



DAILY COVID-19 UPDATE

May 15, 2020

WHAT HAPPENED TODAY

The House is voting today on its \$3 trillion coronavirus relief package, the HEROES Act, as well as on a Rule change to allow proxy voting during the pandemic. The White House has indicated President Trump will veto the legislation if it ever makes it to his desk, which won't be the case as it has already been declared dead on arrival in the Senate where Republicans are taking a wait and see approach.

Yesterday, Senate Majority Leader McConnell [stated](#) on FOX News that "there is a high likelihood there will be another bill." However, without any sense of urgency from GOP senators, this likely won't happen until after the Memorial Day break, punting any potential vote until June. At the same time, Leader McConnell is working with Sen. John Cornyn (R-TX) to draft liability protection legislation that could be released as early as next week.

Notably, during a Rose Garden [press conference](#), President Trump unveiled a new public-private partnership, [Operation Warp Speed](#), to accelerate the development and identification of an effective COVID-19 vaccine.

Additionally, the Joint Committee on Taxation released an [analysis](#) of the HEROES Act, estimating that the tax provisions in the Democrats' coronavirus relief legislation would cost \$883 billion over the next decade.

Since our last update, the Food and Drug Administration, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Federal Reserve, and Consumer Financial Protection Bureau published additional guidance. Please see below for more details.

We have updated our Coronavirus State Reopening Tracker, COVID-19 Travel Restrictions Resource Guide, and Drug Shortage and Medical Supply Tracker. All 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**
 - The House Budget Committee [released a report](#) on the need to enact fiscal policies that provide targeted relief to working Americans and small businesses.
- **Senate**
 - Senate Banking Committee Ranking Member Sherrod Brown (D-OH) [released a statement](#) following the announcement that the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and Federal Housing Finance Agency (FHFA) would extend the suspension of foreclosures.
 - Ranking Member on the Senate Finance Committee Ron Wyden (D-OR) [expressed disapproval](#) towards the Federal Reserve Bank of New York's new guidance.
 - Senator Jack Reed (D-RI), member of the Senate Finance Committee, [urged](#) Congressional Republicans and the Trump Administration to pass further fiscal support legislation.
 - Senators Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH) and Maggie Hassan (D-NH) [urged](#) the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to prevent hospitals from collecting medical debt through wage garnishment during the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - Senator Bernie Sanders (I-VT) [released a statement](#) regarding the HEROES Act.

Administration

- Federal Reserve ("Fed")
 - The Fed released its [Financial Stability Report](#).
 - The Federal Reserve Bank of New York [issued updated guidance](#) to the Primary Market Corporate Credit Facility (PMCCF) and the Secondary Market Corporate Credit Facility (SMCCF).
- Internal Revenue Service (IRS)
 - The IRS [announced the availability](#) of additional material for partner groups sharing information related to Economic Impact Payments.
- Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB)
 - The CFPB and the Conference of State Bank Supervisors [released a](#) Consumer Relief Guide with borrowers' rights to mortgage payment forbearance and foreclosure protection under the CARES Act.
 - Director Kathy Kraninger [remarks](#) during Financial Stability Oversight Council (FSOC) meeting.
- Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC)

- The SEC has [written to public companies](#) seeking proof they qualified for emergency government loans.

Articles of Interest

- 5/15 Reuters published an article titled, "[RPT-U.S. Securities regulators scrutinizes public companies that took emergency loans -sources.](#)"
- 5/15 The Washington Post published an article titled, "[Firms That Left U.S. to Cut Taxes Could Qualify for Fed Aid.](#)"
- 5/15 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, "[Coronavirus Lockdowns Trigger Rapid Drop in Retail Sales, Factory Output.](#)"
- 5/15 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, "[House Set to Vote on Democrats' \\$3 Trillion Aid Package.](#)"
- 5/15 The Washington Post published an article titled, "[House Democrats near passage of \\$3 trillion coronavirus relief bill despite Trump's veto threat.](#)"

PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

Congressional

- **House**
 - Rep. Brady delivered [remarks](#) on the House floor in opposition of the HEROES Act, stating the "bill guarantees a prolonged recession."
 - Ways and Means Republicans published a [coronavirus bulletin](#) titled, "At Last Minute, Democrats Cram Insurer Giveaway into \$3 Trillion Partisan Package."
 - Ways and Means Republicans published a [coronavirus bulletin](#) titled, "As Democrats Prioritize Donors, President Continues Push Towards Cure."
 - Speaker Pelosi penned a [Dear Colleague letter](#) to all members on consideration of the HEROES Act.
 - Speaker Pelosi held her [weekly press conference](#) yesterday.
 - Speaker Pelosi [joined](#) Joy Reid on MSNBC to discuss the ongoing response to the coronavirus pandemic, including the recently introduced Heroes Act.
- **Senate**
 - Sens. Klobuchar and Rubio sent a [letter](#) to CDC Director Redfield, requesting the agency to evaluate a possible trend of increased stroke risk among younger and middle-aged Americans who are, or previously were, infected with coronavirus.
 - Sen. Gardner sent a [letter](#) requesting HHS and other federal agencies take action to protect seniors from the COVID-19 pandemic, including setting aside funding for nursing home and other senior care providers in the next tranche of CARES Act Provider Relief Funds.
 - Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs sent a [joint letter](#) with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to GAO Comptroller General Dodaro requesting a report on the use and management of the emergency relief funds that were appropriated to the VA following passage of the CARES Act.
 - Sens. Shaheen and Hassan joined colleagues in a [letter](#) to HHS, urging the administration to prevent hospitals from collecting medical debt by taking part of a patient's paycheck during the COVID-19 pandemic, and to deny emergency relief funds to hospitals engaging in this practice.
 - Sens. Smith and Booker introduced [legislation](#) to build a stronger public health infrastructure.

Administration

- The White House
 - White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) Director Jim Carroll announced the start of a [public comment period](#) to assist ONDCP in its development of criteria for designating emerging drug threats. The advance notice comment period will be open from May 15, 2020, through June 30, 2020.
 - The White House released [remarks](#) by President Trump at Owens & Minor, Inc. Distribution Center in Allentown, PA.
- Department of Health and Human Services
 - The Trump administration announced the [framework and leadership](#) for Operation Warp Speed, the administration's national program to accelerate the development, manufacturing, and distribution of COVID-19 vaccines, therapeutics, and diagnostics.
 - HHS, through the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), announced a new [funding opportunity announcement](#) (FOA) that will award \$5 million in fiscal year 2020 to support novel, high-impact studies that evaluate the responsiveness of health care delivery systems, health care professionals, and the overall U.S. health care system to the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - HHS issued a [notice of enforcement discretion](#) regarding COVID-19 community-based testing sites during the COVID-19 public health emergency.
 - HHS Secretary Azar issued a [statement](#) recognizing the contributions of hospitals and their frontline workers and also outlined HHS' major actions to support America's hospitals.
 - HHS sent a [letter](#) to all states with additional information on submitting testing plans, required by the Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act. Projections for May and June 2020 must be submitted to CDC by May 30. Projections for July through December 2020 must be submitted to CDC by June 15.
- Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
 - CMS announced a [call for nominations](#) for the new contractor-led Coronavirus Commission on Safety and Quality in Nursing Homes to help inform immediate and future responses to COVID-19 within these facilities.
 - CMS released a new [Center for Medicaid and CHIP Services Informational Bulletin](#) (CIB) that provides states guidance on how to temporarily modify their Medicaid managed care contracts to address the impact of the COVID-19 public health emergency.
 - CMS has [approved](#) over 190 requests for state relief in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, including recent approvals for California, Georgia, Indiana, Minnesota, Missouri, New Mexico, Ohio, and Rhode Island.
- Food and Drug Administration
 - FDA issued an [Emergency Use Authorization](#) (EUA) for infusion pumps and infusion pump accessories that, among other things, meet certain safety, performance, and labeling criteria, in response to concerns relating to the insufficient supply and availability of the devices for use by healthcare providers during the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - FDA issued an [update to its guidance for pharmacy compounders](#) that experience shortages of the personal protective equipment (PPE) they typically use to compound human drugs that are intended or expected to be sterile.
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
 - CDC published guidance documents in the form of one-page decision tools advising states on what they should consider before

- reopening [schools, childcare centers, youth programs and camps, bars and restaurants, mass transit systems, and workplaces](#). An earlier version of the [full guidance](#) was held back by the Trump administration for being too “prescriptive,” particularly for states that have had less intense outbreaks.
- CDC issued a [health advisory](#) to doctors across the U.S., advising them to be on the lookout for a new syndrome that may be associated with COVID-19. The syndrome, multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children (MIS-C) has been seen in children across Europe and in at least 18 states, plus Washington, DC.
- National Institutes of Health
 - NIH began a [clinical trial](#) to evaluate whether the malaria drug hydroxychloroquine, given together with the antibiotic azithromycin, can prevent hospitalization and death from COVID-19.

Articles of Interest

- 5/14 Politico published an article titled, [“Pentagon fires its point person for Defense Production Act.”](#)
- 5/14 NBC News published an article titled, [“CDC issues alert to doctors on rare COVID-19 'mystery illness' in kids.”](#)
- 5/14 Health Affairs published an article titled, [“Strong Social Distancing Measures In The United States Reduced The COVID-19 Growth Rate.”](#)
- 5/15 CNN published an article titled, [“CDC publishes flowcharts to help communities and businesses weighing whether to reopen.”](#)
- 5/15 The Washington Post published an article titled, [“Rick Bright’s testimony confirms our worst fears.”](#)

LABOR UPDATE

Administration

- Department of Labor
 - DOL's Employment and Training Administration (ETA) has [announced](#) the publication of updated guidance, including FAQs, regarding the Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC) program authorized by the CARES Act.
 - DOL's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has issued an [alert](#) listing safety tips employers can follow to help protect nursing home and long-term care facility workers from exposure to the coronavirus.
 - DOL's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) issued an [alert](#) listing safety tips employers can follow to help protect retail pharmacy workers from exposure to the coronavirus.

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.