



DAILY COVID-19 UPDATE

May 20, 2020

WHAT HAPPENED TODAY

Today, Speaker Nancy Pelosi [announced](#) the House will vote next week on the Paycheck Protection Flexibility Act (H.R. 6886). The bipartisan legislation would provide Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) borrowers more than eight weeks to use the aid on payroll expenses and modify the percentage of aid required to be used on payroll expenses, as well as allow more than two years to pay back the loan.

Notably, President Trump issued an [Executive Order](#) (EO) on Regulatory Relief to Support Economic Recovery. The EO directs agencies to "identify regulatory standards that may inhibit economic recovery," and address the "economic emergency by rescinding, modifying, waiving, or providing exemptions from regulations and other requirements that may inhibit economic recovery."

In [opening floor remarks](#), Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell condemned House Democrats for not bringing members back to the District full-time during the pandemic. He added that the \$3 trillion HEROES Act passed by the House last Friday is a "liberal wish list." Meanwhile, House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy told reporters that he "doesn't see the need right now" for another coronavirus relief package.

Since our last update, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention published additional guidance. Please see below for more details.

We have updated our Drug Shortage and Medical Supply Tracker. It is linked below under Latest PMJ Resources.

LATEST PMJ RESOURCES

- [Liability Reform State of Play](#)
- [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 Democratic committee members, [sent a letter](#) to the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) Director Kathy Kraninger urging the agency to restart the rulemaking process on the Payday Rule.
 - Senate Banking Committee Chairman Mike Crapo's (R-ID) [opening remarks](#) at the Senate Banking Committee hearing on the, "Quarterly CARES Act Report to Congress."
 - Senator Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH), along with other New Hampshire lawmakers, [called on](#) the Treasury Department and Internal Revenue Service (IRS) to help individuals receive correct Economic Impact Payments.
- **Congressional Budget Office (CBO)**
 - The CBO released its [Interim Economic Projections](#) for 2020 and 2021.

Administration

- White House
 - President Trump issued an [Executive Order on Regulatory Relief to Support Economic Recovery](#).
- Federal Reserve ("Fed")
 - The federal financial institution regulatory agencies [issued principles](#) for offering small-dollar loans in a responsible manner.
 - Federal Open Market Committee [minutes](#).
- Small Business Administrator (SBA)
 - The SBA, in consultation with the Treasury Department, [updated](#) its Paycheck Protection Program Loans FAQs, specifically Question 48.
- Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB)
 - The CFPB [announced](#) it will provide an additional 60 days for the public to comment on its Supplemental Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) on time-barred debt disclosures.

Articles of Interest

- 5/20 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, "[Fed Minutes Reveal Anguish Over Scale of Economic Downturn.](#)"
- 5/20 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, "[What Unemployment Claims Tell Us About Coronavirus Job Losses.](#)"
- 5/20 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, "[Nearly Half of U.S. Households Have Lost Income Since Lockdown Started.](#)"
- 5/19 The Washington Post published an article titled, "[Mnuchin defends White House push to reopen economy as Democrats voice growing concerns.](#)"
- 5/19 Politico published an article titled, "[IRS recalling more employees starting June 1.](#)"

PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

Congressional

- **House**
 - Ways and Means Republicans issued a [coronavirus bulletin](#) titled, "President Boosts Testing Capabilities in Rural America."
 - House Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman Pallone and Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee Chairwoman DeGette released their [COVID-19 Oversight Plan](#). This includes their list of oversight priorities for the coming weeks including testing and contact tracing, supply chain for personal protective equipment (PPE), and vaccines, among other things.
 - Reps. Boyle and Fitzpatrick introduced [legislation](#) to temporarily remove the exception that prevents Institutions of Mental Disease (IMD) from getting Medicaid support.
 - Reps. Beyer and Gonzalez introduced the At-Home Testing Prize Competitions Act, [legislation](#) designed to encourage the development of new COVID-19 testing. The bill would direct NIH to quickly launch prize competitions promoting the development of an accurate COVID-19 test that can be safely self-administered by people in their homes.
 - Rep. Buchanan issued a [press release](#) emphasizing the importance of a long-term strategy for securing medical supply chains, following his introduction of the SAM-C Act ([H.R. 6708](#)) and concurrent co-sponsorship of Rep. Hill's SAVE Act ([H.R. 6399](#)).
 - Rep. DeLauro issued a [statement](#) condemning the VA's refusal to stop using hydroxychloroquine on veterans diagnosed with COVID-19.
- **Senate**
 - Sens. Coons and Collins led 10 of their colleagues in a bipartisan [letter](#) to Senate leadership, urging additional support for first responders in the next COVID-19 relief package.
 - Sens. Lee, Cruz, Braun, and Loeffler introduced [legislation](#) to let states approve and distribute diagnostic tests when the state or federal government has declared a public health emergency.

Administration

- The White House
 - The White House released a [transcript](#) of President Trump's remarks during yesterday's Cabinet meeting.
- Department of Health and Human Services
 - HHS issued a [reminder](#) to eligible providers that they have until June 3, 2020, to accept the Terms and Conditions and submit their revenue information to support receiving an additional payment from the Provider Relief Fund \$50 billion General Distribution.
 - The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) [provided](#) \$225 million to Rural Health Clinics (RHCs) for COVID-19 testing. These investments will support over 4,500 RHCs across the country to support COVID-19 testing efforts and expand access to testing in rural communities.
- Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
 - CMS released new [guidance](#) on a waiver for ground ambulance organizations and payment for diagnostic laboratory tests and ordering requirements for laboratory claims.

- CMS has [approved](#) over 200 requests for state relief in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, including recent approvals for Alaska, Iowa, Hawaii, New Jersey, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Utah, and Virginia.
- CMS posted a [notice](#) announcing that it will allow laboratories performing serological tests to bill Medicare during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
 - CDC published 60-page document consisting of detailed guidelines for reopening businesses, schools, mass transit, child-care facilities, restaurants, and bars.
 - CDC issued a [report](#) to Congress titled, "Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act Disaggregated Data on U.S. Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Testing."
- Food and Drug Administration
 - FDA [approved](#) succinylcholine chloride injection USP 200 mg/10 mL, which is indicated to facilitate tracheal intubation and to provide skeletal muscle relaxation during surgery or mechanical ventilation.

Articles of Interest

- 5/18 The New York Times published an article titled, ["Where Chronic Health Conditions and Coronavirus Could Collide."](#)
- 5/19 The Washington Post published an article titled, ["CDC guidelines, released at last, offer low-key guide to reopening."](#)
- 5/19 The Associated Press published an article titled, ["Trump allies lining up doctors to prescribe rapid reopening."](#)
- 5/19 The Commonwealth Fund published an article titled, ["During the COVID-19 Crisis, State Health Insurance Marketplaces Are Working to Enroll the Uninsured."](#)
- 5/20 A group of renowned health leaders penned an article in USA Today titled, ["We stuck together to #StayHome, now we can start together to #OpenSafely."](#)
- 5/20 Bloomberg published an article titled, ["China's New Outbreak Shows Signs the Virus Could Be Changing."](#)

LABOR UPDATE

Administration

- Department of Labor
 - DOL's Wage and Hour Division (WHD) announced a [final rule](#) that allows employers to offer bonuses or other incentive-based pay to employees whose hours vary from week to week.
 - DOL released [quotes](#) from OSHA Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary Loren Sweatt's written testimony from the postponed House Education & Labor hearing.

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.