



DAILY COVID-19 UPDATE

July 30, 2020

WHAT HAPPENED TODAY

After three days of negotiations, congressional leaders and the Trump administration have failed to come to an agreement on the GOP's coronavirus relief proposal. White House Chief of Staff Mark Meadows acknowledged yesterday evening that "**we are nowhere close to a deal.**" Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin added, "We are still very far apart on a lot of issues."

Furthermore, Democrats rejected an idea floated by the White House and some Republicans of a smaller package that would extend the boosted unemployment benefits, which are set to expire tomorrow, as well as the federal eviction moratorium, which expired on July 24. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) has **signaled** he is open to an agreement on a "more narrow basis to avoid having an adverse impact on unemployment."

LATEST STATISTICS

There are a total of **17,126,081** confirmed cases worldwide, 669,055 deaths and 10,003,378 people have recovered.

There are **4,472,963** confirmed cases of the coronavirus in the U.S., 151,570 deaths and 1,389,425 people have recovered.

One person in the U.S. died every minute from COVID-19 on Wednesday as the national death toll surpassed 150,000 - the highest in the world.

Notably, the U.S. economy **shrank** 9.5% from April through June, the largest quarterly decline since the government began publishing data 70 years ago. The Department of Commerce also announced the gross domestic product (GDP) fell at a seasonally and inflation adjusted 32.9% annual rate in the second quarter.

Since our last update, the Internal Revenue Service 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.

LATEST PMJ RESOURCES

[COVID-19 Legislative Outlook](#)

[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:

- House Ways and Means Ranking Member Kevin Brady (R-TX) **issued a statement** in response to the Bureau of Economic Analysis' report on Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in the second quarter.
- House Financial Services Chairwoman Maxine Waters (D-CA) **issued a statement** regarding the potential inclusion of legislation to "weaken capital requirements for big banks in Senate Republicans' HEALS Act."
- The House **passed two bills**, the Child Care Is Essential Act (**H.R. 7027**) and the Child Care for Economic Recovery Act (**H.R. 7327**), that are aimed at mitigating the financial burden for child care during the pandemic.

SENATE:

- Senators Bill Cassidy (R-LA), Steve Daines (R-MT), Mitt Romney (R-UT), and Marco Rubio (R-FL) **introduced a bill** that would give adults and children direct payments of \$1,000.

Administration

WHITE HOUSE:

- The White House **released a statement** titled, “U.S. Economy Remains Resilient Despite Historic Contraction in Second Quarter.”

INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE (IRS):

- The IRS **issued a notice** to provide additional relief to taxpayers in satisfying the substantial rehabilitation test.

Articles of Interest

- 7/30 The Washington Post published an article titled, **“U.S. economy contracted at fastest quarterly rate on record from April to June as coronavirus walloped workers, businesses.”**
- 7/30 Politico published an article titled, **“Senate stalemate means millions on the verge of losing \$600 weekly federal benefit.”**
- 7/30 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, **“U.S. Economy Contracted at Record Rate Last Quarter; Jobless Claims Rise to 1.43 Million.”**
- 7/30 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, **“Lawmakers Spar on Unemployment Aid, Coronavirus Package.”**
- 7/29 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, **“Fed Maintains Stimulus Commitment as Economic Outlook Dims.”**

PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

Congressional

HOUSE:

- House Minority Leader McCarthy (R-CA) sent a **letter** to Speaker Pelosi (D-CA), urging the immediate institution of mandatory rapid coronavirus testing for House members.
- Speaker Pelosi's (D-CA) office issued a **transcript** of her remarks at yesterday's media availability with Senate Minority Leader Schumer (D-NY) following a meeting with the Trump administration on coronavirus relief legislation.
- Reps. Pascrell (D-NJ) and McHenry (R-NC) introduced ***the American PPE Supply Chain Integrity Act***, legislation that would help end America's over-reliance on personal protective equipment (PPE) and medical supplies from China and other foreign nations.
- Reps. Matsui (D-CA) and Stewart (R-UT) introduced a **bill** to provide temporary waivers for certain 340B program eligibility requirements due to the COVID-19 health emergency.

SENATE:

- Sen. Brown (D-OH) introduced legislation, the ***Protecting American Heroes Act***, to help increase the U.S. stockpile of personal protective equipment (PPE) and allow for a quick ramp up of American production of PPE in any future emergency.
- Sens. Cassidy (R-LA) and Smith (D-MN) introduced **legislation** calling for a study on rural health care delivery. The goal of the study is to learn what is working efficiently and what could be improved to boost health outcomes in rural communities, including which emergency COVID telehealth provisions should be made permanent.

- Sens. Van Hollen (D-MD) and Murphy (D-CT) introduced the [***COVID-19 Medical Debt Collection Relief Act***](#), legislation to prevent healthcare providers from taking drastic steps to collect medical debts from patients, including seizing bank accounts and garnishing wages.
- Sens. Kaine (D-VA), Young (R-IN), Reed (D-RI), and Cassidy (R-LA) introduced the [***Dr. Lorna Breen Health Care Provider Protection Act***](#), legislation that aims to reduce and prevent suicide, burnout, and mental and behavioral health conditions among health care professionals amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

Administration

THE WHITE HOUSE

- This afternoon, President Trump participated in a [**roundtable**](#) on donating plasma.
- The White House issued a [**transcript**](#) of yesterday's remarks by Vice President Pence in a roundtable on Phase III coronavirus vaccine trials at the North Carolina Biotechnology Center.

CENTERS FOR MEDICARE & MEDICAID SERVICES

- CMS [**announced**](#) that it is implementing new procedure codes to allow Medicare and other insurers to identify the use of the therapeutics remdesivir and convalescent plasma for treating hospital in-patients with COVID-19. These new codes, which go into effect August 1, will enable CMS to conduct real-time surveillance and obtain real-world evidence in how these drugs are working and provide critical information on their effectiveness and how they can protect patients.
- CMS and CDC [**announced**](#) that payment is available to physicians and health care providers to counsel patients, at the time of COVID-19 testing, about the importance of self-isolation after they are tested and prior to the onset of symptoms. CMS will use existing evaluation and management payment codes to pay providers who are eligible to bill CMS for counseling services no matter where a test is administered, including doctor's offices, urgent care clinics, hospitals and community drive-thru or pharmacy testing sites.

NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

- NIH Director Dr. Collins published a [**blog post**](#) titled, "What We Know About COVID-19's Effects on Child and Maternal Health."

Articles of Interest

- 7/29 Reuters published an article titled, "[**U.S. records a coronavirus death every minute as total surpasses 150,000.**](#)"
- 7/29 TIME published an article titled, "[**America Needs to Radically Rethink Our COVID-19 Testing Approach.**](#)"
- 7/29 Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security published article titled, "[**Resetting Our Response: Changes Needed in the US Approach to COVID-19.**](#)"
- 7/30 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, "[**Drugmakers Race to Build Covid-19 Vaccine Supply Chains.**](#)"
- 7/30 The New York Times published an article titled, "[**As Covid Has Become a Red-State Problem, Too, Have Attitudes Changed?**](#)"

LABOR UPDATE

Administration

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

- DOL released its **[Unemployment Insurance Weekly Claims report](#)** for the week ending July 25, which found that jobless claims rose to 1.43 million.

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.