



DAILY COVID-19 UPDATE

July 21, 2020

WHAT HAPPENED TODAY

Today, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) provided a glimpse into what the GOP's coronavirus relief package will **include**: a second round of direct stimulus payments for Americans, additional funding for the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) with a focus on "hard-hit businesses," funding for schools, and reimbursements for businesses that want to reopen, among other items.

Also, Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin announced the package will include \$1 trillion in additional aid, and will focus on "kids and jobs."

This afternoon, Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY), Secretary Mnuchin, and White House Chief of Staff Mark Meadows met to **begin negotiations** on the next COVID-19 aid legislation. Administration officials have indicated they want Congress to reach a deal by

LATEST STATISTICS

There are a total of **14,744,887** confirmed cases worldwide, 611,599 deaths and 8,340,042 people have recovered.

There are **3,858,686** confirmed cases of the coronavirus in the U.S., 141,426 deaths and 1,160,087 people have recovered.

LATEST PMJ RESOURCES

[COVID-19 Legislative Update](#)

the end of July, as the Senate is scheduled to begin its summer recess on August 7.

Additionally, the executives of five biopharmaceutical companies testified at a House Energy and Commerce Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee [hearing](#) on their efforts to develop a COVID-19 vaccine. The manufacturers predicted a vaccine could be available as early as the beginning of 2021, and two companies made a commitment that vaccine doses will be sold at cost to provide "broad and equitable access." The executives pledged to not take any shortcuts that could impact the safety or efficacy of a vaccine and commended the FDA's guidelines that set a high standard for vaccine development and approval. Lastly, they expressed concern about vaccine hesitancy and the need for everyone globally to be vaccinated, noting "no one is safe until everyone is safe."

Since our last update, the Food and Drug Administration and 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

SENATE:

- Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) delivered floor remarks that [outlined](#) the major pillars for the next COVID-19 proposal.

CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT COMMISSION:

- The Congressional Oversight Commission, established by the CARES Act, [released its third report](#).

Administration

FEDERAL RESERVE ("FED"):

- The Fed [announced](#) its intent to maintain the current schedule of prices for most payment services that the Federal Reserve Banks provide to depository institutions in 2021.

Articles of Interest

- 7/21 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, [“White House Works to Sell GOP Senators on Payroll-Tax Cut.”](#)
- 7/21 AP published an article titled, [“Trump, Congress square off over virus aid as crisis worsens.”](#)
- 7/20 The Washington Post published an article titled, [“Trump demands payroll tax cut while GOP eyes benefit cuts for unemployed.”](#)
- 7/20 Politico published an article titled, [“Fraud concerns loom over move to forgive small business loans.”](#)

PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

Congressional

HOUSE:

- Rep. Schweikert (R-AZ) introduced [legislation](#) to provide financial relief to millions of American families facing the burden of high health care costs. The proposal would reduce the current 7.5 percent income threshold for the medical expense deduction to 5 percent for years 2020 and 2021, and make the 7.5 percent income threshold permanent for all other years.
- Reps. Pallone (D-NJ) and DeGette (D-CO) sent a [letter](#) to HHS Secretary Azar expressing their concerns regarding the Trump Administration’s continued actions to sideline public health officials who should be leading our nation’s response to the coronavirus disease of 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic.

SENATE:

- Sen. Alexander (R-TN) introduced the [Preparing for the Next Pandemic Act](#), legislation that will maintain sufficient onshore manufacturing for tests, treatments and vaccines, and rebuild state and federal stockpiles of supplies like masks and ventilators.
- Sen. Wyden (D-OR) released a [proposal](#) to significantly expand the availability of telehealth services in Medicare on a permanent basis.
- Sens. Fischer (R-NE) and Rosen (D-NV) introduced the [KEEP Telehealth Options Act](#), which would require the federal government to study the actions taken to expand access to telehealth services during the COVID-19 pandemic and report on how to improve those services.

Administration

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

- HHS announced a new program to capture feedback between federal officials and the private sector. The [National Testing Implementation Forum](#) will bring together representatives from key stakeholder groups to share information and provide input to federal leaders about SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, testing and diagnostics.

FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION

- In a new FDA Voices, titled [FDA Protects Patients and Consumers from Fraud During COVID-19](#), agency leaders explain that the FDA’s consumer protection work is a cornerstone of the agency’s mission and a critical component of its pandemic response efforts.

- In another new FDA Voices, titled **[FDA's Continued Commitment to the Safety and Security of Our Laboratories](#)**, agency leaders explain that laboratory safety is of the highest priority in all of the agency's scientific research and analytical facilities.
- FDA **announced** that it is extending the enforcement discretion policy for certain human cell, tissue, and cellular and tissue-based products (HCT/Ps). As a result of the challenges presented by the COVID-19 public health emergency, the agency is extending the enforcement discretion policy for an additional six months (through May 2021).
- The FDA implemented and issued **guidance** intended to help expand the availability of transport media used to transport certain clinical specimens for testing during the COVID-19 public health emergency. The FDA also posted answers to **frequently asked questions** relating to the development and use of transport media during the COVID-19 public health emergency.

Articles of Interest

- 7/20 Bloomberg published an article titled, "**[Double-Shot COVID Vaccines Multiply Immunization Challenges](#)**."
- 7/21 Wall Street Journal published an article titled, "**[How Deadly Is Covid-19? Researchers Are Getting Closer to an Answer](#)**."
- 7/21 Axios published an article titled, "**[We're still in the early stages of the vaccine race](#)**."
- 7/21 New York Times published an article titled, "**[Mistrust of a Coronavirus Vaccine Could Imperil Widespread Immunity](#)**."
- 7/21 Ipsos published an article titled, "**[Americans disillusioned with fellow citizens' response to pandemic as denial mounts](#)**."

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.