



## DAILY COVID-19 UPDATE

May 14, 2020

### WHAT HAPPENED TODAY

The House is slated to vote tomorrow 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, despite a push for a delay from the Congressional Progressive Caucus and the House GOP whip team formally urging a "no" vote on both the aid bill and the proxy voting plan.

In [remarks](#) on the Senate floor, Majority Leader Mitch McConnell stated the HEROES Act is not a serious proposal, calling it a "catalog of left-wing oddities." He also reiterated the importance of focusing on legal liability protections and nationwide testing so the U.S. can recover from the pandemic.

Notably, President Trump issued an [Executive Order](#) invoking the Defense Production Act to expand the domestic production of critical resources needed to respond to the COVID-19 outbreak, including strengthening relevant supply chains within the U.S. and its territories.

Additionally, the House Energy and Commerce Health Subcommittee held a [hearing](#) today on protecting scientific integrity in the COVID-19 response. Former BARDA Director Dr. Rick Bright warned that without a comprehensive and coordinated national plan based on science, the U.S. faces the "darkest winter in modern history." He expressed concern that the pandemic could "get far worse and be prolonged" if we don't take action before our "window of opportunity" closes.

Moreover, the Trump Administration [announced](#) that firms who received over \$2 million in Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loans, that do not need them, will be allowed to repay the money without legal consequences, a reversal of an earlier threat of potential criminal prosecution for such actions.

Since our last update, the National Institutes of Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, and the Small Business Administration 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

- [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***

- **Senate**
  - Senate Banking Committee Ranking Member Sherrod Brown (D-OH), along with other committee members, [sent a letter](#) to Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and Small Business Administrator Jovita Carranza urging the agencies to provide answers and clarity to small businesses regarding Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan amounts.

### ***Administration***

- Federal Reserve (“Fed”)
  - The Fed [issued a report](#) on the economic well-being of U.S. households.
- Small Business Administration (SBA)
  - The SBA, in consultation with the Treasury, [released updated](#) Paycheck Protection Program Loans FAQs, specifically Question 47.
  - The SBA [issued an interim final](#) rule on Paycheck Protection Program loan increases and disbursements.

### **Articles of Interest**

- 5/14 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, [“Coronavirus Drives 75% of Small Businesses to Seek Federal Aid.”](#)
- 5/14 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, [“Economic Shock of Virus Hit Lower-Income Households Harder, Fed Finds.”](#)
- 5/14 The Washington Post published an article titled, [“Lots of talk – but so far no action – about second \\$1,200 stimulus check for U.S. households.”](#)
- 5/14 The New York Times published an article titled, [“‘Rolling Shock’ as Job Losses Mount Even With Reopenings.”](#)
- 5/14 Politico published an article titled, [“‘Trump was right’: President claims pandemic has proved his economic theories.”](#)
- 5/13 The Washington Post published an article titled, [“SBA Backs off Threat Against Firms that Didn’t Need Loans.”](#)

## PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

### ***Congressional***

- **House**

- Speaker Pelosi penned a Dear Colleague [letter](#) on the HEROES Act.
- Ways and Means Republicans published a [coronavirus bulletin](#) titled, "Overview: The 'Careless' Act-Democrats' Recipe for a Prolonged Recession."
- Yesterday, the Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis held a [briefing](#) with a bipartisan group of experts on the requirements for safely reopening the nation during the coronavirus pandemic.
- **Senate**
  - Sens. Collins, Shaheen, Smith, and Sinema sent a [letter](#) to CMS Administrator Verma requesting expanded access to vital informational resources that can help Medicare beneficiaries better manage their diabetes during the coronavirus public health crisis.
  - Sens. Tester, Moran, Schatz and Boozman sent a [letter](#) to VA Secretary Wilkie regarding reimbursement for COVID-19-related services.
  - Sens. Duckworth, Collins, and Tester as well as Rep. Underwood introduced bipartisan [legislation](#) to reduce health care costs and ensure parity for Veterans impacted by the COVID19 pandemic.

### **Administration**

- The White House
  - The White House issued a [fact sheet](#) titled, "President Donald J. Trump is Ensuring We Have the Strong National Stockpile and Industrial Base Needed to Meet Any Challenge."
  - President Trump issued an [Executive Order](#) on Delegating Authority Under the DPA to the CEO of the U.S. International Development Finance Corporation to Respond to the COVID-19 Outbreak.
- Department of Health and Human Services
  - HHS, through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) [awarded](#) \$15 million to 159 organizations across five health workforce programs to increase telehealth capabilities in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
  - HHS' Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) [announced](#) an emergency \$40 million grant program to prevent suicide during the COVID-19 pandemic.
  - HHS and the Department of Defense [announced](#) a \$138 million contract with ApiJect Systems America for "Project Jumpstart" and "RAPID USA," to expand U.S. production capability for domestically manufactured, medical-grade injection devices starting by October 2020.
- Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
  - CMS released a new [FAQ document](#) on Price Transparency: Requirements for Providers to Make Public Cash Prices for COVID-19 Diagnostic Testing. The document outlines the requirements from the FFRCA and CARES Act related to price transparency.
- Food and Drug Administration
  - FDA announced that the agency will host a [virtual Town Hall](#) on May 15, 2020, for researchers, clinical laboratories, and commercial manufacturers to discuss the production and use of 3D printed swabs during the COVID-19 public health emergency.
  - FDA posted a new [webpage](#) with information on use of thermal imaging systems. Thermal imaging systems and non-contact infrared thermometers use different forms of infrared technology to measure temperature.
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

- CDC released a [Framework for Healthcare Systems Providing Non-COVID-19 Clinical Care During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#). This document provides healthcare systems with a framework to deliver non-COVID-19 healthcare during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- CDC updated their [FAQs on Testing by Laboratories](#).
- CDC updated their [Preparedness Tools for Healthcare Professionals and Facilities Responding to COVID-19](#).
- CDC updated their FAQs on [COVID-19 Clinical Questions](#).
- National Institutes of Health
  - NIH updated their [COVID-19 treatment guidelines](#).

#### Articles of Interest

- 5/13 The Washington Post published an article titled, "[Add to list Abbott coronavirus test missed a large number of positive results caught by a rival firm, preliminary study says.](#)"
- 5/13 USA Today published an article titled, "[50 states and 50 different approaches: States scramble to hire COVID-19 contact tracers.](#)"
- 5/13 BBC published an article titled, "[Coronavirus may never go away, World Health Organization warns.](#)"
- 5/13 Reuters published an article titled, "[Trump calls Fauci remarks on risks to reopening schools, economy unacceptable.](#)"
- 5/14 The Hill published an article titled, "[Gottlieb: Schools should try to open in fall if coronavirus isn't widespread in their area.](#)"

## LABOR UPDATE

#### Congressional

- **House**
  - Speaker Pelosi issued a [statement](#) on the weekly initial unemployment claims report.

#### Administration

- Department of Labor
  - The Department of Labor released its [Unemployment Weekly Claims Report](#) for the week ending on May 9, showing that another 3 million Americans filed for unemployment last week. Overall, 36.5 million people have filed jobless claims in the past two months.

*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.*