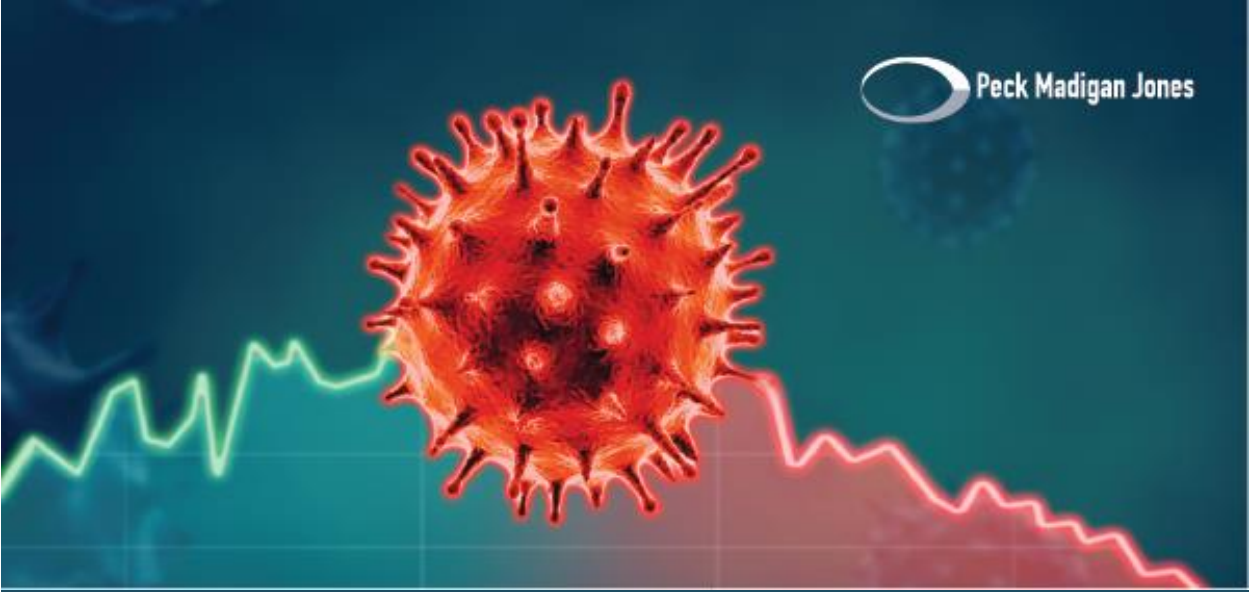




DAILY COVID-19 UPDATE

June 25, 2020

WHAT HAPPENED TODAY

Today, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) **released** its first report on oversight of the CARES Act stimulus funds. The report found, "because of the number of loans approved, the speed with which they were processed and the limited safeguards" the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) may have issued fraudulent loans. Additionally, the GAO stated that, unlike other agencies, the Small Business Administration (SBA) "failed to provide information critical" to its review.

Notably, during a **briefing** with reporters, CDC Director Dr. Robert Redfield indicated COVID-19 may have infected approximately 25 million Americans, 10 times more than the number of confirmed cases. He noted, for every one confirmed case, the CDC estimates that 10 others may have contracted the virus without any symptoms or unknowingly.

LATEST STATISTICS

There are a total of **9,522,025** confirmed cases worldwide, 484,406 deaths and 4,683,736 people have recovered.

There are **2,407,167** confirmed cases of the coronavirus in the U.S., 122,370 deaths and 656,161 people have recovered.

45,557 new cases of coronavirus were reported yesterday in the U.S., a new record for the highest single day total.

LATEST PMJ RESOURCES

Additionally, the House Ways and Means Health Subcommittee held a hearing to examine the impact of COVID-19 on nursing homes and the federal government's response. The panel discussed reforms such as prioritizing seniors and healthcare workers to receive a COVID-19 vaccine when it becomes available, protecting nursing home staff by ensuring ample supplies of personal protective equipment, and continuing to study antibody tests, among other things.

Moreover, Securities and Exchange Commission Chairman Jay Clayton appeared before a House Financial Services Subcommittee. Chairman Clayton stated, "I believe the swift actions taken by Congress, by the Fed, and the Treasury to enable credit to continue to flow have significantly dampened the negative effects of the COVID-19" pandemic.

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

[COVID-19 Legislative Update](#)

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

[Coronavirus 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](#)

ECONOMIC UPDATE

Congressional

HOUSE:

- House Financial Services Committee Chairwoman Maxine Waters (D-CA) [sent a letter](#) to Securities and Exchange Commission Chairman Jay Clayton reiterating her call for the agency to halt rulemaking unrelated to the pandemic.

SENATE:

- Senator Brian Schatz (D-HI), member of the Senate Banking Committee, led a group of Senators [urging](#) the Federal Reserve ("Fed") to require banks to suspend dividend payments to shareholders as the economy struggles to recover from the ongoing COVID-19 crisis.
- Senator Dick Durbin (D-IL) and Rep. Lloyd Doggett (D-TX) [introduced](#) the *American Assistance for American Companies Act*, a bill to ensure that inverted corporations cannot receive financial assistance under the CARES Act.

GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE (GAO):

- The GAO released its first report in response to the CARES Act titled, ["COVID-19: Opportunities to Improve Federal Response and Recovery Efforts."](#)

Administration

FEDERAL RESERVE ("FED") :

- The Fed **released** the results of its stress tests for 2020 and additional sensitivity analyses that the Board conducted in light of the coronavirus pandemic.
- The Fed **announced** federal agencies have finalized changes in their swap margin rule to facilitate the implementation of prudent risk management strategies at banks and other entities with significant swap activities.
- The Fed **announced** federal regulatory agencies finalized the rule modifying the Volcker rule's prohibition on banking entities investing in or sponsoring hedge funds or private equity funds.

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION (SBA):

- The SBA and Treasury **released** an additional eligibility revision to the first interim final rule for the Paycheck Protection Program.

Articles of Interest

- 6/25 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, **"Small-Business Aid Program Has Significant Fraud Risk, GAO Says."**
- 6/25 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, **"Fed's George: Unclear What Fed Policy Will Need to Do Next."**
- 6/25 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, **"U.S. Initial Unemployment Benefits Steady at 1.5 Million in June."**
- 6/24 Politico published an article titled, **"Congress slams Fed for favoritism in bond-buying bailout."**

PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

Congressional

HOUSE:

- Reps. Pallone, Eshoo, and DeGette released a **report** on the Energy and Commerce Committee's year-long investigation into the anti-consumer practices of Short-Term, Limited Duration Insurance (STLDI) healthcare plans and the insurance brokers who sell and sign people up for these plans. According to the lawmakers, "the Committee's investigation finds that the Trump Administration's policy to expand unregulated and misleading plans is a threat to the health and financial well-being of American families, particularly during COVID-19.
- Reps. Porter and Pascrell sent a **letter** to HHS Secretary Azar regarding accountability of the \$175 billion COVID-19 Provider Relief Fund.
- Reps. DeGette, Upton, Johnson, Lucas, Eshoo, and Gonzalez introduced **bipartisan legislation** to authorize billions in funding to U.S. researchers who have been impacted by the pandemic.

SENATE:

- Sens. Markey, Warren, Brown and Reed sent a **letter** to Vice President Trump and CDC Director Redfield, urging the administration to provide guidance and assistance to states and local communities in supporting individuals' voluntary self-isolation and quarantine.

Administration

FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION

- FDA launched the first **[“FDA Insight” podcast](#)**, featuring FDA Commissioner Hahn and FDA Deputy Commissioner for Medical and Scientific Affairs Anand Shah, M.D., discussing FDA's COVID-19 efforts, including the drug development process for a COVID-19 treatment.
- U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Perdue and FDA Commissioner Hahn **[issued](#)** a statement regarding food export restrictions pertaining to COVID-19.

CENTERS FOR MEDICARE & MEDICAID SERVICES

- CMS released a **[trends report](#)** that provides data on the number of individuals who signed up for coverage on HealthCare.gov through a special enrollment period (SEP) during the COVID-19 pandemic.

CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION

- CDC updated and expanded the **[list of who is at increased risk for getting severely ill from COVID-19](#)**. Older adults and people with underlying medical conditions remain at increased risk for severe illness, but now CDC has further defined age- and condition-related risks.

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

- FCC's Wireline Competition Bureau **[approved](#)** an additional 77 funding applications for the COVID-19 Telehealth Program. Health care providers in both urban and rural areas of the country will use this \$29.41 million in funding to provide telehealth services during the coronavirus pandemic.

Articles of Interest

- 6/24 The New York Times published an article titled, **[“Breakthrough Drug for Covid-19 May Be Risky for Mild Cases.”](#)**
- 6/24 The Washington Post published an article titled, **[“Coronavirus deaths lag behind surging infections but may catch up soon.”](#)**
- 6/24 Reuters published an article titled, **[“Exclusive: Vaccine alliance finds manufacturing capacity for 4 billion doses of coronavirus vaccines.”](#)**
- 6/24 Modern Healthcare published an article titled, **[“HHS, FEMA end funding for 13 COVID-19 test sites.”](#)**
- 6/24 ABC News published an article titled, **[“COVID-19 antibodies may fade in as little as 2 months, study says.”](#)**

LABOR UPDATE

Congressional

SENATE:

- Sens. Durbin and Rubio introduced **[bipartisan legislation](#)** to provide a historic investment in the National Health Service Corps (NHSC), Nurse Corps, and National Disaster Medical System (NDMS) programs to bolster health emergency surge capacity and restore the pipeline of physicians, nurses, and other health professionals to address existing health workforce shortages throughout our country amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

Administration

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR:

- DOL released the [Unemployment Insurance Weekly Claims report](#) for the week ending June 20.

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.