



DAILY COVID-19 UPDATE

July 29, 2020

WHAT HAPPENED TODAY

Today, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) **stated** Democratic Leaders could be "sabotaging" negotiations on the HEALS Act because "they think bipartisan progress for the country would hurt their own political chances." He also criticized Speaker Pelosi for signaling she will reject the GOP's proposal if the additional federal supplemental unemployment benefits are not boosted further, calling her position "unhinged."

In response, Speaker Pelosi called the HEALS Act a "**completely inadequate package**" that will "only prolong the suffering facing the American people." She urged Leader McConnell to take up the HEROES Act instead in order to "save lives and livelihoods."

The parties remain divided on issues such as total spending on the bill, the liability shield, additional unemployment insurance, funding for state and local

LATEST STATISTICS

There are a total of **16,829,840** confirmed cases worldwide, 662,222 deaths and 9,808,910 people have recovered.

There are **4,396,030** confirmed cases of the coronavirus in the U.S., 150,034 deaths and 1,355,363 people have recovered.

LATEST PMJ RESOURCES

[COVID-19 Legislative Outlook](#)

governments, and assistance for renters and homeowners, among other things. Notably, House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (D-MD) **conceded** that Democrats are willing to agree to a package that does not include the extension of the increased unemployment benefits.

Yesterday, the Federal Reserve ("Fed") held its policymaking meeting in which the committee **announced** it will keep interest rates near zero and warned the economic recovery is highly dependent on the trajectory of the coronavirus.

Since our last update, the Federal Reserve and Internal Revenue Service published additional guidance related to the pandemic. Please see below for more details.

We have updated our COVID Legislative Outlook 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

Congressional

HOUSE:

- Speaker Nancy Pelosi's (D-CA) **talking points** on, "Republicans' Months-Delayed COVID-19 Proposal Fails Workers and Families, Ignores Science-Based Solutions to Crush Virus and Reopen Economy."
- The House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Richard Neal (D-MA), the House Financial Services Committee Chairwoman Maxine Waters (D-CA), and the House Small Business Committee Chairwoman Nydia Velázquez (D-NY) **urged** Treasury and the Small Business Administration (SBA) to use all means necessary to ensure the remaining Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan funds are targeted to minority-owned small businesses.

Administration

FEDERAL RESERVE ("FED"):

- The Federal Reserve **issued** its FOMC statement.
- The Fed **announced** the extensions of its temporary U.S. dollar liquidity swap lines and the temporary repurchase agreement facility for foreign and international monetary authorities through March 31, 2021.

TREASURY:

- Treasury **announced** that it has reached an agreement with the United States Postal Service (USPS) on the material terms and conditions of a loan of up to \$10 billion to the USPS under the CARES Act.

INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE (IRS):

- The IRS **issued final regulations** regarding the provision of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act that limits the deduction for business interest expense, including basic statutory amendments made by the CARES Act.
- The IRS **provided a reminder** that the CARES Act can help eligible taxpayers in need by providing favorable tax treatment for withdrawals from retirement plans and IRAs and allowing certain retirement plans to offer expanded loan options.

CONSUMER FINANCIAL PROTECTION BUREAU (CFPB):

- **Statement** from Director Kathy Kraninger before the Senate Banking Committee.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE:

- The Chamber of Commerce released its **July 2020 Small Business Coronavirus Impact Poll**.

Articles of Interest

- 7/29 The Washington Post published an article titled, "**Trump pushes for short-term fix on unemployment insurance, eviction moratorium.**"
- 7/29 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, "**Fed Maintains Stimulus Commitment as Economic Outlook Dims.**"
- 7/29 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, "**Congress Seeks to Fix \$120 Billion Tax Snafu in PPP Loans.**"
- 7/29 Politico published an article titled, "**Fed warning: U.S. economic outlook at mercy of pandemic.**"

PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

Congressional

HOUSE:

- Speaker Pelosi penned a **Dear Colleague** letter on the Senate GOP COVID-19 proposal and ongoing discussions with the Trump administration.

SENATE:

- 13 Senators sent a **letter** to Majority Leader McConnell (R-KY), Democratic Leader Schumer (D-NY), Sen. Alexander (R-TN) and Sen. Murray (D-WA) urging the inclusion of commonsense privacy protections for COVID health data in the next coronavirus relief package.
- Sen. Sanders (I-VT) introduced the **Masks for All Act**, which would use the United States Postal Service to distribute three free, reusable masks to every person in the country, including individuals who are experiencing homelessness or living in group settings such as prisons, shelters, college dorms, and assisted living facilities.

Administration

THE WHITE HOUSE

- The White House provided a [readout](#) from Vice President Pence's Governors briefing on COVID-19 best practices and response.
- The White House released a [fact sheet](#) titled, "President Trump Is Leading a Once-in-a-Generation Effort to Ensure Americans Have Access to a COVID-19 Vaccine."

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

- HHS, through the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, released a [new report](#) showing the dramatic utilization trends of telehealth services for primary care delivery in Fee-for-Service (FFS) Medicare in the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic. The report analyzes claims data from January through early June.
- HHS, the Department of Energy (DOE), and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) [announced](#) the formation of the COVID-19 Insights Partnership, an initiative to coordinate and share health data as well as research and expertise to aid in the fight against COVID-19.

NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

- NIH Director Dr. Collins published a [blog post](#) titled, "Immune T Cells May Offer Lasting Protection Against COVID-19."
- National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) scientists [reported](#) that two doses of an experimental vaccine to prevent COVID-19 induced robust immune responses and rapidly controlled the coronavirus in the upper and lower airways of rhesus macaques exposed to SARS-CoV-2.

FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION

- The FDA posted a [new template](#) for commercial developers to help them develop and submit emergency use authorization (EUA) requests for COVID-19 diagnostic tests that can be performed entirely at home or in other settings besides a lab, such as offices or schools, and that could be available without a prescription.
- The FDA posted the audio and transcript versions of [Episode 6](#) in its new podcast series, FDA Insight, which features Dr. Peter Marks, Director of the FDA Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research (CBER), in part 2 of a discussion on COVID-19 vaccines.

CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION

- CDC published a [Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report](#) (MMWR) titled, "Symptom Duration and Risk Factors for Delayed Return to Usual Health Among Outpatients with COVID-19 in a Multistate Health Care Systems Network — United States, March–June 2020."

Articles of Interest

- 7/28 The New York Times published an article titled, [“Read the Latest Federal Report on States’ Response to the Virus.”](#)
- 7/28 AP News published an article titled, [“States resist mask rules as Midwest virus uptick stirs alarm.”](#)
- 7/28 The Hill published an article titled, [“21 states now in federal 'red zone' for serious coronavirus outbreaks: study.”](#)
- 7/28 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, [“After Reopening, Coronavirus-Hit States Chart Their Own Paths to Close Up Again.”](#)
- 7/29 KHN published an article titled, [“Public Health Experts Fear a Hasty FDA Signoff on Vaccine.”](#)

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.