



DAILY COVID-19 UPDATE

May 7, 2020

WHAT HAPPENED TODAY

During today's House Democratic Caucus call, House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer indicated the chamber hopes to vote on a CARES 2.0 bill at some point next week, however, as of this time a package is not ready. Members were told they will be given 72 hours notice in advance of a vote.

In opening floor remarks, Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer stated he is working with Speaker Nancy Pelosi on a "big, bold plan that will deal with the magnitude" of the COVID-19 crisis and resulting economic downturn. He added that he is "appalled" President Trump and GOP leaders are insisting on delaying further relief.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) again said state and local aid must be tied to business liability protection, but [made it clear](#) he is not "ruling that out," in response to calls for additional coronavirus legislation.

Notably, House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy [announced](#) House Republican Whip Steve Scalise (R-LA) as the Republican Chair of the Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis. He also selected Reps. Jim Jordan (R-OH), Blaine Luetkemeyer (R-MO), Jackie Walorski (R-IN), and Mark Green (R-TN).

Since our last update, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, Food and Drug Administration, the Department of Veterans Affairs, Small Business Administration, Treasury, and the Federal Reserve 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**

- House Financial Services Committee Vice Chair Michael San Nicolas (D-GU) [announced](#) a provision to waive matching requirements for municipal governments.

- **Senate**

- In [opening floor comments](#), Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) outlined policy objectives for future coronavirus aid packages.
- Senate Finance Committee Ranking Member Ron Wyden (D-OR), along with Senator Bob Casey (D-PA), [called](#) on the Trump Administration to commit to a timeline and plan to release data on COVID-19 infections and deaths in nursing homes.
- Senators Dan Sullivan (R-AK), Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI), Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV), Angus King (I-ME), and Kevin Cramer (R-ND) [introduced](#) the *Coronavirus Relief Fund Flexibility Act*, which would replace revenue shortfalls resulting from the pandemic.
- Finance Committee Chairman Chuck Grassley (R-IA), along with other Senators, [introduced](#) the *Small Business Expense Protection Act*, which would clarify the Small Business Administration's Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) rules so small businesses can deduct expenses paid with a forgiven PPP loan from their taxes.
- Senator John Cornyn (R-TX) [sent a letter](#) to Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and Small Business Administrator Jovita Carranza urging the agencies to change the loan forgiveness criteria of the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loans in order to help small businesses use the program.
- In an [interview](#) with Fox and Friends, Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL) discussed his view on appropriating more money to states.

Administration

- Department of Commerce
 - The Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross [announced](#) the Department's Economic Development Administration (EDA) is now accepting applications from eligible grantees for CARES Act supplemental funds intended to help communities prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus.
- Federal Reserve ("Fed")
 - The Fed and Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) [announced](#) extensions to two upcoming resolution plan deadlines.
 - The Federal Reserve Bank of New York [released a study](#) that found the areas most affected by the COVID-19 pandemic received relatively fewer forgivable business loans than others.
- Treasury

- The Treasury released a [new interim final rule](#) for the Paycheck Protection Program on nondiscrimination and additional eligibility criteria.
- Small Business Administrator (SBA)
 - The SBA, in consultation with Treasury, [updated](#) the Paycheck Protection Program Loans FAQs, specifically Questions 44 and 45.
 - The SBA [provided Congressional](#) offices with information and an update on the Agency's Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) program.
- Internal Revenue Service (IRS)
 - The IRS [alerted employers](#) affected by COVID-19 about three new credits available to companies.
- Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB)
 - The CFPB [issued clarifying FAQs](#) to support small businesses who have applied for a loan under the Small Business Administration's (SBA) Paycheck Protection Program (PPP).

Articles of Interest

- 5/7 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, "[Trump Administration Still Crafting Guidelines for Businesses to Reopen.](#)"
- 5/7 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, "[House Democrats Close In on New Stimulus Proposal.](#)"
- 5/7 The New York Times published an article titled, "[Jobless Aid Fuels Partisan Divide Over Next Pandemic Rescue Package.](#)"
- 5/7 The Washington Post published an article titled, "[SBA slashes disaster-loan limit from \\$2 million to \\$150,000, shuts out nearly all new applicants.](#)"
- 5/7 Reuters published an article titled, "[As U.S. states start to reopen, Fed officials sees little sign of economic resurgence.](#)"

PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

Congressional

• House

- Rep. Yarmuth sent a [letter](#) to President Trump calling on him to instruct the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to direct all incoming equipment from "Project Air Bridge" to the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS). Specifically, he called for all goods and supplies shipped via Project Air Bridge to instead be used to replenish the now-depleted SNS and ensure these materials are being distributed in the most efficient and cost-effective way throughout the United States, not just to the highest bidders.
- The Energy and Commerce Committee will hold a [teleconference forum](#) tomorrow on COVID-19 testing, contact tracing, and surveillance.

• Senate

- Sen. Murray sent a [letter](#) to HHS Secretary Azar criticizing the Trump Administration for putting politics ahead of public health and pushing to advance hydroxychloroquine and chloroquine as treatments for COVID-19 despite lacking scientific evidence of safety and effectiveness. She also demanded additional information from Secretary Azar about the Administration's approach to promoting the drugs, which has resulted in increased risk to patients.
- The Senate HELP Committee held a [hearing](#) titled, "Shark Tank: New Tests for COVID-19."

Administration

- Department of Health and Human Services
 - HHS, through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), [awarded](#) nearly \$583 million to 1,385 HRSA-funded health centers in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and eight U.S. territories to expand COVID-19 testing. Nearly 88 percent of HRSA-funded health centers report testing patients, with more than 65 percent offering walk-up or drive-up testing. Health centers are currently providing more than 100,000 weekly COVID-19 tests in their local communities.
 - HHS [extended](#) the deadline for healthcare providers to attest to receipt of payments from the Provider Relief Fund and accept the Terms and Conditions. Providers will now have 45 days, increased from 30 days, from the date they receive a payment to attest and accept the Terms and Conditions or return the funds. As an example, the initial 30-day deadline for providers who received payment on April 10, 2020, is extended to May 24 from May 9, 2020. With the extension, not returning the payment within 45 days of receipt of payment will be viewed as acceptance of the Terms and Conditions.
- Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
 - CMS recently released an [Interim Final Rule](#) with Comment Period (IFC) building on the agency's efforts to give the American healthcare system maximum flexibility to respond to the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic.
 - CMS has updated multiple fact sheets that summarize changes made through regulatory actions in response to COVID-19. View more resources available on CMS waivers and flexibilities [here](#). A full list of emergency declaration blanket waivers for health care providers implemented to date is available [here](#).
- Food and Drug Administration
 - FDA released an [update](#) on the agency's efforts to combat the extremely concerning actions by companies and individuals that are exploiting or taking advantage of widespread fear among consumers during the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - FDA issued a [guidance document](#) titled, "Notifying CDRH of a Permanent Discontinuance or Interruption in Manufacturing of a Device Under Section 506J of the FD&C Act During the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency."
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
 - CDC posted [details](#) on which providers have received money from HRSA's \$175b "Provider Relief Fund."
 - CDC released a [Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report](#) (MMWR) titled, "COVID-19 in Correctional and Detention Facilities - United States, February-April 2020."
- Department of Veterans Affairs
 - The VA issued [guidance](#) on personal protective equipment (PPE) use in veterans health administration facilities.

Articles of Interest

- 5/6 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, "[New York Survey Yields New Insights Into Who's Getting Infected With Covid-19.](#)"
- 5/7 The Associated Press published an article titled, "[In reversal, Trump says virus task force to stay but evolve.](#)"
- 5/7 The Associated Press published an article titled, "[Trump administration buries detailed CDC advice on reopening.](#)"
- 5/7 The New York Times published an article titled, "[Most States That Are Reopening Fail to Meet White House Guidelines.](#)"

- 5/7 NPR published an article titled, ["U.S. Coronavirus Testing Still Falls Short. How's Your State Doing?"](#)

LABOR UPDATE

Congressional

- **House**

- Rep. Brady [joined](#) Fox Business to talk about reopening the economy, supporting our businesses, and rebuilding our workforce.

Administration

- Department of Labor

- DOL released its Unemployment Insurance Weekly Claims [report](#) for the week ending May 2. It found that more than 3.1 million more Americans filed new applications for unemployment benefits last week, bringing the total to number of new applications for jobless benefits to more than 33 million since mid-March.
- DOL [announced](#) the award of six Dislocated Worker Grants (DWGs) totaling \$10,012,821 to help address the workforce-related impacts of the public health emergency related to the coronavirus. These awards are funded under the CARES Act, which provided \$345 million for DWGs to prevent, prepare for and respond to coronavirus.