



## DAILY COVID-19 UPDATE

**July 31, 2020**

### WHAT HAPPENED TODAY

House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (D-MD) announced this morning that the chamber will remain in session until a deal on the next COVID-19 legislation is reached. Meanwhile, the Senate is scheduled to leave for its August recess next Friday.

In a late Thursday night meeting, Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) and Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) rejected a one-week stopgap extension of the enhanced \$600 per week in unemployment benefits as well as a moratorium on evictions offered by White House Chief of Staff Mark Meadows and Treasury Secretary Mnuchin. Pelosi and Schumer noted a temporary extension to avoid a lapse in benefits is "worthless" without the likelihood of a bipartisan agreement on a comprehensive package.

### LATEST STATISTICS

There are a total of **17,421,013** confirmed cases worldwide, 675,545 deaths and 10,205,359 people have recovered.

There are **4,542,433** confirmed cases of the coronavirus in the U.S., 152,922 deaths and 1,414,155 people have recovered.

### LATEST PMJ RESOURCES

[COVID-19 Legislative Outlook](#)

Meadows and Mnuchin also proposed an extension of the \$600 per week in boosted unemployment benefits for four months as a standalone bill. Pelosi and Schumer rejected this offer as well and countered with an extension of the additional \$600 in unemployment benefits through March 2021, which Meadows and Mnuchin rebuffed.

Prior to leaving for the weekend, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) teed up votes for next week on GOP proposals for a **standalone extension** of the boosted unemployment benefit.

Additionally, Dr. Fauci, Admiral Giroir, and Dr. Redfield **testified** today on how the federal government is responding to the pandemic. Dr. Fauci expressed cautious optimism that we could have a COVID-19 vaccine by the end of this year; Dr. Redfield noted it's in the best interest of public health to get K-12 students back to in-person learning this fall; and Dr. Giroir noted that at this time, it's not possible for all COVID tests to be completed and returned within 48-72 hours given the demand and the supply. The three health officials implored Americans to do five key things to combat the virus: wear a face covering, maintain social distance, wash hands, avoid gatherings, and stay out of crowded bars and restaurants.

[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](#)

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## ECONOMIC UPDATE

### *Congressional*

#### HOUSE:

- The House **approved** a \$1.3 trillion spending package today that includes \$210 billion in emergency funding to help federal agencies combat the pandemic.
- The House Ways and Means minority website **published** a blog titled, "This Week in Economic News: July 31, 2020."
- House Financial Services Chairwoman Maxine Waters' (D-CA) **opening statement** at the committee hearing to examine the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

### *Administration*

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

- The **oral testimony** of Director Kathy Kraninger before the House Financial Services Committee.

### Articles of Interest

- 7/31 The Washington Post published an article titled, "[White House willing to cut a stimulus deal without 'liability shield,' breaking with McConnell.](#)"
- 7/31 Politico published an article titled, "[House clears \\$1.3T spending bill with \\$210B in emergency cash.](#)"
- 7/31 Politico published an article titled, "[White House, Democrats feud over deadlock as millions set to lose jobless aid.](#)"
- 7/31 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, "[Consumer Spending Rose 5.6% in June.](#)"
- 7/31 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, "[Jobless Aid Expires as Talks Continue on Coronavirus Package.](#)"

## PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

### *Congressional*

#### HOUSE:

- Reps. Porter (D-CA) and Upton (R-MI) would improve care for patients outside of clinical settings during the COVID-19 pandemic. The [Remote Patient Monitoring Access \(RPM Access\) Act](#) makes it easier for providers, hospitals, and health systems to get the tools they need to monitor patients' vitals remotely.
- Rep. Katko (R-NY) introduced the [Lowering Drug Costs for Seniors Act of 2020](#). Amid increased economic uncertainty during the COVID-19 pandemic and with skyrocketing drug prices impacting seniors, this bipartisan legislation limits out-of-pocket prescription drug costs for Medicare Part D recipients and provides payments to seniors who faced increased out-of-pocket expenses in the Medicare Part D 'donut hole' in 2020.
- Reps. Lee (D-NV) and Banks (R-IN) introduced bipartisan legislation, the [VA Telehealth Expansion Act](#), which would improve and expand telehealth services for veterans at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

#### SENATE:

- Sen. Alexander (R-TN) introduced the [Telehealth Modernization Act](#), legislation that will help ensure Americans can continue to see their doctors from home by making permanent the most important temporary changes in federal telehealth policy.

### *Administration*

#### THE WHITE HOUSE

- The White House released a [fact sheet](#) titled, "President Donald J. Trump is Promoting Safe Plasma Donations to Protect Americans and Donate COVID-19."
- The White House issued a transcript of [remarks](#) by President Trump at a roundtable on donating plasma.

#### DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

- HHS, through its top public health officials, released a series of [public service announcements](#) (PSAs) and announced over \$8 million in digital, radio, and out-of-home advertisements to support a broader Trump Administration effort imploring Americans to donate their plasma and help save lives. The PSA campaign seeks to dramatically increase donations of convalescent plasma by the end of August in the whole-of-America fight against the COVID-19 pandemic.

- HHS and the Department of Defense (DoD) **announced** agreements with Sanofi and GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) to support advanced development including clinical trials and large-scale manufacturing of 100 million doses of a COVID-19 investigational adjuvanted vaccine.

#### **NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH**

- NIH is **investing** \$248.7 million in new technologies to address challenges associated with COVID-19 testing. NIH's **Rapid Acceleration of Diagnostics (RADx)** initiative has awarded contracts to seven biomedical diagnostic companies to support a range of new lab-based and point-of-care tests that could significantly increase the number, type and availability of tests by millions per week as early as September 2020.

#### **FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION**

- The FDA posted **frequently asked questions** for patients and consumers about antibody (serology) testing during the COVID-19 public health emergency.
- The FDA updated its **frequently asked questions** on the Emergency Use Authorization for Remdesivir for Certain Hospitalized COVID-19 Patients.
- To date, the FDA has currently authorized 193 tests under EUAs; these include 158 molecular tests, 33 antibody tests, and 2 antigen tests.

#### **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."
- CDC and CMS **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.

#### **Articles of Interest**

- 7/31 Stat News published an article titled, "**Sanofi and GSK land \$2.1 billion deal with U.S. for COVID-19 vaccine development and 100 million doses.**"
- 7/30 the New York Times published an article titled, "**Children May Carry Coronavirus at High Levels, Study Finds.**"
- 7/30 POLITICO published an article titled, "**Vaccine distribution will be 'joint venture' between CDC and the Pentagon.**"
- 7/30 Modern Healthcare published an article titled, "**2nd U.S. virus surge hits plateau, few experts celebrate.**"
- 7/30 The Atlantic published an article titled, "**We need to talk about ventilation.**"

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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.*