



## DAILY COVID-19 UPDATE

June 16, 2020

### WHAT HAPPENED TODAY

Today, Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell testified before the Senate Banking Committee, during which he discussed the deployment of the Federal Reserve (Fed) lending facilities, the trajectory of economic recovery, and the possibility of additional aid to businesses and households. Specifically, Chairman Powell indicated state and local governments as well as the hospitality and entertainment sector may need additional help from Congress and the Fed.

Notably, as the July expiration for expanded unemployment benefits approaches, there is a growing rift between lawmakers on how to address the continued high unemployment rate. Senate Finance Committee Chairman Chuck Grassley (R-IA) **stated**, "we need to shift our focus to helping people safely return to work." Meanwhile, House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Richard Neal

### LATEST STATISTICS

There are a total of **8,092,109** confirmed cases worldwide, 438,806 deaths and 3,918,359 people have recovered.

There are **2,127,745** confirmed cases of the coronavirus in the U.S., 116,700 deaths and 576,334 people have recovered.

### LATEST PMJ RESOURCES

[COVID-19 Legislative Update](#)

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

(D-MA) **claimed** it would be "extremely irresponsible for Congress to take a step back at the first sign of improvement."

Yesterday, during a call with governors, Vice President Pence **downplayed the rise in coronavirus cases** and community spread throughout the U.S. He urged the state leaders to tell citizens the increase in positive cases is a result of more testing being done and that "hospitalizations for coronavirus are going down across the country."

Since our last update, the Department of Labor 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](#)

[COVID Legislative Tracker](#)

[Global COVID-19 Export Controls](#)

[Memo - Federal Reserve COVID-19 Announcements](#)

[Federal Reserve Lending Facilities Deck](#)

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## ECONOMIC UPDATE

### ***Congressional***

#### **HOUSE:**

- House Democrats **urged** Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) and Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (D-MD) to extend expiring tax credits and convert some of those tax breaks to direct payments.

#### **SENATE:**

- Senators Chris Coons (D-DE), Elizabeth Warren (D-MA), and Richard Blumenthal (D-CT) officially **introduced** the *Coronavirus Oversight and Recovery Ethics (CORE) Act (S.3855)*.
- Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) and Senate Banking Committee Ranking Member Sherrod Brown (D-OH) **sent a letter** to newly confirmed Special Inspector General for Pandemic Recovery (SIGPR) Brian Miller.
- Ranking Member Brown **sent a letter** to Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac urging they "do more to protect renters in Fannie Mae- and Freddie Mac-backed properties from illegal eviction."
- Senate Small Business Committee Ranking Member Ben Cardin (D-MD), along with a group of bipartisan Senators, **released a statement** in regard to past criminal justice involvement and eligibility for the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP).

### ***Administration***

#### **FEDERAL RESERVE ("FED"):**

- The Fed **announced** it will seek public feedback on a proposal to expand its Main Street Lending Program (MSLP) to provide access to credit for nonprofit organizations.

#### **TREASURY:**

- Secretary Steven Mnuchin **issued** a statement on the announcement that the Federal Reserve will seek public feedback on a proposal to expand the Main Street Lending Program to provide access to credit for nonprofit organizations.

### **SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION (SBA):**

- The SBA **reopened** the Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) and EIDL Advance program portal to all eligible applicants experiencing economic impacts due to COVID-19.

### **SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION (SEC):**

- The SEC **released** the program for its June 18 virtual Small Business Forum titled, "Access to Capital: More Critical Now than Ever."

### **FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION (FDIC):**

- FDIC **released a report** titled, "FDIC-Insured Institutions Reported Reduced Profitability but Strong Loan Growth and Stable Asset Quality in First Quarter 2020."

### **Articles of Interest**

- 6/16 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, "**Powell Says Despite Signs of Stabilization, Risks of Long-Term Economic Damage Are Significant.**"
- 6/16 Politico published an article titled, "**Members of Congress took small-business loans – and the full extent is unknown.**"
- 6/16 The Hill published an article titled, "**Congress set for fight over expiring unemployment relief.**"
- 6/15 The Washington Post published an article titled, "**Fed leaders urge Congress to spend more because 'we can't wait 10 years for recovery to reach everyone.'**"
- 6/15 Politico published an article titled, "**Fed to start buying debt from corporations in expansion of rescue effort.**"
- 6/15 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, "**Fed Outlines Proposal to Lend Money to Nonprofits.**"

## **PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE**

### ***Congressional***

#### **HOUSE:**

- Reps. Pallone, Neal, and Scott as well as Sens. Murray and Wyden sent a **letter** to HHS Secretary Azar and CMS Administrator Verma reasserting their request for a Special Enrollment Period (SEP) to help the millions of uninsured and underinsured Americans sign up for health insurance coverage amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Rep. Pallone sent a **letter** to CMS Administrator Verma reiterating his request that the agency release its demographic claims data concerning the outcomes of COVID-19 based on race, ethnicity and gender.
- E&C Chairman Pallone **announced** that the Full Committee will hold a hearing on Tuesday, June 23, at 11 a.m. on the nation's COVID-19 response with four key Trump Administration officials leading the response.

#### **SENATE:**

- Sens. Wicker and Schatz led 30 Senators in a **letter** to Majority Leader McConnell and Minority Leader Schumer urging the permanent expansion of telehealth services after the coronavirus pandemic ends. Specifically, the lawmakers are calling for provisions from Sen. Schatz's CONNECT for Health bill to be made permanent, including allowing Medicare recipients to use telehealth services, as well as expanding telehealth to more health care providers.

### ***Administration***

## THE WHITE HOUSE

- Vice President Pence published an article titled, "[There Isn't a Coronavirus 'Second Wave.'](#)"
- The White House provided a [readout](#) from the Vice President's Governors briefing on COVID-19 response and recovery and supporting America's workers.
- The White House published President Trump's [remarks](#) during a roundtable discussion on fighting for America's seniors.

## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

- HHS released a [fact sheet](#) titled, "Explaining Operating Warp Speed."

## FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION

- FDA issued a [warning](#) to healthcare providers about a newly discovered potential drug interaction related to the investigational antiviral drug remdesivir, which has received emergency use authorization for the treatment of hospitalized COVID-19 patients with severe disease.
- FDA released a [video](#) to teach Americans how to keep their pets safe during the COVID-19 pandemic.

## CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION

- CDC released a [Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report](#) that describes the COVID-19 case surveillance in the U.S. between January 22, 2020 - May 30, 2020. The report found that patients with certain underlying health conditions are six times more likely to be hospitalized after contracting COVID-19 and 12 times more likely to die.
- CDC released a [National Health Statistics Report](#) titled, "National Hospital Care Survey Demonstration Projects: Opioid-involved Emergency Department Visits, Hospitalizations, and Deaths."

## NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

- NIH's *All of Us* Research Program [announced](#) that it is leveraging its significant and diverse participant base to seek new insights into COVID-19 - through antibody testing, a survey on the pandemic's impacts and collection of electronic health record information.

## Articles of Interest

- 6/15 Reuters published an article titled, "[Trump touts hydroxychloroquine even as U.S. revokes emergency use status.](#)"
- 6/15 The New York Times published an article titled, "[Study Finds 1 in 5 People Worldwide at Risk of Severe Covid-19.](#)"
- 6/15 The Associated Press published an article titled, "[AP FACT CHECK: Trump's false security on kids and COVID-19.](#)"
- 6/15 The Washington Post published an article titled, "[Despite Trump's claim, the increase in new coronavirus cases isn't just a function of testing.](#)"
- 6/16 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, "[How Exactly Do You Catch Covid-19? There Is a Growing Consensus.](#)"

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## LABOR UPDATE

## ***Administration***

### **DEPARTMENT OF LABOR:**

- DOL Secretary Scalia delivered **remarks** at an event on June 15, 2020, featuring the launch of the final report of the Heritage Foundation's National Coronavirus Recovery Commission.
- DOL **issued** programmatic guidance to help ensure the accuracy of unemployment claims made due to the implementation of the CARES Act.
- DOL's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) **published** the "Seven Steps to Correctly Wear a Respirator at Work" poster in 14 additional languages. Initially available in English and Spanish, the poster demonstrates and describes seven steps every worker should follow when putting on and taking off a respirator.
- As more workplaces begin to reopen, the OSHA issued a **reminder** to employers that worker safety remains a priority amid both coronavirus and common workplace hazards.

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*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.*