



DAILY COVID-19 UPDATE

May 27, 2020

WHAT HAPPENED TODAY

Today, HHS issued its first [report](#) to the House and Senate Appropriations Committees, outlining how the Trump administration spent the \$100 billion provider relief fund, allocated through the CARES Act, between March 27 to April 30.

Additionally, the CDC [warned](#) that COVID-19 antibody tests are still unreliable and should not be used to determine whether someone should return to work or school as it remains unclear if people who have been infected once are immune from getting sick again.

The House Ways and Means Committee held a [hearing](#) to examine health disparities during the COVID-19 pandemic and the disproportionate effect on minority communities. Members and witnesses stressed the importance of telehealth during and after the pandemic, though some expressed concerns over language and cultural barriers hindering widespread access.

Yesterday, in response to new [federal guidance](#) issued to reopen places of worship, President Trump [claimed](#) he will “override any governor that wants to play games” and does not comply with the new guidance. Meanwhile, Vice President Mike Pence, in conjunction with the White House Coronavirus Task Force, [held a briefing](#) with governors from the 50 states, territories, and Washington D.C. in order to discuss “best practices and continue the dialogue on the important federal-state partnership on COVID-19 response, recovery, and re-opening efforts.”

Since our last update, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Internal Revenue Service 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**
 - Rep. Carolyn Maloney (D-NY), senior member of the House Financial Services Committee, [introduced](#) the *Pandemic Risk Insurance Act of 2020* (H.R. 7011).
 - The House Financial Services Subcommittee on Investor Protection and Capital Markets [held a virtual roundtable](#) on the impacts of COVID-19 on capital markets.
- **Senate**
 - Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship Ranking Member Ben Cardin (D-MD), along with other Democratic Senators, [urged](#) the Small Business Administration (SBA) to “stop targeting critical, safety-net health care providers” under the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP).
 - The Joint Economic Committee released a report titled, “[Saving for Social Capital.](#)”
 - Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Subcommittee Ranking Member Chris Coons (D-DE) [released a statement](#) on the “success of the small business loan relief program.”

Administration

- White House
 - White House economic adviser Larry Kudlow [remarks](#) on reopening the U.S. economy.
- Internal Revenue Service (IRS)
 - The IRS and the Treasury [issued final regulations](#) clarifying the reporting requirements generally applicable to tax-exempt organizations.
 - The IRS and Treasury [issued a proposed regulation](#) updating the federal income tax withholding rules for periodic retirement and annuity payments made after December 31, 2020.

Articles of Interest

- 5/27 The Hill published an article titled, “[How lawmaker ties helped shape Fed chairman’s COVID-19 response.](#)”
- 5/27 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, “[As Coronavirus Lockdown Rules Ease, Some Want to Keep Working From Home.](#)”
- 5/27 Bloomberg published an article titled, “[The Fed Boldly Saves Markets. Now It’s Worried About Main Street Businesses.](#)”
- 5/27 Bloomberg published an article titled, “[Williams Says Fed Thinking ‘Hard’ About Yield-Curve Control.](#)”

PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

Congressional

- **House**
 - Reps. DeGette and Bucshon introduced [two pieces of legislation](#) to increase diagnostic testing capabilities at public health laboratories and expand testing access to hospitals, physicians and other health service providers, especially in rural and underserved areas.
 - Rep. McHenry introduced the [Right to Test Act](#), legislation that will allow individual states to approve and distribute diagnostic tests when the state or federal government has declared a public health emergency.
 - Speaker Pelosi [joined](#) MSNBC's All In with Chris Hayes to discuss the Heroes Act and House Democrats' legislation to address the COVID-19 health and economic crisis.
- **Senate**
 - Sen. Schumer, Sen. Young, Rep. Khanna, and Rep. Gallagher introduced the [Endless Frontier Act](#), which would bolster U.S. leadership in science and technology innovation.
 - Sens. Grassley and Ernst sent a [letter](#) to FDA Commissioner Hahn regarding biofuel industry production of hand sanitizer.

Administration

- White House
 - The White House released a [readout](#) from the Governor's Briefing on COVID-19 Response and Re-Opening Efforts.
- Department of Health and Human Services
 - HHS issued its first [report](#) to Congress providing a 60-day update, as required by the CARES Act and PPPHCE Act, on how it's spending the \$100 billion Provider Relief Fund. The report includes total funding obligations from March 27, 2020, to April 30, 2020.
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
 - CDC released [interim guidelines](#) for COVID-19 antibody testing.
- Food and Drug Administration
 - The FDA issued an [Emergency Use Authorization \(EUA\)](#) in response to concerns relating to insufficient supply and availability of gowns and other apparel, such as operating-room shoe covers, for use by health care personnel as personal protective equipment (PPE) for use in health care settings in accordance with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommendations to protect both health care personnel and patients from the transfer of COVID-19.
 - The FDA approved an abbreviated new drug application (ANDA) for succinylcholine chloride injection USP 200 mg/10 mL, which is indicated in addition to general anesthesia, to facilitate tracheal intubation and to provide skeletal muscle relaxation during surgery or mechanical ventilation.

Articles of Interest

- 5/26 Vox published an article titled, "[5 ways to prevent another 100,000 coronavirus deaths in the US \(and beyond\).](#)"
- 5/26 NPR published an article titled, "[Trump Team Killed Rule Designed To Protect Health Workers From Pandemic Like COVID-19.](#)"
- 5/26 Reuters published an article titled, "[Where U.S. coronavirus cases are on the rise.](#)"

- 5/27 Health Care Cost Institute published an article titled, "[Daily Deaths During Coronavirus Pandemic by State.](#)"
- 5/27 KHN published an article titled, "[Nearly Half Of Americans Delayed Medical Care Due To Pandemic.](#)"

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.