



## DAILY COVID-19 UPDATE

**July 15, 2020**

### WHAT HAPPENED TODAY

Today, Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) announced an additional coronavirus aid package is "guaranteed" to originate in the Senate and will include liability protections.

During an [interview](#) with the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA), CDC Director Dr. Redfield expressed concern that this fall and winter could be "one of the most difficult times we've experienced in American public health." He also noted that if all Americans begin wearing a mask, we can get the COVID-19 outbreak "under control within four, six, eight weeks."

Notably, in a recent [guidance and FAQs document](#), hospitals and clinical laboratories were instructed to send all coronavirus related data directly to HHS as of today, bypassing the CDC. Public health experts have voiced concern this move could harm the quality

### LATEST STATISTICS

There are a total of **13,405,694** confirmed cases worldwide, 580,552 deaths and 7,451,312 people have recovered.

There are **3,465,031** confirmed cases of the coronavirus in the U.S., 136,940 deaths and 1,040,098 people have recovered.

### LATEST PMJ RESOURCES

[COVID-19 Legislative Update](#)

of data as well as the federal response to the pandemic, while further marginalizing the CDC.

Yesterday, a House Oversight & Reform Subcommittee held a [briefing](#) on guardrails to ensure a safe and effective coronavirus vaccine. Public health experts on the panel noted that only population-wide immunity will stop the spread of the virus. They also listed critical elements that are fundamental for the success of a COVID-19 vaccine: data transparency, no shortcuts, public trust, strong evidence of safety and effectiveness, and a robust monitoring system to track safety as vaccines are rolled out.

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

[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](#)

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## ECONOMIC UPDATE

### *Congress*

#### HOUSE:

- The House Appropriations Committee [approved](#) the fiscal year 2021 Financial Services and General Government bill on a vote of 30 to 22.
- The House Small Business Committee held a hearing today titled, "[Long-Lasting Solutions for a Small Business Recovery.](#)"

#### SENATE:

- Senators Elizabeth Warren (D-MA), Chris Van Hollen (D-MD), and Catherine Cortez Masto (D-NV), all members of the Senate Banking Committee, [sent a letter](#) to the Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin urging the agencies to provide greater financial assistance to state and local governments.

### *Administration*

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

- The Fed [released](#) its Summary of Commentary on Current Economic Conditions by Federal Reserve District.

### *Articles of Interest*

- 7/15 The Hill published an article titled, "[Battle brewing on coronavirus relief oversight.](#)"

- 7/15 The New York Time published an article titled, [“A Resurgence of the Virus, and Lockdowns, Threatens Economic Recovery.”](#)
- 7/14 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, [“‘This Is Not a Normal Recession’: Banks Ready for Wave of Coronavirus Defaults.”](#)
- 7/14 The Washington Post published an article titled, [“Dunford signals he won’t chair coronavirus panel in latest blow to new oversight body.”](#)
- 7/14 The Hill published an article titled, [“Cash-strapped cities hammered by COVID-19 beg for federal help.”](#)

## PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

### *Congressional*

#### HOUSE:

- Reps. Pallone, Waters, Smith, Engel, and Thompson sent a [letter](#) to Secretary of Defense Esper and HHS Secretary Azar, seeking answers as to why the Administration has not used funding in the CARES Act for the Defense Production Act to boost production of critical medical supplies and equipment needed to combat COVID-19, such as personal protection equipment and diagnostic testing.
- House Ways and Means Chairman Neal released a [staff report](#), titled *“Left Out: Barriers to Health Equity for Rural and Underserved Communities”* that analyzes the barriers to health care in underserved communities and discusses the challenges associated with scalable and sustainable solutions.
- Rep. Clyburn sent a [letter](#) to Vice President Pence and HHS Secretary Azar regarding the Trump Administration’s refusal to allow Dr. Fauci and other key public health officials to testify before the Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis, as well as the failure to produce critical documents on the Administration’s plans to combat the deadly coronavirus pandemic.
- Reps. Pallone, Eshoo, and DeGette sent a [letter](#) to FDA Commissioner Hahn regarding the agency’s work to determine the accuracy of COVID-19 diagnostic and serological tests.

### *Administration*

#### DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

- HHS [announced](#) a large-scale procurement of FDA-authorized rapid point-of-care diagnostic test instruments and tests to be distributed to nursing homes in COVID-19 hotspot geographic areas with the United States.

#### FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION

- The FDA posted an updated [Coronavirus Treatment Acceleration Program \(CTAP\) webpage](#). The webpage provides information about CTAP’s purpose, strategy and operations. Specifically, this revised webpage includes a dashboard showing crucial statistics related to the development of potential COVID-19 therapeutics. Also included are key guidance and links for therapeutic developers, researchers, patients and consumers.
- The FDA added dexamethasone sodium phosphate to the lists of drugs for temporary compounding by [outsourcing facilities](#) and [pharmacy compounders](#) during the COVID-19 public health emergency. These updates help address shortages and

access concerns affecting some drugs urgently needed for hospitalized COVID-19 patients.

#### **NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH**

- NIH sponsored a [Phase 1 trial for an investigational vaccine](#), mRNA-1273, designed to protect against SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. According to interim results published in The New England Journal of Medicine, the vaccine was generally well tolerated and prompted neutralizing antibody activity in healthy adults.

#### **CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION**

- CDC called on Americans to [wear masks](#) to prevent COVID-19 spread.
- CDC published a [Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report](#) titled, "Factors Associated with Cloth Face Covering Use Among Adults During the COVID-19 Pandemic — United States, April and May 2020."

#### **Articles of Interest**

- 7/14 Politico published an article titled, "[A dangerous new chapter of the outbreak: Every state for itself.](#)"
  - 7/14 The Washington Post published an article titled, "[We ran the CDC. No president ever politicized its science the way Trump has.](#)"
  - 7/14 The Hill published an article titled, "[Experimental COVID-19 vaccine shows immune response in early results.](#)"
  - 7/14 JAMA Network published an article titled, "[Universal Masking to Prevent SARS-CoV-2 Transmission—The Time Is Now.](#)"
  - 7/14 The New York Times published an article titled, "[Trump Administration Strips C.D.C. of Control of Coronavirus Data.](#)"
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## **LABOR UPDATE**

### ***Administration***

#### **DEPARTMENT OF LABOR:**

- DOL announced a [Request for Information](#) regarding the impact of paid family and medical leave on America's workforce.
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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.*