



DAILY COVID-19 UPDATE

May 4, 2020

WHAT HAPPENED TODAY

Today, House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy released a [plan](#), consisting of four strategies, to safely reopen Congress and "restore America's voice" amid the coronavirus pandemic.

In [opening floor remarks](#), Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell stated the Senate's top priorities, "will be acting on key nominations that relate directly to the safety of the American people, oversight over our coronavirus legislation, and more."

Yesterday, in a Fox News [virtual town hall](#) yesterday, President Trump indicated he will not approve any future coronavirus relief package that does not include a payroll tax cut for workers stating, "We're not doing anything without a payroll tax cut."

Notably, in an internal government [report](#), the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Prevention and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) forecasted a steady increase in the number of new COVID-19 cases, reaching 200,000 new cases per day by the end of the month and 3,000 deaths per day by early June.

Since our last update, the Food and Drug Administration, Department of Labor, Small Business Administration, and the Securities and Exchange Commission published additional guidance. Please see below for more details.

We have updated our COVID Legislative Update and it is linked below under Latest PMJ Resources.

LATEST PMJ RESOURCES

- [COVID Legislative Update](#)
- [2020 Political Outlook](#)
- [COVID Legislative Tracker](#)
- [COVID State Reopening Tracker](#)
- [Drug Shortage and Medical Supply Chain Tracker](#)
- [COVID-19 Travel Restrictions](#)
- [Global COVID-19 Export Controls](#)
- [Memo - Federal Reserve COVID-19 Announcements](#)
- [Federal Reserve Lending Facilities Deck](#)

ECONOMIC UPDATE

Congressional

- **House**
 - The House Budget Committee [released a report](#) that examines the “need to take aggressive action now in order to fight the pandemic, mitigate its economic damage, and strengthen our long-term economic outlook.”
 - In a [tweet](#), Rep. David Scott (D-GA) stated the House Financial Services Committee is working with the Treasury Department and the Small Business Association (SBA) to provide details about who is lending and receiving Paycheck Protection Program loans.
- **Senate**
 - In a [letter](#) to Secretary Steven Mnuchin, Senate Banking Committee Ranking Member Sherrod Brown (D-OH) urged the Trump Administration to prioritize American manufacturers who produce Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and medical supplies and equipment in CARES lending programs.
 - Senate Banking Committee Chairman Mike Crapo (R-ID) [will wait on marking up](#) President Trump’s nominee to the Federal Reserve, Judy Shelton, until procedures for conducting committee business amid coronavirus are established.
 - Senator John Kennedy (R-LA) [praised](#) the Federal Reserve’s decision to make its Main Street Lending Program more accessible to firms employing oil and gas workers.

Administration

- White House
 - In a Fox News town hall, President Trump [claimed](#) the next coronavirus relief bill must include a payroll tax cut.
- Treasury
 - Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin and Small Business Administration Jovita Carranza [issued a statement](#) on the success of the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP).
- Small Business Administration (SBA)
 - The Small Business Administration (SBA), in consultation with the Treasury Department, released an updated version of the [Paycheck Protection Program Loans FAQs](#), which added guidance regarding loan forgiveness, seasonal workers, and rural hospitals (Questions 40-43).
 - The SBA [released](#) the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) Report: Second Round.
 - Administrator Carranza [announced today](#) that agricultural businesses are now eligible for SBA’s Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) and EIDL Advance Programs.
- Internal Revenue Service (IRS)
 - The Internal Revenue Service’s previously [updated guidance](#) claiming that employers cannot claim the employee retention tax credit (ERTC) for health care expenses, [received push back](#) from the Congressional Joint Committee on Taxation.
- Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC)
 - The Securities and Exchange Commission [announced](#) it is providing temporary, conditional relief for established smaller companies affected by COVID-19 that may look to a Regulation Crowdfunding offering.

Articles of Interest

- 5/4 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, "[Stimulus Spending Emerges as Friction Point in Congress.](#)"
- 5/4 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, "[Liability Shield Is Next Coronavirus Aid Battle.](#)"
- 5/4 Bloomberg published an article titled, "[Trump Presses to Reopen U.S. With Risk of Promising Too Much.](#)"
- 5/4 Reuters published an article titled, "[U.S. Treasury's Mnuchin says Trump eyeing restaurant tax changes, travel boost.](#)"
- 5/3 The Washington Post published an article titled, "[White House and Congress clash over liability protections for businesses as firms cautiously weigh virus reopening plans.](#)"

PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

Congressional

- **House**
 - During an [interview](#) with the Hill's Steve Clemons, Rep. DeLauro questioned the Administration's motives behind prohibiting Dr. Fauci from testifying before the House Appropriations LHHHS Subcommittee this week.
 - Rep. Pallone sent a [memo](#) to House colleagues outlining some provisions Democrats should demand in the next legislative package responding to the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - House committee leaders sent a [letter](#) to HHS Secretary Azar opposing rule-making on nondiscrimination in health and health education programs.
- **Senate**
 - Sen. Warren and Former Vice President Joe Biden penned an [op-ed](#) in the Miami Herald titled, "There's no oversight of coronavirus relief - because that's what Trump wants."
 - Sens. Bennet and Gardner sent a [letter](#) to congressional leaders urging an increase to Medicaid's federal medical assistance percentage (FMAP) rate to support the State of Colorado's COVID-19 response and recovery in the next legislative package.

Administration

- White House
 - The White House released a transcript of [remarks](#) by President Trump in a Fox News virtual town hall.
 - The White House released a transcript of [remarks](#) by President Trump in announcement on Gilead's remdesivir.
- Department of Health and Human Services
 - HHS' Office of Minority Health (OMH) announced a [competitive funding opportunity](#) to invest up to \$40 million for the development and coordination of a strategic network of national, state, territorial, tribal and local organizations to deliver important COVID-19-related information to racial and ethnic minority, rural and socially vulnerable communities hardest hit by the pandemic.
 - HHS began [processing payments](#) from the Provider Relief Fund to hospitals with large numbers of COVID-19 inpatient admissions through April 10, 2020, and to rural providers in support of the national response to COVID-19.

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
 - CDC launches [national viral genomics consortium](#) to better map SARS-CoV-2 transmission.
 - CDC released a [Morbidity and Mortality Report](#) (MMWR) titled, "Public Health Response to the Initiation and Spread of Pandemic COVID-19 in the United States, February 24–April 21, 2020."
- Food and Drug Administration
 - FDA published a blog post titled, "[Insight into FDA's Revised Policy on Antibody Tests: Prioritizing Access and Accuracy.](#)"
 - FDA updated its [guidance](#) on convalescent plasma and associated [web page](#). The updated guidance provides clarification for investigators on how to submit investigational applications for COVID-19 convalescent plasma.
- National Institutes of Health
 - An NIH-funded [study](#) to help determine the rate of novel coronavirus infection in children and their family members in the United States began enrolling participants.

Articles of Interest

- 5/1 Stat published an article titled, "[Three potential futures for Covid-19: recurring small outbreaks, a monster wave, or a persistent crisis.](#)"
- 5/2 ABC News published an article titled, "[Fauci to testify before Senate after White House blocked him from appearing before Congress.](#)"
- 5/2 NPR published an article titled, "[Trump Moves To Replace Watchdog Who Reported Medical Shortages.](#)"
- 5/3 Politico published an article titled, "[Fears rise that Trump will incite a global vaccine brawl.](#)"
- 5/3 Politico published an article titled, "[Former FDA commissioner warns of new fall epidemic amid 'persistent spread.'](#)"
- 5/4 The Hill published an article titled, "[Trump administration projecting 3K daily coronavirus deaths by June.](#)"

LABOR UPDATE

Administration

- Department of Labor
 - DOL issued [guidance](#) regarding Title II, Subtitle A of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act. This guidance concerns 100 percent federal reimbursement of certain state Short-Term Compensation (STC) payments, as well as other changes to STC programs.
 - DOL outlined 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 FEMA-led 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.