



DAILY COVID-19 UPDATE

April 23, 2020

WHAT HAPPENED TODAY

The House convened at 10:00 a.m. The House then proceeded to one hour of debate on H.Res. 938 – which provides for the adoption of H.Res. 935, which would establish a Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis to oversee coronavirus relief funding. Following debate on the resolution, the House began two hours of debate under suspension of the rules on the Senate Amendment to H.R. 266, the Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act.

This afternoon, the House passed H.Res. 938 by a vote of 212-182. The chamber then passed the Senate Amendment to H.R. 266 by a vote of 388-5.

Since our last update, the Food and Drug Administration and Treasury Department 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

Administration

- Treasury
 - Treasury published an [FAQ](#) regarding the Coronavirus Relief Fund.
 - Treasury issued [guidance](#) regarding the Coronavirus Relief Fund for State, Territorial, Local, and Tribal Governments.
 - Treasury updated its PPP [FAQ](#). Question 31 is new.
- Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC)

- The Commodity Futures Trading Commission's Division of Swap Dealer and Intermediary Oversight (DSIO) today [announced](#) that it has issued additional targeted no-action relief to futures commission merchants (FCMs) and introducing brokers (IBs) in response to the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic.
- Federal Reserve
 - The Federal Reserve Board on Thursday [outlined](#) the extensive and timely public information it will make available regarding its programs to support the flow of credit to households and businesses and thereby foster economic recovery. Specifically, the Board will report substantial amounts of information on a monthly basis for the liquidity and lending facilities using CARES Act funding, including the: Names and details of participants in each facility; amounts borrowed and interest rate charged; and overall costs, revenues, and fees for each facility.

Articles of Interest

- 4/23 Bloomberg published an article titled, "[Confidence in Fed Chair Hits Highest Point Since Greenspan Era.](#)"
- 4/22 Associated Press published an article titled, "[As 4th virus relief bill nears passage, fight looms over 5th.](#)"
- 4/22 The Washington Post published an article titled, "[There's a growing possibility of a W-shaped economic recovery — and it's scary.](#)"
- 4/22 Bloomberg published an article titled, "[Pelosi Seeks 'Major' State Aid, Setting Up Clash With McConnell.](#)"
- 4/22 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, "[Emergency Grants to Small Businesses Average \\$4,360, Data Shows.](#)"
- 4/23 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, "[Millions of U.S. Workers Filed for Unemployment Benefits Last Week.](#)"
- 4/23 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, "[More Coronavirus Aid to Small Businesses Is Coming, But It Might Not Be Enough.](#)"

PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

Congressional

- **House**
 - Republican leaders of the House Committees on Ways and Means, Financial Services, and Energy and Commerce sent a [letter](#) to Speaker Pelosi in opposition to Democrats' plan to create a partisan and duplicative select subcommittee to review the Administration's ongoing COVID-19 response.
- **Senate**
 - Sen. Markey sent a [letter](#) to Vice President Pence, urging you to design and implement a comprehensive strategy for COVID-19 contact tracing in the U.S. The senator outlined nine principles, including integration with comprehensive public health strategy, for the administration to take into consideration as they develop and put into place a national contact tracing initiative.
 - Sens. Gillibrand and Bennet introduced [legislation](#) aimed at hiring hundreds of thousands of new public health workers into a "Health Force" modeled after New Deal programs during the Great Depression. The bill would provide \$55

billion per year to hire thousands of people who would help carry out testing, contact tracing and eventually vaccinating to fight the coronavirus.

Administration

- Health and Human Services
 - HHS announced upcoming action by the CDC to provide additional resources to state and local jurisdictions in support of our nation's response to the 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19). Using funds from the CARES Act, CDC is [awarding \\$631 million to 64 jurisdictions](#) through the existing Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity for Prevention and Control of Emerging Infectious Diseases (ELC) cooperative agreement. These funds, along with the previous support CDC has provided, will help states with their efforts to re-open America.
 - HHS through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), [awarded nearly \\$5 million to Poison Control Centers](#) across the country to improve their capacity to respond to increased calls due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
 - CMS released a [new toolkit](#) for states to help accelerate adoption of broader telehealth coverage policies in the Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Programs (CHIP) during the COVID-19 pandemic. This release builds on the agency's swift actions to provide states with a wide range of tools and guidance to support their ability to care for their Medicaid and CHIP beneficiaries during this public health emergency.
- National Institutes of Health
 - The National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), part of NIH, released a new [strategic plan](#) for accelerating research to diagnose, prevent, and treat COVID-19.
- Food and Drug Administration
 - FDA issued a [guidance](#) explaining a temporary policy regarding the repackaging or combining of FDA-approved propofol injectable emulsion, 10 mg/ mL (propofol) products, for the treatment or management of hospitalized patients during the COVID-19 public health emergency.
 - FDA issued an [emergency use authorization](#) (EUA) for the Philips Medizin Systeme Boeblingen GmbH's IntelliVue Patient Monitors MX750/MX850, IntelliVue 4-Slot Module Rack FMX-4 and IntelliVue Active Displays AD75/AD85, intended to be used by healthcare professionals in the hospital environment for remote monitoring of adult, pediatric and neonate patients having or suspected of having COVID-19 to reduce healthcare provider exposure.
 - The FDA and Federal Trade Commission issued a warning letter to a seller of fraudulent COVID-19 products, as part of the agency's effort to protect consumers. The seller warned, [Copper Touch, LLC](#), offers unapproved and misbranded products including "Sani-Bar GK95" and "Sani-Disc GK95D" for sale in the U.S. with misleading claims that the products are safe and/or effective for the prevention and treatment of COVID-19. There are currently no FDA-approved products to prevent or treat COVID-19.
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
 - CDC issued [guidance](#) on optimizing the supply of PPE and equipment.

Articles of Interest

- 4/22 Peterson-KFF Health System Tracker published an article titled, "[Urban and rural differences in coronavirus pandemic preparedness.](#)"

- 4/22 The Hill published an article titled, "[Doctor says he was removed from federal post after opposing funding for unproven drugs.](#)"
- 4/22 Fierce Healthcare published an article titled, "[HHS: Here's how remaining \\$70B in COVID-19 funding will be distributed to providers.](#)"
- 4/22 CNN published an article titled, "[2 Californians died of coronavirus weeks before previously known 1st US death.](#)"
- 4/23 NPR published an article titled, "[Trump Didn't See It Coming: Coronavirus Deaths Increased Tenfold This Month.](#)"
- 4/23 Stat published an article titled, "[New data on Gilead's remdesivir, released by accident, show no benefit for coronavirus patients. Company still sees reason for hope.](#)"

LABOR UPDATE

Congressional

- House
 - The House Small Business Committee held a [member day hearing](#) on COVID-19 response and recovery. Members testified before the panel about their feedback and priorities as they relate to the Paycheck Protection Program established under the CARES Act and the economic injury disaster loan and grants made available to small employers impacted by COVID-19.

Administration

- Department of Labor
 - DOL released its unemployment insurance weekly claims [report](#), finding another 4.4 million people claimed unemployment benefits last week around the U.S. This brings the total jobless claims in five weeks to more than 26 million people -- more than all the jobs added in the past decade since the Great Recession.
 - Secretary of Labor Eugene Scalia issued a [statement](#) regarding unemployment insurance claims.

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.