



DAILY COVID-19 UPDATE

May 11, 2020

WHAT HAPPENED TODAY

According to House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer's office, the chamber may reconvene as early as Friday as Democratic House lawmakers continue to craft a CARES 2 package. Among other things, the legislation is expected to include funding for state and local governments, more money for hospitals and testing, Medicaid funding, unemployment insurance, and another round of direct stimulus payments to Americans. Members were advised they will be given 72 hours notice in advance of when they need to return to the District.

In a meeting last Friday with nearly two dozen House Republicans, President Trump claimed, "We're in no rush," when it comes to Congress passing additional coronavirus relief legislation.

Today, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell echoed President Trump's approach to future aid legislation, stating, "While COVID-19 rightly dominates headlines around the world, the U.S. also faced many serious threats before this virus began to spread, and they are still with us today." Leader McConnell went on to note the Senate's agenda will focus on nominations.

Notably, coronavirus task force members NIAID Director Fauci, CDC Director Redfield, and FDA Commissioner Hahn are self-quarantining after being exposed to Vice President Pence's press secretary Katie Miller, who tested positive for COVID-19 last week.

Since our last update, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, the Department of Labor, 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 STATISTICS

- There are a total of 4,152,670 confirmed cases worldwide, 284,536 deaths and 1,432,542 people have recovered.
- There are 1,355,512 confirmed cases of the coronavirus in the U.S., 80,087 deaths and 216,169 people have recovered.

LATEST PMJ RESOURCES

- [CARES Act State Funding](#)
- [State and Local Funding Bills](#)
- [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](#)

PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

Congressional

- **House**
 - Speaker Pelosi penned a Dear Colleague [letter](#) urging House members to "think big" for the American people and taking action to demonstrate a clear strategy of testing, tracing, and treatment.
 - Speaker Pelosi [joined](#) Greta Van Susteren of GRAY TV's Full Court Press to discuss the ongoing response to the coronavirus pandemic, including the latest on efforts to increase aid to essential workers and state, local and tribal governments in the upcoming CARES 2 package.
 - House Energy and Commerce Health Subcommittee ranking member Burgess sent a [letter](#) to Chairwoman Eshoo to call for a hearing on the Strategic National Stockpile.
 - Ways and Means Republicans published a [coronavirus bulletin](#) titled, "President Continues to Target Funds Toward Testing, PPE for Vulnerable Communities."
 - Ways and Means Republicans published a [coronavirus bulletin](#) titled, "Hope in Crisis: More Resources for Americans and Health Care Workers."
 - The Chairs of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC), the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC), and the Congressional Hispanic Caucus (CHC), as well as Leadership Representatives from the Congressional Native American Caucus sent a [letter](#) to Speaker Pelosi on their CARES 2 priorities.
- **Senate**
 - Sen. Shaheen joined Sens. Casey and Whitehouse to [propose a bill](#) that would provide \$20 billion to help states, nursing homes and intermediate care facilities contain the spread of COVID-19. The *Nursing Home COVID-19 Protection and Prevention Act* would help states implement strategies to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in congregate settings, including through the purchase of personal protective equipment (PPE) and testing and to support nursing home workers with premium pay, overtime and other essential benefits.
 - Sens. Markey and Warren sent a [letter](#) to Vice President Pence and HHS Secretary Azar regarding remdesivir distribution.
 - Sens. Murphy and Baldwin led 8 Senate Democrats in a [letter](#) to HHS Secretary Azar, urging the Trump administration to cover COVID-19 treatment expenses

for Americans enrolled in short-term health insurance plans, sometimes referred to as “skinny plans,” and “junk plans” by critics.

Administration

- The White House
 - President Trump and administration officials held a [press briefing](#) on COVID-19 testing.
- Department of Health and Human Services
 - HHS' Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) [announced](#) the allocation plan for the drug remdesivir. The allocation is from a donation by Gilead Sciences, Inc. to the U.S. which was finalized on May 3, 2020. The donated doses of the treatment, which received an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) from the FDA, will be used to treat hospitalized COVID-19 patients in areas of the country hardest hit by the pandemic.
 - HHS' Office of Inspector General (OIG) released [frequently asked questions](#) (FAQs) on the Application of OIG's Administrative Enforcement Authorities to Arrangements Directly Connected to the COVID-19 Pandemic.
- Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
 - CMS released [additional waivers](#) for hospitals and other facilities that provide the flexibilities needed to take care of patients during the COVID-19 public health emergency (PHE).
 - CMS updated a [video](#) that answers common questions about the expanded Medicare telehealth services benefit during the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - CMS published [information](#) for pharmacies and other suppliers that wish to enroll in Medicare temporarily as independent clinical diagnostic laboratories to help address the need for COVID-19 testing. Interested pharmacies and suppliers will need to apply for a Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA) certificate.
 - CMS has [approved](#) over 175 requests for state relief in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, including recent approvals for Alabama, Alaska, California, District of Columbia, Georgia, Maine, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, Oregon, South Carolina, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Virginia, and Wisconsin.
- Food and Drug Administration
 - Food and Drug Administration has issued the first [emergency use authorization](#) (EUA) for a COVID-19 antigen test, a new category of tests for use in the ongoing pandemic. These diagnostic tests quickly detect fragments of proteins found on or within the virus by testing samples collected from the nasal cavity using swabs.
- National Institutes of Health
 - NIH Director Collins and NIAID Director Fauci are among the four authors of an [article](#) published in Science, which describes a harmonized and collaborative approach to the clinical testing, scale-up and distribution of candidate vaccines to prevent COVID-19 is essential. Specifically, more than one effective vaccine approach likely will be required to successfully protect the global community from SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. They describe a strategic approach to research and development that would generate essential data for multiple vaccine candidates in parallel.
 - A randomized, controlled [clinical trial](#) evaluating the safety and efficacy of a treatment regimen of the investigational antiviral remdesivir plus the anti-inflammatory drug baricitinib for coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) has begun. The trial is now enrolling hospitalized adults with COVID-19 in the U.S.

Articles of Interest

- 5/9 The Washington Post published an article titled, [“In the early days of the pandemic, the U.S. government turned down an offer to manufacture millions of N95 masks in America.”](#)
- 5/10 The Washington Post published an article titled, [“Doctors keep discovering new ways the coronavirus attacks the body.”](#)
- 5/11 The Hill published an article titled, [“Coronavirus cases expanding in states preparing to reopen.”](#)
- 5/11 CBS News published an article titled, [“Trump administration cuts funding for coronavirus researcher, jeopardizing possible COVID-19 cure.”](#)
- 5/11 Politico published an article titled, [“Why the U.S. isn't prepared to meet overwhelming demand for a coronavirus vaccine.”](#)
- 5/11 The New York Times published an article titled, [“Employers Rush to Adopt Virus Screening. The Tools May Not Help Much.”](#)

ECONOMIC UPDATE

Congressional

- **House**
 - In a [Dear Colleague letter](#), Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) asked House members to “Think Big’ For The People.”
 - House Financial Services Chairwoman Maxine Waters (D-CA), along with Senate Banking Committee Ranking Member Sherrod Brown (D-OH), [announced](#) the *Emergency Rental Assistance and Rental Market Stabilization Act of 2020*.
 - On Wednesday, May 13, the House Consumer Protection and Financial Institutions Subcommittee [will host a virtual roundtable](#) discussion titled, “Update from Prudential Regulators.”
- **Senate**
 - In a [letter](#) to Speaker Pelosi, Ranking Member Brown and Senator Gary Peters (D-MI) urged the Speaker to include relief for multiemployer pension plans in any future stimulus package.
 - In a [letter](#) to Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar, Ranking Member Brown urged the agency to cover the COVID-19 treatment expenses for those enrolled in short term, limited duration insurance (STLDI) plans.
 - Senate Finance Committee Ranking Member Ron Wyden (D-OR) [announced](#) he will introduce legislation to allow more lending flexibility for credit unions to better serve their customers during the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - In a [letter](#) to Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and Internal Revenue Service Commissioner Charles Rettig, Democratic Senators urged the agencies to clarify deadlines and explain why the Economic Impact Payments per dependent are delayed.
 - In a [letter](#) to President Trump, Republican Senators urged the Administration to take action against large American financial institutions that discriminate against energy companies.
 - In a letter, Senator Susan Collins (R-ME), along with other Maine legislators, [urged](#) the Trump Administration to support financial relief to states and municipalities.

Administration

- Federal Reserve ("Fed")
 - The Fed [published updates](#) to the term sheet for the Municipal Liquidity Facility (MLF) to provide pricing and other information.
 - Federal financial regulatory agencies [issued interagency policy statement](#) on allowances for credit losses and interagency guidance on credit risk review systems.
- Small Business Administrator (SBA)
 - The SBA [released](#) updated Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) statistics that includes recent state-by-state information.
- Internal Revenue Service (IRS)
 - The IRS [clarified guidance](#) on Economic Impact Payment amounts.
- Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB)
 - The CFPB [issued](#) a final rule covering remittances transfers.

Articles of Interest

- 5/11 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, "[Economists Now Expect Recovery Will Be More of a 'Swoosh' Than V-Shaped](#)"
- 5/11 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, "[Mnuchin Supports Changes to Small-Business Aid Program.](#)"
- 5/11 Bloomberg published an article titled, "[Small Firms Join Rush to Return Bailouts After Rules Revisions.](#)"
- 5/10 The Washington Post published an article titled, "[Top White House advisers, unlike their boss, increasingly worry stimulus spending is costing too much.](#)"
- 5/10 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, "[Despite Recent Bets, Fed Isn't Likely to Consider Negative Interest Rates.](#)"
- 5/8 Politico published an article titled, "[April tax collections plummet 55 percent.](#)"

LABOR UPDATE

Administration

- Department of Labor
 - DOL's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) issued an [alert](#) listing safety tips employers can follow to help protect dental industry workers from exposure to the coronavirus.
 - DOL issued [guidance](#) announcing the availability of \$100 million in short-term compensation grant funds for states provided under Section 2110 of the CARES Act.
 - During a Consumer Technology Association webinar today, DOL Secretary [warned](#) that extending more generous pandemic-related unemployment benefits for workers beyond a July 31 expiration date would require close scrutiny to determine the proper approach. Scalia stated, If the next phase of COVID-19 relief legislation were to address the \$600 weekly unemployment boost states are currently providing, it would "warrant a very careful look ... at whether continuing that particular method is the right way to go."
 - DOL [summarized](#) the range of actions it took last week to aid American workers and employers as our nation combats the coronavirus pandemic.
 - DOL [published](#) a series of responses to specific inquiries and questions raised by states regarding the Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation

(FPUC) program. Section 2104 of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act authorizes the FPUC program, and provides an additional \$600 weekly payment boost to certain eligible individuals who are receiving other qualifying benefits.

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.