



## DAILY COVID-19 UPDATE

April 22, 2020

### WHAT HAPPENED TODAY

Yesterday evening, the Senate passed by voice vote [H.R. 266](#), the *Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act*. The \$484 billion interim coronavirus relief package will provide aid for small businesses and hospitals, and provides more funding for testing. The House will consider the measure tomorrow in regular session, and Speaker Pelosi has stated the legislation will pass with strong bipartisan support.

Notably, the House will no longer vote on a rule change related to allowing virtual committee hearings and remote voting by proxy during the coronavirus pandemic. Instead, the chamber will vote on the establishment of a bipartisan select committee to oversee the federal response to the COVID-19 outbreak.

In addition, HHS outlined details for how the department will be distributing the remaining \$70 billion emergency fund to medical providers in the coming weeks.

Since our last update, the Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, and HHS' Office of Inspector General published additional guidance. Please see below for more details.

### LATEST PMJ RESOURCES

- [COVID Legislative Update](#)
- [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 on the interim emergency package that aids small businesses, hospitals and health care workers.
- Financial Services Committee Chairwoman Maxine Waters (D-CA) [issued](#) a statement regarding the bipartisan agreement on legislation to provide \$370 billion in funding to assist small businesses struggling as a result of the coronavirus pandemic.
- Appropriations Committee Republicans [published](#) a one-pager on the Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act.
- Appropriations Committee Democrats [published](#) a one-pager on the Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act.
- Small Business Committee Democrats [published](#) a one-pager on the Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act.
- Financial Services Committee Democrats [published](#) a one-pager on the Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act.
- Ways and Means Republicans published a [bulletin](#) on the IRS' webinar for Main Street Businesses and Workers. This is a chance for the public to ask questions directly to the IRS about how relief payments from the CARES Act work, as well as a number of other topics regarding COVID-19. Click [here](#) to pre-register for the event.
- **Senate**
  - Banking Committee Sherrod Brown (D-OH) yesterday [supported](#) the Senate bill to provide additional funding for small businesses, hospitals and increased testing capacity. The bill was passed by unanimous consent and is expected to pass the House of Representatives this week.
  - Banking Committee Sherrod Brown (D-OH) and Senator Elizabeth Warren (D-MA) [led a letter](#) to major mortgage servicers urging them to immediately notify eligible homeowners of the foreclosure and forbearance protections available to homeowners experiencing a financial hardship that were included in the CARES Act.

### **Administration**

- Treasury
  - Treasury updated its [FAQs](#) regarding the Payroll Support to Air Carriers and Contractors.
- Congressional Budget Office (CBO)
  - The CBO [issued a cost estimate](#) for H.R. 266, the legislative vehicle for Paycheck Protection Program/COVID Relief.
- Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB)
  - The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (Bureau) [has released a video](#) outlining the steps that non-filers need to take in order to receive their economic impact payments authorized by the CARES Act.
  - Additionally, the Bureau published a [blog with FAQs](#) for consumers with details on the economic impact payments (stimulus payments).

### **Articles of Interest**

- 4/22 The Hill published an article titled, "[Mnuchin on coronavirus funding: 'We need to spend what it takes'.](#)"
- 4/21 The Washington Post published an article titled, "[Senate passes \\$484 billion bill that would expand small-business aid, boost money for hospitals and testing.](#)"

- 4/21 Morning Consult published an article titled, "[Rep. French Hill Taking Narrow Approach to Coronavirus Relief Oversight.](#)"
- 4/21 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, "[New York to Ease Coronavirus Rules by Region to Reopen State Economy.](#)"
- 4/21 Bloomberg published an article titled, "[Trump Says He'll Ask Bigger Companies to Return Emergency Loans.](#)"
- 4/21 Politico published an article titled, "[Another key SBA lending program jeopardized by bailout chaos.](#)"
- 4/21 Bloomberg published an article titled, "[Fed's \\$500 Billion Muni-Lending Plan Faces Hurdles in State Laws.](#)"
- 4/21 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, "[Americans Pulled Back From Home Purchases in March as Coronavirus Spread.](#)"

## PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

### ***Congressional***

- 150 lawmakers sent a [letter](#) to Speaker Pelosi, Senate Majority Leader McConnell, House Minority Leader McCarthy, and Senate Minority Leader Schumer regarding Medicaid maintenance of effort (MOE) provisions included in the Families First Coronavirus Response Act.
- **House**
  - Rep. Brady [discussed](#) the next round of COVID-19 relief on FOX News.
  - Speaker Pelosi penned a Dear Colleague [letter](#) on the interim coronavirus relief package.
  - Speaker Pelosi and Senate Democratic Leader Schumer held a media availability after the Senate passed the interim emergency coronavirus funding package. Click [here](#) for the Speaker's remarks.

### ***Administration***

- Health and Human Services
  - HHS [announced](#) additional allocations of the CARES Act Provider Relief Fund.
  - HHS through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) [awarded](#) nearly \$165 million to combat the COVID-19 pandemic in rural communities. These investments will support 1,779 small rural hospitals and provide additional funding to 14 HRSA-funded Telehealth Resource Centers (TRCs) to provide technical assistance on telehealth to help rural and underserved areas combat COVID-19.
- Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
  - CMS released additional [blanket waivers](#) related to care for patients in Long-Term Care Hospitals, temporary expansion locations of Rural Health Clinics and Federally Qualified Health Centers, staffing and training modifications in Intermediate Care Facilities for individuals with Intellectual disabilities, and the limit for substitute billing arrangements (locum tenens).
  - CMS and the Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT (ONC) in conjunction with HHS' Office of Inspector General (OIG) announced a [policy of enforcement discretion](#) to allow compliance flexibilities regarding the implementation of the [interoperability final rules](#) announced on March 9th in response to the coronavirus disease public health emergency.

- CMS and the Assistant Secretary of Preparedness and Response (ASPR) released a [new toolkit](#) to help state and local healthcare decision makers maximize workforce flexibilities when confronting COVID-19 in their communities. This toolkit includes a full suite of available resources to maximize responsiveness based on state and local needs.
- CMS issued [critical guidance](#) allowing licensed, independent freestanding emergency departments (IFEDs) in Colorado, Delaware, Rhode Island, and Texas to temporarily provide care to Medicare and Medicaid patients to address any surge.
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
  - CDC released its [COVID-19 forecast](#) for the U.S.
  - CDC [announced](#) the first confirmed cases of COVID-19 in two pet cats. These are the first pets in the United States to test positive for SARS-CoV-2.

#### **Articles of Interest**

- 4/21 The Washington Post published an article titled, "[CDC director warns second wave of coronavirus is likely to be even more devastating.](#)"
- 4/21 The Associated Press published an article titled, "[More deaths, no benefit from malaria drug in VA virus study.](#)"
- 4/21 The Hill published an article titled, "[WHO: Easing restrictions is not the end of the epidemic in any country.](#)"
- 4/21 The Center for Public Integrity published an article titled, "[Federal Documents: More Than 300,000 Likely to Die If Restrictions Are Lifted.](#)"
- 4/21 Politico published an article titled, "[Tracking the virus may require 300,000 workers. We're nowhere close.](#)"
- 4/21 NPR published an article titled, "[NIH Panel Recommends Against Drug Combination Promoted By Trump For COVID-19.](#)"

## **SUPPLY CHAIN/CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATE**

Please click [here](#) to view a readout of yesterday'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.*