



DAILY COVID-19 UPDATE

May 22, 2020

WHAT HAPPENED TODAY

The Senate wrapped up legislative business for the week and left town for the Memorial Day recess without voting on the *Paycheck Protection Program Extension Act*. While members won't return to Washington until June 1, they could take up changes to the small-business loan program in a pro forma session over the break.

During a meeting at the White House this week, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell told President Trump that the next coronavirus aid package must be under \$1 trillion and should be focused on short-term economic relief, creating incentives for Americans to return to work, and liability protection for businesses.

Notably, President Trump stated that while there's a "very distinct possibility" there will be a second wave of COVID-19 cases, "[we are not closing our country](#)" in the event of a resurgence. Instead, the U.S. will focus on "put[ting] out the fires."

Since our last update, the Food and Drug Administration 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**
 - Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) [stated](#) Senators John Kennedy's (R-LA) and Chris Van Hollen's (D-MD) bill barring some Chinese companies from the U.S. stock exchanges will need to be reviewed in the House.
- **Senate**
 - Senator Bernie Sanders (I-VT), Mark Warner (D-VA), Doug Jones (D-AL), and Richard Blumenthal (D-CT) [introduced](#) the Paycheck Security Act to cover wages and benefits of employees of affected businesses and non-profits.

Administration

- Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC)
 - The SEC [will hold a conference](#) titled, "Spotlight on Transparency: A Discussion of Secondary Market Municipal Securities Disclosure Practices."

Articles of Interest

- 5/22 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, "[The COVID Surcharge: Companies Confront the Unforgiving Economics of Coronavirus.](#)"
- 5/22 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, "[Jobless Rate Rose in All 50 States in April, Labor Department Says.](#)"
- 5/21 Politico published an article titled, "[Insurers face off with Congress over pandemic coverage.](#)"
- 5/21 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, "[Senate Adjourns Without Approving Deal to Extend PPP Spending Window.](#)"

PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

Congressional

- **House**
 - Energy and Commerce members Reps. Pallone, Walden, DeGette, and Guthrie sent a [letter](#) to White House coronavirus response coordinator Deborah Birx, urging the Trump administration to develop a national strategy for developing, manufacturing, and distributing eventual coronavirus vaccines.
- **Senate**
 - Sens. Schatz, Murkowski, Boozman, King, Peters Sullivan, Cramer, and Markey introduced the [Health Care Broadband Expansion During COVID-19 Act](#). The new bipartisan bill directs \$2 billion to help health care providers increase their broadband capacity and expand telehealth services during the current public health crisis.
 - Sens. Manchin, Hyde-Smith, and Murkowski introduced the bipartisan [Save Our Rural Health Providers Act](#) which creates a new formula – otherwise known as the "Manchin Formula" to ensure the Provider Relief Fund has a dedicated set-aside amount directed towards rural areas of America.

- Sens. Klobuchar and Moran introduced legislation to protect seniors from scams during the coronavirus pandemic. The [Protecting Seniors from Emergency Scams Act](#) directs the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) to report to Congress on scams targeting seniors during the COVID-19 pandemic and make recommendations on how to prevent future scams during emergencies.
- 15 Democratic Senators sent a [letter](#) to Vice President Pence regarding task force plans for COVID-19 during the upcoming influenza season.
- 11 Democratic Senators sent a [letter](#) to Vice President Pence regarding mental health resources during COVID-19.

Administration

- Department of Health and Human Services
 - HHS [announced](#) it has begun distributing billions in additional relief funds to skilled nursing facilities (SNFs) to help them combat the devastating effects of this pandemic.
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
 - CDC released a [research article](#) titled, "Infectious SARS-CoV-2 in Feces of Patient with Severe COVID-19."
- Food and Drug Administration
 - The FDA issued the [guidance](#) "Supplements for Approved Premarket Approval (PMA) or Humanitarian Device Exemption (HDE) Submissions During the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Public Health Emergency" to help foster the continued availability of medical devices during the COVID-19 public health emergency.
 - The FDA approved two abbreviated new drug applications: [dexmedetomidine hydrochloride](#) and [succinylcholine chloride injection](#).

Articles of Interest

- 5/20 The Washington Post published an article titled, "[Experts warn of second coronavirus wave in Dallas, Houston, Alabama and parts of Florida.](#)"
- 5/21 The Atlantic published an article titled, "[How Could the CDC Make That Mistake? – The CDC and States Are Misreporting COVID-19 Test Data.](#)"
- 5/21 The Hill published an article titled, "[Almost 3 million more people will get coronavirus if the U.S. fully reopens, one model says.](#)"
- 5/21 Reuters published an article titled, "[U.S. doctors call for remdesivir data to guide coronavirus treatment.](#)"
- 5/22 Wall Street Journal published an article titled, "[Coronavirus Infections Jump by More Than a Million in Less Than Two Weeks.](#)"

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.