



DAILY COVID-19 UPDATE

May 13, 2020

WHAT HAPPENED TODAY

The House is slated to vote this Friday on its \$3 trillion coronavirus relief package, the HEROES Act, as well as on a Rule change related to [remote voting](#) and virtual committee proceedings. However, House Progressive Caucus co-chairs Pramila Jayapal (D-WA) and Mark Pocan (D-WI) are pushing for a delay "to ensure that [the bill] truly reflects the priorities and the work of the entire caucus."

Meanwhile, GOP senators have stated the HEROES Act is dead on arrival in the Senate and are instead compiling a list of ideas for their own coronavirus aid measure that they hope to pass this summer. However, Speaker Pelosi appears to be prepared to utilize her chamber's legislation as a starting point for negotiations with Senate Republicans and the Trump administration.

In [remarks](#) on the Senate floor, Majority Leader McConnell disputed comments made by his Democratic colleagues that the chamber should exclusively be focusing its efforts on work related to COVID-19. He noted that in addition to fighting this pandemic, the Senate has to do work to "ensure the safety and security of our nation."

Notably, the newly created House Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis held its first briefing this afternoon on requirements to safely reopen the economy amid the coronavirus pandemic. Additionally, during yesterday's Senate HELP Committee [hearing](#) on going back to work and school, NIAID Director Dr. Fauci issued a stern warning that Americans will experience "needless suffering and death" if communities and states open prematurely. He added that it's imperative for states and communities to ensure they have the capability of responding to inevitable upticks in infection with widespread testing, contact tracing, and isolation to avoid triggering a second wave/outbreak.

Since our last update, the Food and Drug Administration, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, Small Business Administration, Internal Revenue Service, Treasury, and Consumer Financial Protection Bureau published additional guidance. Please see below for more details.

We have updated our COVID-19 Legislative Update as well as our Drug Shortage and Medical Supply Tracker. Both are linked below under Latest PMJ Resources.

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](#)

ECONOMIC UPDATE

Congressional

- ***House***
 - In a [tweet](#), House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-CA) stated the HEROES Act has “no chance of becoming law.”
 - House Financial Services Chairwoman Maxine Waters (D-CA) and Rep. Michael San Nicolas (D-GU) [sent a letter](#) to Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell urging them to ensure territories are not excluded from the federal government’s COVID-19 response efforts.
- ***Senate***
 - In a [tweet](#), Senate Finance Committee Chairman Chuck Grassley’s (R-IA) spokesperson stated the House’s proposal to roll back the cap on state and local tax (SALT) deductions is a “nonstarter” in the Senate.
 - Senator Bernie Sanders (I-VT) and Rep. Ilhan Omar (D-MN), along with over 300 international lawmakers across two dozen countries, in a [letter](#) urged the leadership of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to cancel low-income countries’ debt in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - The Senate Banking Committee [advanced the nominations](#) of the Honorable Brian D. Miller, to be Special Inspector General for Pandemic Recovery for the Treasury Department; and Mrs. Dana T. Wade to be Assistant Secretary for the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

Administration

- Federal Reserve (“Fed”)
 - The Federal Reserve Bank of New York [announced](#) it will reduce its operations for term repurchase agreements.
- Treasury
 - The Treasury [announced](#) important updates on the Payroll Support Program under Title IV of the CARES Act.
 - Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin [issued a statement](#) regarding the start of certain Secondary Market Corporate Credit Facility purchases.
 - The Treasury [released](#) its Monthly Treasury Statement.
- Small Business Administrator (SBA)

- The SBA, in consultation with the Treasury, [released updated](#) Paycheck Protection Program Loans FAQs, specifically Question 46.
- Internal Revenue Service (IRS)
 - The IRS [released guidance](#) to allow temporary changes to Section 125 cafeteria plans.
- Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB)
 - The CFPB [released a statement](#) and FAQs outlining the responsibility of certain financial firms during the pandemic.

Articles of Interest

- 5/13 The Washington Post published an article titled, [“A pandemic-prompted rule change for deferring taxes on investment properties.”](#)
- 5/13 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, [“WSJ Survey: Coronavirus to Cause 17% Unemployment in June.”](#)
- 5/13 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, [“Powell Says Washington Will Need to Spend More to Battle Downturn.”](#)
- 5/13 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, [“Companies Start Reaping Billions in Tax Breaks to Ride Out Economic Slump.”](#)
- 5/13 Politico published an article titled, [“Widening rift on mergers during pandemic divides Democrats and Republicans.”](#)
- 5/12 The Washington Post published an article titled, [“U.S. deficit balloons to \\$738 billion in April alone, a record triggered by Coronavirus impact.”](#)

PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

Congressional

- **House**
 - Ways and Means Republicans published a [coronavirus bulletin](#) titled, "Health Provisions in Democrats' Recipe for a Prolonged Recession."
 - In an [interview](#) with the Associated Press, Speaker Pelosi defended the \$3 trillion price tag of Democrats' pandemic relief package as what's needed to confront the "villainous virus" and economic collapse. She stated, "The American people are worth it."
 - Speaker Pelosi [joined](#) MSNBC's Morning Joe from Capitol Hill to discuss the ongoing response to the coronavirus pandemic, including the recently introduced Heroes Act.
 - Speaker Pelosi delivered [remarks](#) on the introduction of the Heroes Act.
 - Speaker Pelosi [joined](#) Chris Hayes on MSNBC's All In with Chris Hayes 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.
 - Reps. Jayapal and Pocan sent a [letter](#) to Speaker Pelosi and House Majority Leader Hoyer urging them to delay the vote on the Heroes Act until next week, giving members more time to review the bill.
 - Rep. Burgess sent a [letter](#) to Rep. Eshoo regarding tomorrow's House Energy and Commerce subcommittee hearing on protecting scientific integrity.
- **Senate**

- Sen. Klobuchar and Reps. Diaz-Balart and Cunningham sent a [letter](#) to FDA Commissioner Hahn and CDC Director Redfield regarding the plasma donation program.
- Sens. Warren, Blumenthal, and Coons as well as Reps. Jayapal and Sarbanes [introduced](#) a discussion draft of their legislation to ensure stronger oversight, accountability, and transparency in the federal government's response to COVID-19 crisis.

Administration

- The White House
 - The White House issued a [fact sheet](#) titled, "President Donald J. Trump is Committed to Providing Support to Underserved Communities Impacted by the Coronavirus Pandemic."
 - During yesterday's [press briefing](#), White House Press Secretary Kayleigh McEnany provided an update on ventilators, respirators, testing, provider relief payments to hospitals, funding for community health centers in medically underserved areas.
- Department of Health and Human Services
 - HHS released the inaugural episode of its [podcast](#) Voices of HHS titled, "Learning Curve: HHS Secretary Alex Azar on the Race to a Vaccine."
- Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
 - CMS released a new [toolkit](#) developed to aid nursing homes, Governors, states, departments of health, and other agencies who provide oversight and assistance to these facilities, with additional resources to aid in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic within nursing homes.
 - CMS Administrator Verma penned a [letter](#) to nursing home management and staff sharing her gratitude for the unwavering dedication and commitment to keeping residents safe.
 - CMS has [approved](#) 185 requests for state relief in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, including recent approvals for Alabama, Connecticut, Illinois, Kansas, Louisiana, New Hampshire, New Mexico, and Oklahoma. These approvals help to ensure that states have the tools they need to combat COVID-19.
- Food and Drug Administration
 - The FDA took important actions to help accelerate the development of prevention and treatment options for COVID-19 by providing new [guidance](#) with recommendations for innovators and researchers conducting work in this area.
 - The FDA provided an update on [surveillance inspections](#) during the COVID-19 pandemic. In the update, the agency stated it will continue to utilize and implement additional alternative inspection tools and approaches while postponing domestic and foreign routine surveillance inspections.
 - The FDA posted [updated information for blood establishments](#) regarding COVID-19, which aligns with the agency's [guidance on convalescent plasma](#) to allow donation 14 days after complete resolution of symptoms.
 - The FDA issued an [Emergency Use Authorization](#) (EUA) for the Ascom teleCARE IP Nurse Call System for use by healthcare providers and patients in healthcare environments, including temporary hospital facilities, to facilitate remote communication between patients and healthcare providers.
 - The FDA issued an [EUA](#) for the emergency use of the Eko electrocardiogram (ECG) Low Ejection Fraction Tool ("ELEFT") to be used by healthcare professionals to provide an assessment of Left Ventricular Ejection Fraction as

a diagnostic aid to screen for potential cardiac complications associated with COVID-19.

- FDA issued [guidance](#) on returning refrigerated transport vehicles and refrigerated storage units to food uses after using them to preserve human remains during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
 - CDC Director Dr. Redfield, FDA Commissioner Dr. Hahn, and NIAID Director Dr. Anthony Fauci issued a [media statement](#) noting that CDC and DHS have together determined that government entities working in support of the COVID-19 response efforts are providing essential services and the [current guidelines for critical infrastructure workers apply](#).

Articles of Interest

- 5/12 Bloomberg Law published an article titled, [“Six Feet of Separation in Reopening Offices Won’t Stop Virus.”](#)
- 5/12 Science Magazine published an article titled, [“Unveiling ‘Warp Speed,’ the White House’s America-first push for a coronavirus vaccine.”](#)
- 5/12 The Hill published an article titled, [“WHO: Some coronavirus treatments show signs of limiting disease’s severity, length.”](#)
- 5/13 CBS News published an article titled, [“House coronavirus subcommittee to hold first briefing on reopening the economy.”](#)
- 5/13 The New York Times published an article titled, [“Top Science and Health Officials Offer Sobering View of Reopening Readiness.”](#)
- 5/13 The Associated Press published an article titled, [“AP Exclusive: CDC guidance more restrictive than White House.”](#)

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.