



DAILY COVID-19 UPDATE

May 21, 2020

WHAT HAPPENED TODAY

Today, the Senate Small Business Committee introduced the [*Paycheck Protection Program Extension Act*](#). The bipartisan bill would extend the deadline to apply for the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) from June 30, 2020 to December 31, 2020; give small businesses an additional eight weeks to utilize their funding; and allow small employers to utilize loan funding to purchase personal protective equipment (PPP) for their employees and made modifications required to reopen safely, among other things. There is a possibility the Senate may vote to pass the bill by unanimous consent prior to leaving for the Memorial Day break. Meanwhile, Speaker Pelosi has indicated that the House will vote next week on a separate PPP measure.

In an interview with The Hill, Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin [*indicated*](#) there is a "strong likelihood" more economic support will be needed but the administration will "step back for a few weeks and think very clearly how we need to spend more money and if we need to do that." He also floated the idea of including infrastructure provisions either in future coronavirus aid legislation or as a separate bill since it is "on the President's agenda."

Additionally, in [*opening floor remarks*](#), Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell stated, "Sustaining this flattened curve will take vigilance...The race for even more testing, therapeutics, and a vaccine will be a national project...Life will not go right back to 'normal.' Repairing the damage will take creativity."

Since our last update, 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

- **House**
 - House Financial Services Chairwoman Maxine Waters (D-CA) [released a statement](#) in response to the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency's (OCC) issuance of a final rule changing the Community Reinvestment Act (CRA).
 - Reps. French Hill (R-AR) and Donna Shalala (D-FL) [expressed concern](#) about the Main Street Lending Program not being operational yet.
- **Senate**
 - Senators Marco Rubio (R-FL), Ben Cardin (D-MD), and Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH) [introduced](#) the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) Extension Act.
 - Senate Banking Committee Ranking Member Sherrod Brown (D-OH), along with other Democratic Senators, [sent a letter](#) to Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) Director Kathy Kraninger requesting information from the agency regarding its examination of the companies that service federally-held student loans.
 - The Senate [passed](#) the Holding Foreign Companies Accountable Act, introduced by Senators John Kennedy (R-LA) and Chris Van Hollen (D-MD), which "protects American investors and their retirement savings from foreign companies that have been operating on the U.S. stock exchange."
 - Senator Brown [released a statement](#) after the OCC announced new rules on the Community Reinvestment Act (CRA).
 - Senator Cory Gardner (R-CO), [tweeted](#) support for additional COVID-19 aid legislation.

Administration

- Small Business Administration (SBA)
 - The SBA [released](#) its Procedural Notice to Paycheck Protection Program lenders.
- Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB)
 - The CFPB [issued a report](#) analyzing the complaints received during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Articles of Interest

- 5/21 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, "[Mnuchin: Strong Likelihood We'll Need Another Stimulus Package.](#)"
- 5/21 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, "[Pandemic Poses Most Serious Threat to Fed's Goals 'In Our Lifetimes,' Says Top Fed Official.](#)"

- 5/21 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, "[Global Business Activity Starts to Steady, but Recover Looks Farr Off.](#)"
- 5/20 The Washington Post published an article titled, "[House and Senate lawmakers begin efforts to rework Paycheck Protection Program so businesses can have more flexibility.](#)"
- 5/20 Politico published an article titled, "[Regulator moves to overhaul historic anti-redlining law, sparking complaints.](#)"
- 5/20 Politico published an article titled, "[Fed worried that virus resurgence could lead to 'protracted' slump.](#)"

PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

Congressional

- **House**
 - 36 bipartisan House lawmakers sent a [letter](#) to HHS Secretary Azar regarding financial support for health care providers during the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - Energy and Commerce Committee members held a [bipartisan teleconference forum](#) with Greg Burel, former Director of the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) from March 2007 until January 2020.
 - Republican House Members of the Illinois Delegation, including Rep. LaHood, sent a [letter](#) to Governor JP Pritzker requesting information regarding the allocation of federal funding to state and local governments were supposed to receive as part of the CARES Act.
 - Reps. Shalala, Houlahan, and Scanlon introduced the [Pandemic Responder Service Award Act](#), legislation that seeks to thank the millions of frontline health care workers for their service in keeping America safe throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Senate**
 - Sen. Peters [introduced](#) two bills to address vulnerabilities in the medical supply chain and increase capacity for domestic manufacturing of drugs and medical devices.
 - Sen. Murray and Rep. Scott sent a [letter](#) to HHS Secretary Azar urging action to ensure that students are informed about their health care coverage options.
 - Sen. Cruz introduced the [Right to Test Act](#), 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 provided a [readout](#) from the state and local stakeholder call on COVID-19 response.
- Department of Health and Human Services
 - HHS and AstraZeneca are [collaborating](#) to make available at least 300 million doses of a coronavirus vaccine called AZD1222, with the first doses delivered as early as October 2020.
 - HHS issued an [Advisory Opinion 20-02](#) on the Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness Act and the Secretary's Declaration Under the Act.
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

- CDC released [resources](#) to assist states to reopen.
- CDC updated its [resource page](#) on how COVID-19 spreads.
- Food and Drug Administration
 - FDA posted a list of [antibody tests](#) that are being removed from the “notification list” of tests being offered under the [Policy for Coronavirus Disease-2019 Tests During the Public Health Emergency](#).
 - FDA issued an [Emergency Use Authorization](#) (EUA) to Walter Reed National Military Medical Center for the COVID-19 Airway Management Isolation Chamber (“CAMIC”) to be used by healthcare providers within the U.S. Army and Military Health System as an extra layer of barrier protection, in addition to personal protective equipment, to prevent exposure to pathogenic biological airborne particulates during transport of patients, at the time of definitive airway management, or when performing medical procedures on such patients during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Articles of Interest

- 5/20 ProPublica published an article titled, [“States Are Reopening: See How Coronavirus Cases Rise or Fall.”](#)
- 5/20 The New York Times published an article titled, [“A New Entry in the Race for a Coronavirus Vaccine: Hope.”](#)
- 5/20 The New York Times published an article titled, [“Lockdown Delays Cost at Least 36,000 Lives, Data Show.”](#)
- 5/20 The Atlantic published an article titled, [“America’s Patchwork Pandemic Is Fraying Even Further.”](#)
- 5/20 The Washington Post published an article titled, [“How many people are infected with the coronavirus? A major study will attempt to provide an answer.”](#)

LABOR UPDATE

Administration

- Department of Labor
 - DOL released its [unemployment insurance weekly claims report](#), finding that more than 2.4 million Americans filed unemployment claims last week. This brings the total number of unemployment claims since the week ending March 22 to 38.6 million.

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.