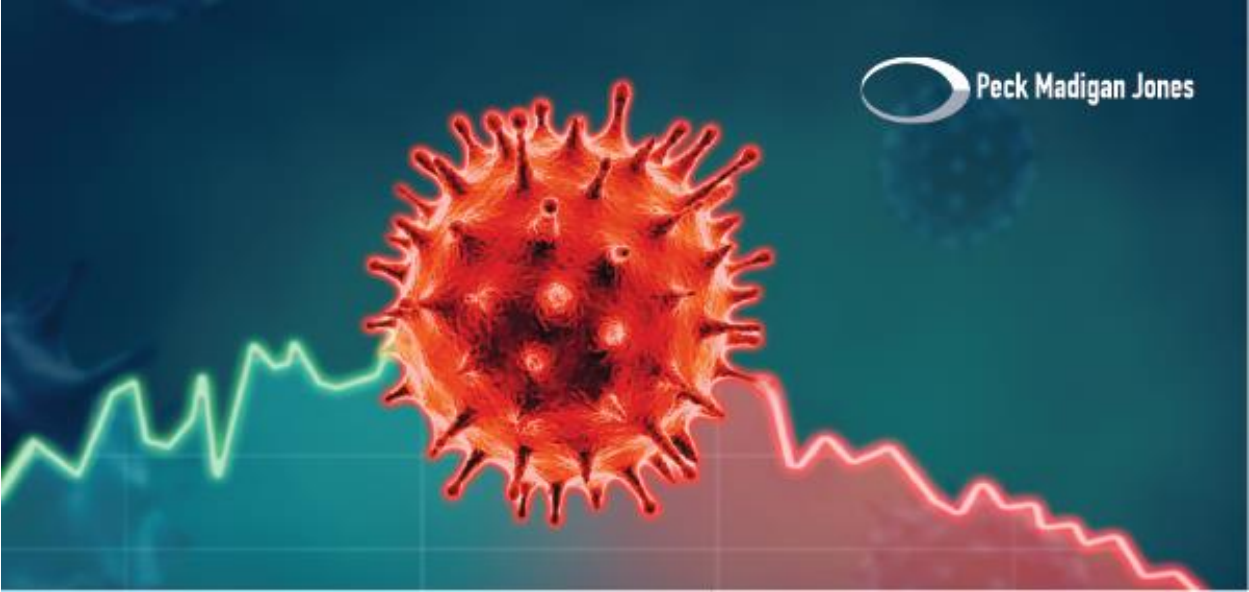




DAILY COVID-19 UPDATE

May 28, 2020

WHAT HAPPENED TODAY

Today, the House overwhelmingly passed H.R. 7010, the *Paycheck Protection Program Flexibility Act*, by a vote of 417-1. The bill now heads to the Senate, where the legislation is largely similar, with the exception that it extends the window small businesses have to use funds to 16 weeks instead of 24.

The House also attempted to pass H.R. 6782, the *TRUTH Act*, which would have required the Small Business Administration to issue a report on entities that received more than \$2 million in assistance. However, the legislation failed to garner the two-thirds votes necessary to pass the bill under suspension.

Notably, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell urged Americans to take politics out of wearing masks, saying, "There's no stigma attached

LATEST STATISTICS

There are a total of **5,936,145** confirmed cases worldwide, 358,067 deaths and 2,389,056 people have recovered.

There are **1,712,816** confirmed cases of the coronavirus in the U.S., 101,196 deaths and 391,508 people have recovered.

More than 100,000 Americans have died from COVID-19, more than any other country in the world.

LATEST PMJ RESOURCES

to wearing a mask...[and] staying six feet apart. You have an obligation to others."

Since our last update, the Food and Drug Administration, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Federal Reserve, 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 under 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:

- The House Ways and Means Subcommittee on Oversight Democratic members [sent a letter](#) to Secretary Steven Mnuchin in regard to sending economic impact payments (EIPs) by prepaid debit card.
- The House Financial Services Committee [announced](#) it will host a virtual roundtable on, "Understanding the Cyber Threats and Actors Exploiting the COVID-19 Crisis."

SENATE:

- Senate Finance Committee Chairman Chuck Grassley (R-IA) [released](#) CARES Act Pre-Paid Debit Cards FAQ.
- Senate Banking Committee Ranking Member Sherrod Brown (D-OH), along with other Senate colleagues, [sent a letter](#) requesting additional information on the Borrower Protection Program that the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFBP) and the Federal Housing Finance Agency (FHFA) announced in April.

Administration

WHITE HOUSE

- The Council of Economic Advisers (CEA) [will not release](#) the typical midsummer review of its initial economic projections in July or August.

FEDERAL RESERVE

- The Federal Reserve Bank of Boston [released](#) the legal documents for eligible borrowers and lenders to participate in the Main Street Lending program.
- The Fed [released](#) its May Beige Book.

TREASURY

- The Treasury and Small Business Administration (SBA) [announced](#) the agencies will set aside \$10 billion of Round 2 funding for the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) to be lent exclusively by Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs).

INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE (IRS)

- The IRS and Treasury [announced tax relief](#) for taxpayers that develop renewable energy projects that produce electricity from sources such as wind, biomass, geothermal, landfill gas, trash, and hydropower, and use technologies such as solar panels, fuel cells, microturbines, and combined heat and power systems.

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION (SEC)

- The SEC has [started an inquiry](#) into publicly traded companies that received coronavirus stimulus funds.

Articles of Interest

- 5/28 The Washington Post published an article titled, [“House passes bill to ease access to small-business loans in pandemic, but impasse with Senate remains.”](#)
- 5/28 Politico published an article titled, [“House passes bill to ease small business emergency loan rules.”](#)
- 5/28 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, [“Easing Unemployment Claims Show Slower Pace of Coronavirus-Related Layoffs.”](#)
- 5/28 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, [“U.S. Economy Contracted 5% in the First Quarter as Coronavirus Hit.”](#)
- 5/28 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, [“White House Won’t Issue Economic Projections This Summer, Official Says.”](#)
- 5/28 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, [“Williams Doesn’t See Fed’s Support of Economy Causing Inflation Surge.”](#)
- 5/27 The Hill published an article titled, [“Fed: Sharp economic decline in May leaves businesses ‘pessimistic’ about recovery.”](#)

PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

Congressional

HOUSE:

- Speaker Pelosi joined Members of Congress for a [press conference](#) to discuss the Administration’s failures on COVID-19 testing and the strong testing plan House Democrats included and passed in *The Heroes Act*.
- Speaker Pelosi [joined](#) MSNBC’s Andrea Mitchell Reporters to discuss *The Heroes Act*.
- Speaker Pelosi [joined](#) Judy Woodruff on PBS NewsHour to discuss *The Heroes Act*.
- Reps. Frankel, Bilirakis, Dingell, and Shalala introduced the [Protecting the Health of America’s Older Adults During COVID-19 and Beyond Act](#), which would establish a

National COVID-19 Resource Center for Older Adults under the leadership of the Secretary of HHS and create the Healthy Aging grant program at the CDC.

- The House New Democrat Coalition issued a [press release](#) on the passage of the Paycheck Protection Program Flexibility Act co-introduced by New Dem Rep. Phillips.

SENATE:

- Sen. Wyden sent a [letter](#) to Comptroller General of the U.S. Gene Dodaro, urging GAO to investigate whether insurance plans that subcontract mental health coverage experience differences in treatment limits or their ability to meet federal mental health parity requirements.
- Sens. Risch, Murphy, and Cardin introduced the [Global Health Security and Diplomacy Act](#) (GHSDA) to better detect, deter, and contain infectious disease outbreaks overseas before they become global pandemics.

Administration

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES:

- HHS through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) [awarded](#) \$15 million to 52 Tribes, Tribal organizations, urban Indian health organizations, and other health services providers to Tribes across 20 states to prepare, prevent, and respond to COVID-19 in rural tribal communities.

CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION

- CDC unveiled [guidelines](#) for re-opening office buildings amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION

- FDA took a new step to support the agency's evaluation of diagnostic tests for COVID-19, by providing a SARS-CoV-2 [reference panel](#). Reference panels are an additional step to ensure the quality of the tests, validation of new assays, test calibration, and monitoring of assay performance.
- The FDA issued a [guidance document](#) entitled "Effects of the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency on Formal Meetings and User Fee Applications" to provide answers to frequently asked questions.
- The FDA issued a [letter](#) to health care providers to remind reprocessing staff in health care facilities to use the correct sterilization cycle associated with certain models of the Advanced Sterilization Products (ASP) STERRAD Sterilization Systems and to only decontaminate compatible N95 or N95-equivalent respirators for reuse during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- FDA issued two guidance documents (one new guidance and one revised guidance) for industry to help address potential shortages of face masks, surgical masks, respirators, and face shields for use during the COVID-19 public health emergency: [Recommendations for Sponsors Requesting EUAs for Decontamination and Bioburden Reduction Systems for Face Masks and Respirators During the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency](#) and [Enforcement Policy for Face Masks and Respirators During the Coronavirus Disease \(COVID-19\) Public Health Emergency \(Revised\)](#).
- FDA issued an [Emergency Use Authorization](#) (EUA) for emergency use of the CLEWICU System of CLEW Medical Ltd for use by healthcare providers in the intensive care unit (ICU) as a diagnostic aid to assist with the early identification of adult patients who are likely to be diagnosed with respiratory failure or hemodynamic instability which are common complications associated with COVID-19.

Articles of Interest

- 5/26 The Hill published an article titled, [*"US braces for COVID-19 'slow burn.'"*](#)
 - 5/27 HuffPost published an article titled, [*"Fauci Says Coronavirus Second Wave 'Is Not Inevitable,' Stresses CDC Guidelines."*](#)
 - 5/27 CNBC published an article titled, [*"WHO says 'jury is still very much out' on whether coronavirus antibodies provide immunity."*](#)
 - 5/27 The Guardian published an article titled, [*"More than 100,000 Americans have died from Covid-19. Here is that tragic story in figures."*](#)
 - 5/27 The Washington Post published an article titled, [*"Coronavirus may never go away, even with a vaccine."*](#)
-

LABOR UPDATE

Administration

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

- DOL released its [*Unemployment Insurance Weekly Claims report*](#), finding that 2.1 million more Americans filed new claims for jobless benefits during the week ending May 23.
 - DOL's Inspector General made public a [*report*](#) sent to the Employment and Training Administration that expresses disagreement with the Administration's interpretation of the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) program, which has provided unemployment insurance benefits to millions of self-employed and gig workers not eligible for regular unemployment benefits.
-

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.