



DAILY COVID-19 UPDATE

June 4, 2020

WHAT HAPPENED TODAY

Yesterday evening, the Senate unanimously approved [H.R. 7010](#), the *Paycheck Protection Flexibility Act*, which was passed by the House last week. The bipartisan bill now heads to President Trump for his signature.

Today, the House Appropriations LHHS Subcommittee [heard from](#) CDC Director Dr. Redfield on the federal response to the coronavirus pandemic. He stressed the importance of having up to 100,000 contact tracers in place by September, in advance of a potential second wave; being overprepared and enhancing the core capabilities of public health at CDC such as data modernization and laboratory resilience; and indicated masks are a critical public health tool that Americans should be vigilant about using.

LATEST STATISTICS

There are a total of **6,581,066** confirmed cases worldwide, 388,118 deaths and 2,844,451 people have recovered.

There are **1,864,538** confirmed cases of the coronavirus in the U.S., 107,765 deaths and 479,258 people have recovered.

LATEST PMJ RESOURCES

[COVID-19 Legislative Update](#)

[Drug Shortage and Medical Supply Chain Tracker](#)

Notably, HHS released new [guidance](#) requiring laboratories to report the age, sex, race, ethnicity, zip code, and type of test performed on patients when submitting COVID-19 test results to CDC.

Since our last update, the Department of Health and Human Services published additional guidance related to the pandemic. Please see below for more details.

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

[COVID State Reopening Tracker](#)

[Liability Reform State of Play](#)

[CARES Act State Funding](#)

[State and Local Funding Bills](#)

[2020 Political Outlook](#)

[COVID Legislative 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 Budget Committee Chairman John Yarmuth's (D-KY) [opening statement](#) at the Committee's virtual hearing on addressing economic impacts of COVID-19.

SENATE:

- Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) [praised](#) the Senate passing the Paycheck Protection Program Flexibility Act (H.R. 7010).
- Senators Marco Rubio (R-FL) and Ben Cardin (D-MD), Chairman and Ranking Member of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, [sent a letter](#) to Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and Small Business Administrator Jovita Carranza urging the agencies to provide additional data and reporting on the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), Economic Injury Disaster Loan program (EIDL), and Small Business Debt Relief program.
- Senators Rob Portman (R-OH), Ben Cardin (D-MD), James Lankford (R-OK), and Cory Booker (D-NJ) [introduced](#) the *Paycheck Protection Program Second Chance Act*.

Administration

INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE (IRS):

- The IRS [announced](#) that interest rates will decrease for the calendar quarter beginning July 1, 2020.

Articles of Interest

- 6/4 Reuters published an article titled, [“U.S. jobless claims dip below 2 million, road to recovery rocky.”](#)
- 6/4 The Hill published an article titled, [“GOP shifting on unemployment benefits as jobless numbers swell.”](#)
- 6/3 The Washington Post published an article titled, [“Senate passes bill to increase flexibility for small-business loan program, sending it to Trump’s desk.”](#)
- 6/3 The Hill published an article titled, [“IRS faces obstacles with remaining stimulus checks.”](#)

PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

Congressional

HOUSE:

- Reps. Pallone and Walden as well as Sens. Grassley and Wyden sent a [letter](#) to HHS Secretary Azar expressing concern over prolonged delays in disbursing funds from the Public Health and Social Services Emergency Fund (PHSSEF) to Medicaid providers.
- Rep. Raskin introduced the [Understanding COVID-19 Subsets and ME/CFS Act](#), which would expand and coordinate NIH funding to address post-viral chronic neuroimmune diseases, including chronic fatigue syndrome (ME/CFS) in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 25 House lawmakers sent a [letter](#) to Speaker Pelosi and Minority Leader McCarthy regarding a shortage of needles, syringes, and other materials necessary to deploy a future coronavirus vaccine.

SENATE:

- Sen. Murray sent a [letter](#) to CDC Director Redfield and HHS Assistant Secretary Kadlec regarding ASPR's issuance of a \$10 million contract to TeleTracking to create an alternate hospital reporting pathway to HHS.
- Sens. Capito, Gardner, and Sinema introduced the [Combating Egregious Advertising through Sentencing Enhancement \(CEASE\) Act](#), which would greatly increase the Federal Trade Commission's (FTC) fines and punishment for false advertising during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Sen. Booker and Rep. Kelly introduced the [Community Solutions for COVID-19 Act](#), which would establish a \$1.5 billion grant program to help grassroots organizations create and expand hyperlocal programs to improve health equity and reduce or eliminate inequities in the prevalence and health outcomes of COVID-19.
- Sens. Grassley and Ernst addressed the FDA [revised guidance](#) regarding the manufacturing of alcohol-based hand sanitizer products during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Administration

THE WHITE HOUSE

- The White House provided a [readout](#) of Vice President Pence's briefing with governors on COVID-19 response and recovery.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

- HHS announced new [guidance](#) that specifies what additional data must be reported to HHS by laboratories along with COVID-19 test results. The guidance standardizes

reporting to ensure that public health officials have access to comprehensive and nearly real-time data to inform decision making in their response to COVID-19.

CENTERS FOR MEDICARE & MEDICAID SERVICES

- CMS posted the [first set](#) of underlying COVID-19 nursing home data.

NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

- NIH Research Matters published the [early results](#) of a NIAID study, which found that remdesivir benefited hospitalized patients with severe COVID-19 who required supplemental oxygen.

CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION

- CDC released its weekly Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR) titled, "[Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Emergency Department Visits — United States, January 1, 2019–May 30, 2020.](#)"
- CDC's National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) released a data brief titled, "[Emergency Department Visits Among Adults Aged 60 and Over: United States, 2014–2017.](#)"

FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION

- The FDA announced a new web-based resource, titled [Testing Supply Substitution Strategies](#). This 22-slide PowerPoint file contains detailed information to help support labs performing authorized COVID-19 tests.
- The FDA added content to the question-and-answer appendix in its guidance titled [Conduct of Clinical Trials of Medical Products during COVID-19 Public Health Emergency](#). The updated guidance has a new question-and-answer pertaining to 21 CFR Part 11 compliance for electronic systems used to generate electronic signatures on clinical trial records.
- The FDA issued an [alert](#) to health care professionals regarding a temporary absence of the "paralyzing agent" warning statement on the vial caps of two neuromuscular blocking agents: vecuronium bromide for injection and rocuronium bromide injection. The temporary distribution helps increase the supply of these high-demand drugs used in patients requiring medical ventilation.

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

- FCC's Wireline Competition Bureau [approved](#) an additional 53 funding applications for the COVID-19 Telehealth Program.

Articles of Interest

- 6/3 Reuters published an article titled, "[Trump administration selects five coronavirus vaccine candidates as finalists: NYT.](#)"
- 6/3 CNN published an article titled, "[The US should have a "couple hundred million" doses of a Covid-19 vaccine by start of 2021, Fauci says.](#)"
- 6/3 The New York Times published an article titled, "[The C.D.C. Waited 'Its Entire Existence for This Moment.' What Went Wrong?](#)"
- 6/4 The Guardian published an article titled, "[WHO to resume hydroxychloroquine trial after earlier halt over safety concerns.](#)"
- 6/4 The Atlantic published an article titled, "[COVID-19 Can Last for Several Months.](#)"

LABOR UPDATE

Administration

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR:

- DOL released its **[Unemployment Weekly Insurance Claims Report](#)**, which found that initial unemployment claims for the last week of May was 1.9 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.