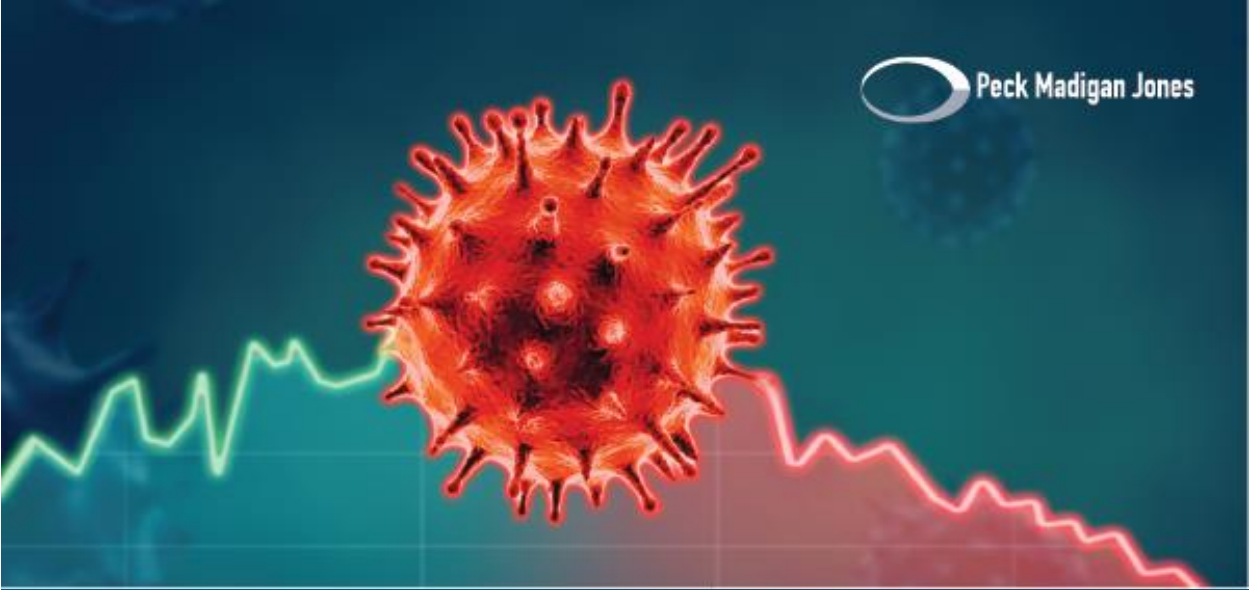




## DAILY COVID-19 UPDATE

**June 17, 2020**

### WHAT HAPPENED TODAY

Today, U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer testified before the House Ways and Means Committee and the Senate Finance Committee. Ambassador Lighthizer spoke about the importance of bringing manufacturing back to the U.S., particularly of pharmaceuticals and personal protective equipment (PPE) in order to combat COVID-19 and future pandemics.

Additionally, the Senate HELP Committee held a hearing to examine lessons learned from the rapid shift to telehealth amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Among other things, lawmakers and witnesses advocated for two temporary policy changes to be made permanent: the originating site rule and the expansion of Medicare and Medicaid reimbursable telehealth services.

### LATEST STATISTICS

There are a total of **8,269,774** confirmed cases worldwide, 445,762 deaths and 4,021,672 people have recovered.

There are **2,150,923** confirmed cases of the coronavirus in the U.S., 117,423 deaths and 583,503 people have recovered.

### LATEST PMJ RESOURCES

[COVID-19 Legislative Update](#)

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

Notably, the Congressional Budget Office released a [report](#) estimating that the four COVID-19 emergency relief bills passed in March and April will add a total of \$2.4 trillion to the national deficit. The bulk of the additional spending comes from stimulus checks, increases to unemployment insurance, forgivable small business loans, and other major supports for businesses.

Since our last update, the Small Business Administration published additional guidance related to the pandemic. Please see below for more details.

[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:

- Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell [testified](#) before the House Financial Services Committee.
- The House Small Business Committee [published a memo](#) on its hearing titled, “Paycheck Protection Program: Loan Forgiveness and Other Challenges.”

#### SENATE:

- Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX) [introduced](#) the Work Safe Act, which would provide tax credits to businesses that test employees for COVID-19.
- In a [letter](#), Senate Judiciary Committee Ranking Member Diane Feinstein (D-CA) urged mortgage servicers to provide uniform and comprehensive consumer disclosures that explain federal mortgage forbearance options available during the COVID-19 pandemic.

#### CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE (CBO):

- The CBO released its report titled, [“The Budgetary Effects of Laws Enacted in Response to the 2020 Coronavirus Pandemic, March and April 2020.”](#)

### *Administration*

#### TREASURY:

- Treasury and the Small Business Administration [posted](#) a revised, borrower-friendly Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan forgiveness application.

#### INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE (IRS):

- The IRS **advised** that new rules under the CARES Act provide flexibility for health care spending that may be helpful in the current environment where more people may need at-home services due to COVID-19.
- The IRS **alerted** nursing homes and other care facilities that Economic Impact Payments (EIPs) generally belong to the recipients, not the organizations providing care.

## Articles of Interest

- 6/17 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, [\*\*“Lawmakers to Press Powell on Additional Relief Measures.”\*\*](#)
- 6/17 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, [\*\*“PPP Small-Business Loans Left Behind Many of America’s Neediest Firms.”\*\*](#)
- 6/16 Politico published an article titled, [\*\*“Powell’s warning on pandemic clashes with Trump’s upbeat tweets.”\*\*](#)
- 6/16 The Washington Post published an article titled, [\*\*“Record jump in retail sales sense stocks higher, but Fed chief warns economic recovery remains uncertain.”\*\*](#)
- 6/16 The Washington Post published an article titled, [\*\*“Powell warns recession ‘has not fallen equally on all Americans,’ public health crisis will dictate recover.”\*\*](#)

## PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

### *Congressional*

#### HOUSE:

- Rep. Clyburn, Chairman of the Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis sent a **letter** to CMS Administrator Verma requesting an examination of the impact of the coronavirus outbreak on nursing home residents and workers.

#### SENATE:

- Sens. Baldwin and Cassidy sent a **letter** to Senate Majority Leader McConnell and Minority Leader Schumer, requesting that the next COVID-19 relief package include legislation to protect seniors from COVID-19 scams/fraud.

### *Administration*

#### FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION

- FDA took a meaningful step forward in getting more tests to more Americans more quickly and making that process even easier for developers by posting **template updates** regarding the validation of molecular diagnostic tests for developers that intend their assay to be used for pooling patient samples or for screening asymptomatic individuals not suspected of having COVID-19.
- FDA posted a new web page, [\*\*Adverse Event Reporting for Medical Devices Under Emergency Use Authorization \(EUA\) or Discussed in COVID-19-Related Guidance Documents\*\*](#). This page answers questions about adverse event reporting for medical devices distributed under Emergency Use Authorizations (EUAs) or that are the subject of COVID-19-related guidance documents and points out a number of adverse event reporting-related resources.
- FDA **revoked** the emergency use authorization (EUA) of the Chembio Diagnostic System, Inc. (Chembio) DPP COVID-19 IgM/IgG System, a SARS-CoV-2 antibody test, due to performance concerns with the accuracy of the test.

## Articles of Interest

- 6/15 The Hill published an article titled, [\*\*“COVID-19 patients with underlying health conditions are 12 times more likely to die: CDC.”\*\*](#)
  - 6/16 Bloomberg published an article titled, [\*\*“HHS Doled Out \\$50 Billion to Firms Accused of Medicare Fraud.”\*\*](#)
  - 6/16 The Brookings Institution published an article titled, [\*\*“Race gaps in COVID-19 deaths are even bigger than they appear.”\*\*](#)
  - 6/16 Stat published an article titled, [\*\*“Major study finds common steroid reduces deaths among patients with severe COVID-19.”\*\*](#)
  - 6/16 Health Affairs published an article titled, [\*\*“Community Use Of Face Masks And COVID-19: Evidence From A Natural Experiment Of State Mandates In The US.”\*\*](#)
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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.*