



DAILY COVID-19 UPDATE

July 20, 2020

WHAT HAPPENED TODAY

Today, President Trump told reporters he plans to **resume the daily briefings** on the Administration's response to the coronavirus. He told reporters the next one will be held tomorrow at 5 p.m., marking the first briefing the President has participated in since the end of April.

Notably, Senate Majority Leader McConnell is expected to release the GOP coronavirus relief package as early as tomorrow prior to beginning negotiations with House Democrats.

Additionally, Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) sent a **letter** to the Senate Democratic Caucus, criticizing the GOP's COVID-19 aid package, which he stated "will prioritize corporate special interests over workers and main street businesses, and will fail to adequately address the worsening spread of the coronavirus."

LATEST STATISTICS

There are a total of **14,604,077** confirmed cases worldwide, 608,420 deaths and 8,200,578 people have recovered.

There are **3,804,907** confirmed cases of the coronavirus in the U.S., 140,811 deaths and 1,131,121 people have recovered.

LATEST PMJ RESOURCES

[COVID-19 Legislative Update](#)

Since our last update, the Department of Labor and the Office for Civil Rights (OCR) at the Department of Health and Human Services published additional guidance related to the pandemic. Please see below for more details.

We have updated our Coronavirus State Reopening Tracker and the Drug Shortage and Medical Supply Tracker. Both are 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:

- The House Financial Services Committee will hold a hearing this week on the Heroes Act ([H.R. 6800](#)).

Administration

INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE (IRS):

- The IRS's new Fraud Enforcement Office **will create** a team to better prepare the agency for threats like the coronavirus pandemic.

Articles of Interest

- 7/20 The Washington Post published an article titled, "[GOP coronavirus bill likely to include payroll tax cut and tie school money to reopening plans.](#)"
- 7/19 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, "[Economic Recovery Is Under Way but Fighting Flare-Ups Is Key.](#)"
- 7/19 Politico published an article titled, "[Battle over Covid aid consumes Congress' final sprint to recess.](#)"
- 7/18 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, "[What Banks Tell Us About Covid-Era Business: 'Everybody Is, Bluntly, Struggling.'](#)"
- 7/18 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, "[Depleted Trump Economic Team Faces Major Test Over Extending Coronavirus Relief Efforts.](#)"

PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

Congressional

HOUSE:

- Republicans on the House Ways and Means Committee, led by Health Subcommittee GOP Leader Nunes (R-CA), released a [discussion draft](#) outlining a bold plan to further promote telehealth for patients.
- Rep. Nunes (R-CA) penned an [op-ed](#) in the Washington Examiner titled, "Invest More in Cures for Infectious Diseases."
- Reps. Clyburn (D-SC), Maloney (D-NY), and Krishnamoorthi (D-IL) sent a [letter](#) to HHS Secretary Azar and CDC Director Redfield calling on the Trump Administration to reverse the decision to divert coronavirus data away from the CDC and instead report it to a private contractor.

SENATE:

- Sen. Schumer (D-NY) sent a [letter](#) to the Senate Democratic Caucus, noting Sen. McConnell's (R-KY) plan to write the next COVID-19 relief legislation behind the closed doors of his office is the same failed partisan approach that delayed passage of the CARES Act and the subsequent interim emergency relief legislation in the Spring. Schumer also says that by all accounts, the Senate Republican draft legislation favors corporate special interests over the needs of workers and families.
- Sen. Wyden (D-OR) sent a [letter](#) to OMB Acting Director Vought requesting transparency regarding the distribution of funds to health care providers to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the COVID-19 crisis.
- Sen. Collins (R-ME) sent a [letter](#) to Senate Majority Leader McConnell regarding a two-year extension of the medical expense deduction in the next coronavirus response bill.

Administration

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

- The Office for Civil Rights (OCR) at HHS issued [guidance](#) to ensure that recipients of federal financial assistance understand that they must comply with applicable federal civil rights laws and regulations that prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, and national origin in HHS-funded programs during COVID-19.

FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION

- The FDA reissued an emergency use authorization (EUA) to Quest Diagnostics to authorize its [Quest SARS-CoV-2 rRT-PCR test](#) for use with pooled samples containing up to four individual swab specimens collected under observation. The Quest test is the first COVID-19 diagnostic test to be authorized for use with pooled samples.

Articles of Interest

- 7/15 The Atlantic published an article titled, "[A Second Coronavirus Death Surge Is Coming.](#)"
- 7/19 The Washington Post published an article titled, "[From swabs to antibodies: How to understand your coronavirus test results.](#)"
- 7/20 KHN published an article titled, "[For COVID Tests, the Question of Who Pays Comes Down to Interpretation.](#)"

- 7/20 The Hill published an article titled, **[“Oxford researchers report positive results from early vaccine trial.”](#)**
 - 7/20 Axios published an article titled, **[“The surge in coronavirus hospitalizations is severe.”](#)**
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LABOR UPDATE

Administration

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

- DOL published additional **guidance** for workers and employers on how the protections and requirements of the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA), the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA), and the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) affect the workplace as workplaces reopen amid the coronavirus pandemic.
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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.