



## DAILY COVID-19 UPDATE

**July 16, 2020**

### WHAT HAPPENED TODAY

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) continues to outline aspects of his COVID-19 relief package, which is expected to be released next week. Yesterday, he **announced** there will be "heavy emphasis" on education in the future legislation, as "we need to find a way to safely get back to work ... and the federal government will have to play a financial role in helping to make that possible."

Notably, the Federal Reserve released its **Beige Book** that showed "economic activity increased in almost all Districts, but remained well below where it was prior to the COVID-19 pandemic." Additionally, the report noted "outlooks remained highly uncertain, as contacts grappled with how long the COVID-19 pandemic would continue and the magnitude of its economic implications."

### LATEST STATISTICS

There are a total of **13,666,118** confirmed cases worldwide, 586,369 deaths and 7,635,655 people have recovered.

There are **3,546,871** confirmed cases of the coronavirus in the U.S., 138,040 deaths and 1,075,882 people have recovered.

### LATEST PMJ RESOURCES

[COVID-19 Legislative Update](#)

Earlier this week, the House Homeland Security Committee held a [hearing](#) on federal and state supply preparedness for COVID-19 and future pandemics. The witness panel recommended improving supply distribution and prioritization; using field stations and alternative care sites to decompress hospitals; supplementing materials from the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) with production and purchasing; early interventions to increase the production of critical supplies; and including pandemics in the definition of a major disaster declaration, among other things.

Since our last update, the Federal Reserve 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.

[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

### *Congress*

#### HOUSE:

- Reps. Suzan DelBene (D-WA), Denny Heck (D-WA), Jackie Walorski (R-IN), and Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-WA), along with 111 other members, [sent a letter](#) to IRS Commissioner Rettig urging the agency to resolve several issues around Economic Impact Payments.
- Rep. Tom Rice (R-SC) [will introduce](#) legislation to provide a tax credit for businesses to safely reopen and pay for extra safety measures amid the coronavirus pandemic.

### *Administration*

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

- The Fed [announced](#) an extension of a rule change to bolster the effectiveness of the Small Business Administration (SBA) Paycheck Protection Program (PPP).

#### TREASURY:

- Treasury released a [readout](#) from Secretary Mnuchin's call with Finance Ministers of Australia, Canada, and the United Kingdom, in which they discussed combating unemployment and job support in industries adversely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

#### INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE (IRS):

- The IRS **released** its annual “Dirty Dozen” list of tax scams with a special emphasis on aggressive and evolving schemes related to coronavirus tax relief, including Economic Impact Payments.

#### **CONSUMER FINANCIAL PROTECTION BUREAU (CFPB):**

- The CFPB **issued** an updated Complaint Bulletin, analyzing the more than 8,000 complaints it received from January through May 2020 that mention coronavirus or related terms.

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

- The SEC, Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board (MSRB), and Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA) **announced** the opening of registration for a virtual Compliance Outreach Program for Municipal Advisors.

#### **Articles of Interest**

- 7/16 Politico published an article titled, **“The balloon might pop’: Fed’s corporate intervention spurs anxiety.”**
- 7/16 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, **“U.S. Jobless Claims Held Nearly Steady at 1.3 Million in July 11 Week.”**
- 7/16 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, **“Senate Democrats Propose \$350 Billion in Aid for Minority Communities.”**
- 7/15 Politico published an article titled, **“Black applicants faced discrimination in securing PPP loans, study finds.”**

## **PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE**

### ***Congressional***

#### **HOUSE:**

- Democratic members of the House Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis sent a **letter** to cabinet agency leaders requesting documents and information regarding contracts awarded by the Administration to procure personal protective equipment (PPE), testing supplies, and other medical equipment. In addition, they're also requesting the Administration's plans to meet the urgent need for these supplies as coronavirus cases rise across the U.S.
- 12 representatives sent a **letter** to congressional leaders urging the implementation of targeted and time-limited COVID-19 liability protections for healthcare providers, facilities, businesses, and non-profit organizations that work to follow proper public health guidelines to protect everyone from the current pandemic.

#### **SENATE:**

- Sen. Harris (D-CA) announced the **COVID-19 Bias and Anti-Racism Training Act**, legislation to ensure health providers and other individuals involved in COVID-19 testing, treatment, vaccine distribution, and response receive bias and anti-racism training.
- Sen. Hassan sent a **letter** to HHS and the U.S. Postal Service about the two collaborating to improve patient and public health by enhancing the accuracy with which electronic health record (EHR) systems can share data with one another.

## ***Administration***

### **DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

- Yesterday, HHS Chief Information Officer Jose Arrieta and CDC Director Robert Redfield provided an **update** for members of the media on HHS efforts to gather and disseminate real-time hospital data on COVID-19.

### **FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION**

- The FDA updated its **Frequently Asked Questions on Testing for SARS-CoV-2**. The revised FAQs now include a list of laboratories that have been removed from the notification list because FDA has determined that there are significant problems with its test that cannot be, or have not been, addressed in a timely manner and should no longer be used.

### **Articles of Interest**

- 7/15 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, "**Hospitals in COVID-19 Hot Spots Are Filling Up.**"
  - 7/15 Fierce Healthcare published an article titled, "**Median COVID-19 charges for commercial plans top \$45,000: report.**"
  - 7/15 Reuters published an article titled, "**Fauci bullish on prospects for U.S. vaccine, not worried about China winning race.**"
  - 7/16 KHN published an article titled, "**A Coronavirus Vaccine: Where Does It Stand?**"
  - 7/16 Stat published an article titled, "**How HHS's new hospital data reporting system will actually affect the U.S. Covid-19 response.**"
- 

## **LABOR UPDATE**

### ***Congressional***

#### **HOUSE:**

- Ways and Means Republicans **introduced** two new bills as part of their policy agenda to help Americans returning safely to a healthy workplace. These bills, the *Healthy Workplace Tax Credit* introduced by Rep. Rice (R-SC) and the *Workplace Testing Tax Credit* introduced by Rep. Schweikert (R-AZ), will help businesses safely and responsibly reopen our economy and protect the health and well-being of workers during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Ways and Means Republicans published a coronavirus bulletin titled, "**Retail Sales Up, Jobless Claims Down: Reopening Slowly, Safely.**"

### ***Administration***

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

- DOL released its **Unemployment Insurance Weekly Claims Report** for the week ending on July 11.
- DOL's Wage and Hour Division (WHD) announced **significant steps to streamline optional-use forms** that workers can use to request and employers can use to coordinate leave under the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA). WHD also published

a **Request for Information** (RFI) in the Federal Register seeking the public's feedback on the law's administration and use.

---

*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.*