



## DAILY COVID-19 UPDATE

May 6, 2020

### WHAT HAPPENED TODAY

Today, House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer told reporters the chamber will return to the District when the next coronavirus relief bill is ready for a vote on the floor, which could be as early as next week.

President Trump is making a payroll tax cut the centerpiece for future coronavirus legislation, but he is receiving pushback from Republican and Democratic members alike. Democrats are arguing direct payments to Americans is the ideal course of action, while Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell has repeatedly said he will steer the Senate away from additional stimulus legislation. However, he has left the door open to something moving by stressing that liability protection for businesses must be in any package if legislation is going to pass the Senate.

Notably, President Trump indicated the Coronavirus Task Force will not be disbanded in its entirety but rather remain in place "indefinitely," with members being "added or subtracted." However, its focus will now shift to safety, reopening the country, vaccines, and therapeutics. In addition, the President stated he is pivoting to phase two of the nation's response to the pandemic, which involves certain types of businesses reopening. He acknowledged that some people will be affected badly" as a result of this, "but we have to get our country open...soon."

Since our last update, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, Food and Drug Administration, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Small Business Association published additional guidance. Please see below for more details.

We have updated our Drug Shortage and Medical Supply Tracker 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**

- In a [tweet](#), Rep. Ayanna Pressley (D-MA), along with Senator Kamala Harris (D-CA), introduced *The Saving Our Streets Act*, which would allocate grants of up to \$250,000 to businesses that have fewer than 10 employees.
- Rep. Al Lawson (D-FL) [introduced](#) a provision in [H.R. 6321](#) that prohibits debt collection, repossession, and garnishment of wages during the pandemic.
- Rep. Brady [joined](#) Brian Kilmeade on FOX News Radio to talk about COVID – 19 and the steps Texas is taking to safely reopen while keeping maximum pressure on the virus, stating that Governor Abbott “opened a big can of common sense on how you reopen these businesses.”

#### • **Senate**

- Sen. Toomey hosted a [virtual roundtable](#) on the best practices to safely reopen the economy.
- Senator Chris Coons (D-DE), along with other Democratic Senators, are [working to expand](#) national service programs through the *Pandemic Response and Opportunity Through National Service Act*.
- Senator Jack Reed (D-RI) [introduced](#) a \$75 billion housing assistance fund to target areas hit hardest by coronavirus and unemployment.
- Senators John Thune (R-SD), John Barrasso (R-WY), Susan Collins (R-ME), Roy Blunt (R-MO), and Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV) [have pushed back](#) on President Trump's payroll tax cut proposal in the next coronavirus relief bill.
- Small Business and Entrepreneurship Committee Chairman Marco Rubio (R-FL) [spoke](#) on the Senate floor about the success of the Paycheck Protection Program and the need for oversight.

### **Administration**

- White House
  - In a [tweet](#), President Trump proposed the elimination of payroll taxes and capital gains taxes in the next coronavirus response bill.
- Treasury
  - The Treasury Borrowing Advisory Committee of the Securities Industry and Financial Market Association [released its report](#) to Secretary Mnuchin.
- Small Business Administrator (SBA)
  - The SBA, in consultation with Treasury, updated the [Paycheck Protection Program Loans FAQs](#), specifically the agencies extended the repayment date for safe harbor to May 14, 2020.
- Internal Revenue Service (IRS)
  - The IRS is [accepting applications](#) for the Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) and Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) grant programs.

### Articles of Interest

- 5/6 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, "[Treasury to Increase Auction Sizes of Longer-Dated Securities.](#)"
- 5/6 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, "[Democrats Revisit Stimulus Bill's Tax Breaks for Businesses.](#)"
- 5/5 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, "[Tax Deductions Tied to Forgiven Small Business Loans Draw Support.](#)"
- 5/5 The New York Times published an article titled, "[Trump Eyes New Tax Cuts for Next Stimulus Package.](#)"
- 5/5 The Washington Post published an article titled, "[Trump's demand for payroll tax cut is rebuffed on Capitol Hill as lawmakers spar over next virus aid bill.](#)"
- 5/5 Politico published an article titled, "[Trump's hopes for 'tremendous rebound' crash into grim reality.](#)"
- 5/5 Politico published an article titled, "[Next round of small business relief may come with fewer strings attached.](#)"

## PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

### Congressional

- **House**
  - Reps. Pallone and Wyden sent a [letter](#) to HHS Secretary Azar calling on the Trump administration to address the lack of financial relief for Medicaid providers fighting the COVID-19 pandemic. The two Committee leaders voiced concerns that, to date, roughly \$70 billion has been distributed to health care providers under the CARES Act in a way that discriminates against Medicaid-dependent health care providers.
  - Reps. Sánchez and Cartwright [introduced](#) the Coronavirus Frontline Workers Fair Pay Act, legislation to establish a hazard pay program for high-risk health care professionals and other essential workers on the frontlines of the coronavirus pandemic.
  - The House Appropriations LHHHS Subcommittee held a [hearing](#) on the COVID-19 response.
- **Senate**
  - 42 Democratic Senators sent a [letter](#) to President Trump regarding implementation of the testing provisions of the Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act and the critical need for additional action to increase COVID-19 testing in the United States.
  - 26 Senators sent a [letter](#) to HHS Secretary Azar and CMS Administrator Verma regarding funding for behavioral health centers during the COVID-19 pandemic.
  - Sen. Enzi sent a [letter](#) to FDA Commissioner Hahn regarding plans to implement the Emergency Use Authorization program for unapproved drugs.
  - Sen. Murray sent a [letter](#) to HHS Secretary Azar and Labor Secretary Scalia urging shifting unemployed workers into an expanded public health workforce.
  - Sen. Alexander issued a [statement](#) on COVID-19 testing for members of Congress.
  - Sen. Schakowsky [introduced](#) the Quality Care for Nursing Home Residents and Workers During COVID-19 Act, legislation that protects the health and well-being of those living and working in nursing homes by increasing infection

control and prevention, testing, and personal protective equipment; surging funding for strike teams to the hardest hit nursing homes; mandating transparency and reporting of COVID-19 cases and fatalities; and requiring CMS to conduct better oversight, including inspections and guidance.

### **Administration**

- Department of Health and Human Services
  - HHS' Office for Civil Rights (OCR) issued additional [guidance](#) reminding covered health care providers that the HIPAA Privacy Rule does not permit them to give media and film crews access to facilities where patients' protected health information (PHI) will be accessible without the patients' prior authorization.
  - HHS Secretary Azar issued a [statement](#) to commemorate National Nurses Day amid the coronavirus pandemic.
- Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
  - CMS [announced](#) equitable relief for Medicare Part A and B enrollment in the wake of COVID-19. CMS is granting equitable relief in the form of additional time to use an Initial Enrollment Period (IEP), General Enrollment Period (GEP), or a Special Enrollment Period (SEP) in order to file an application for Part B or premium-Part A or refuse Part B. This equitable relief will last from March 17, 2020 through June 17, 2020.
- Food and Drug Administration
  - FDA released [updated policy for COVID-19 tests](#) with guidance for clinical laboratories, commercial manufacturers, and Food and Drug Administration staff. FDA is issuing this guidance to provide a policy to help accelerate the availability of novel coronavirus (COVID-19) tests developed by laboratories and commercial manufacturers for the duration of the public health emergency.
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
  - CDC updated their information for health departments on [reporting cases of COVID-19](#). The information includes a case report form and how to submit a report on a case based on if the samples are sent to CDC labs for testing or not.
  - CDC updated their list of [resources available to bolster staffing](#) to help support states, tribes and locations to get and keep America open. CDC is using a multi-pronged approach to help enhance and complement the efforts of state, tribal, local, and territorial staff. This initiative will help health departments with the staffing resources they need for their programs to get and keep America open.
  - CDC updated their webpage on [strategies to optimize the supply of PPE](#). The webpage includes information on each type of PPE, notes that facilities should be using contingencies strategies at a minimum, and includes guidance on each of the types of PPE.

### **Articles of Interest**

- 5/5 Politico published an article titled, "[Ousted vaccine expert accuses HHS of political pressure in formal complaint.](#)"
- 5/5 Politico published an article titled, "[States cut Medicaid as millions of jobless workers look to safety net.](#)"
- 5/5 Fierce Healthcare published an article titled, "[AHA: COVID-19 pandemic could cost hospitals \\$200B through June.](#)"
- 5/6 The Hill published an article titled, "[New discoveries shift coronavirus timeline by months.](#)"
- 5/6 The New York Times published an article titled, "[How Kushner's Volunteer Force Led a Fumbling Hunt for Medical Supplies.](#)"

# LABOR UPDATE

## **Administration**

- Department of Labor
  - DOL [announced](#) that the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has released a new video and poster for employers and workers on how to properly wear and remove a respirator.

*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.*