a [notification of enforcement discretion](#) to inform the public that the Department is exercising its discretion in how it applies the Privacy, Security, and Breach Notification Rules under HIPAA. As a matter of enforcement discretion, the Office for Civil Rights (OCR) will not impose penalties for noncompliance with the regulatory requirements under the HIPAA rules against covered health care providers in connection with the good faith provision of telehealth during the COVID-19 nationwide public health emergency.
- Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
  - CMS issued new [recommendations](#) to re-open healthcare systems in areas with low Incidence of COVID-19.
  - CMS announced new [regulatory requirements](#) that will require nursing homes to: (1) inform residents, their families and representatives of COVID-19 cases in their facilities; (2) report cases of COVID-19 directly to the CDC; (3) fully cooperate with CDC surveillance efforts around COVID-19 spread.
- Food and Drug Administration
  - FDA provided a [coronavirus update](#) on serological test validation and education efforts.
- National Institutes of Health
  - NIH scientists conducted a [study](#) that supports clinical testing under way across U.S. They found that antiviral remdesivir prevents disease progression in monkeys with COVID-19.
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
  - CDC announced an [extension of an Order](#) issued March 20, 2020 under the Public Health Service Act that suspends the introduction of certain persons from countries where an outbreak of a communicable disease exists. The Order shall now remain in effect until 11:59 p.m. ET on May 20, 2020.

### **Articles of Interest**

- 4/18 The Hill published an article titled, "[Why contact tracers are key to unlocking economy.](#)"
- 4/19 The Hill published an article titled, "[Trump says he will use Defense Production Act to increase swabs for testing.](#)"
- 4/19 The Washington Post published an article titled, "[Dozens of coronavirus antibody tests on the market were never vetted by the FDA, leading to accuracy concerns.](#)"
- 4/20 Bloomberg published an article titled, "[Antibody Treatments May Be the Best Hope Against the Virus Until a Vaccine.](#)"
- 4/20 CNN published an article titled, "[How coronavirus testing fumbles squandered valuable time.](#)"

# LABOR UPDATE

## **Administration**

- Department of Labor
  - DOL [announced](#) the end of the temporary period of non-enforcement of paid leave protections under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA).
  - DOL [recapped](#) a range of actions it took last week to aid American workers and employers as our nation combats the coronavirus pandemic.

# 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.*