



DAILY COVID-19 UPDATE

August 4, 2020

WHAT HAPPENED TODAY

Today, Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin, White House Chief of Staff Mark Meadows, Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), and Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) continued negotiations on the next coronavirus relief package. Speaker Pelosi and Democratic Leader Schumer **pressed** the Administration for additional food aid, funding for the U.S. Postal Service, and \$600 in additional unemployment benefits, while Administration officials continued to advocate for a second round of stimulus checks and a partial eviction ban. The two sides also remain divided on the overall price tag of the legislation.

Secretary Mnuchin and Democratic Leader Schumer noted they are making a little bit of progress and moving in the right direction. Speaker Pelosi has indicated there is potential to reach an agreement in the coming days, but with many issues still

LATEST STATISTICS

There are a total of **18,364,694** confirmed cases worldwide, 695,848 deaths and 10,965,634 people have recovered.

There are **4,742,277** confirmed cases of the coronavirus in the U.S., 156,133 deaths and 1,513,446 people have recovered.

LATEST PMJ RESOURCES

[Healthcare Chart on COVID Legislation](#)

outstanding, talks are expected to continue into next week.

Meanwhile, President Trump is weighing different options to suspend payroll taxes and restore a moratorium on evictions. In addition, the White House is also looking into other actions it can take unilaterally without the involvement of Congress.

Even though the size of the next stimulus package is not yet agreed upon, the Department of Treasury has estimated the federal government would borrow \$497 billion from July through September, bringing the total borrowing for FY 2020 to \$4.5 trillion. This will be more than triple last year's \$1.28 trillion, and far exceed the spending after the 2008 Financial Crisis.

Since our last update, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services published additional guidance related to the pandemic. Please see below for more details.

We have created a new chart detailing some of the major healthcare issues in the House and Senate COVID bills, and where they overlap. It is linked under 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

SENATE:

- Senator Bob Menendez (D-NJ), along with other members of the Senate Banking Committee, [led a letter](#) to Senate and House leaders calling for the next stimulus package to ban forced arbitration clauses for direct payments.
- The Senate Banking Committee received Special Inspector General for Pandemic Recovery Brian Miller's [first report](#), which urged Treasury to provide more transparency regarding a \$700 million loan to a shipping company.

Administration

WHITE HOUSE:

- President Trump signed the Protecting Nonprofits from Catastrophic Cash Flow Strain Act of 2020 ([S. 4209](#)), which improves emergency unemployment relief for governmental entities and nonprofit organizations.
- President Trump issued an [Executive Order](#) on "Aligning Federal Contracting and Hiring Practices with the Interests of American Workers."

FEDERAL RESERVE ("FED"):

- A **study** from the Federal Reserve Bank of New York found that Black-owned small businesses have been hit harder by the COVID-19 pandemic than those owned by members of other racial groups.

TREASURY:

- Treasury **announced** its current estimates of privately-held net marketable borrowing for July to September 2020 and October to December 2020 quarters.
- Assistant Secretary Michael Faulkender's **statement** for the Treasury Borrowing Advisory Committee of the Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association.

INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE (IRS):

- The IRS **urged** tax professional to secure remote locations by using a virtual private network (VPN) to protect against cyber intruders.

COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION (CFTC):

- The CFTC **issued a Customer Advisory** educating the public about unregistered gold and silver dealers advising investors to use relaxed rules under the CARES Act to purchase precious metals.

Articles of Interest

- 8/4 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, "**Coronavirus Aid Bill Talks to Resume on Capitol Hill.**"
- 8/4 Politico published an article titled, "**Fed study: Covid-19 overwhelmingly strikes countries with most Black businesses.**"
- 8/3 The Washington Post published an article titled, "**Trump says he's examining executive orders on evictions, payroll taxes if he can't reach deal with Democrats.**"
- 8/3 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, "**Democrats, White House Upbeat After New Talks on Coronavirus Aid Bill.**"

PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

Congressional

HOUSE:

- Ways and Means Republicans published a **coronavirus bulletin** titled, "FDA Highlights Importance of Advanced Medical Manufacturing to Support Health - Legislation by Ways and Means GOP will promote the important goal of expanding the use of advanced manufacturing."
- Ways and Means Republicans published a **coronavirus bulletin** titled, "Amplifying Ways and Means Republican Efforts, Trump Administration Further Expands Telehealth, Focuses on Rural Areas."
- Speaker Pelosi (D-CA) and Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) held a **media availability** yesterday after meeting with Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin and White House Chief of Staff Mark Meadows to discuss further coronavirus relief legislation.

SENATE:

- Sen. Tester (D-MT) sent a [letter](#) to VA Secretary Wilkie requesting data on COVID-19 racial and ethnic disparities among veterans.

Administration

THE WHITE HOUSE

- Yesterday, President Trump signed an [executive order](#) on improving rural health and telehealth access beyond the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The White House issued a [fact sheet](#) titled, "President Donald J. Trump Is Expanding Access to Telehealth Services and Ensuring Continued Access to Healthcare for Rural Americans."
- The White House provided a [readout](#) from Vice President Pence's Governor's briefing on COVID-19 response and best practices.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

- President Trump signed [executive orders](#) with the goal of improving healthcare in rural America, for seniors, and for all Americans, by expanding telehealth, modernizing regulations, and reforming payments.

CENTERS FOR MEDICARE & MEDICAID SERVICES

- As part of the agency's efforts to facilitate the nation's response to the COVID-19 public health emergency (PHE), CMS announced a policy that will allow issuers to offer [temporary premium reductions](#) for individuals with 2020 coverage in the individual and small group markets. CMS is providing this additional flexibility to help ensure that consumers struggling to pay their premiums can continue to be covered and receive the care they may need during this time.
- CMS is [proposing changes](#) to expand telehealth permanently, consistent with the Executive Order on Improving Rural and Telehealth Access that President Trump signed yesterday.

NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

- NIH Director Dr. Collins published a [blog post](#) titled, "Exploring Drug Repurposing for COVID-19 Treatment."
- NIH launched a Phase 3 randomized, controlled [clinical trial](#) to test antibody treatment in hospitalized COVID-19 patients. The study aims to determine safety and efficacy of experimental monoclonal antibodies.
- A Phase 2 [clinical trial](#) will evaluate the safety and efficacy of potential new therapeutics for COVID-19, including an investigational therapeutic based on synthetic monoclonal antibodies (mAbs) to treat the disease. Researchers sponsored by the NIAID, part of NIH, are working with clinical sites to identify potential patient volunteers currently infected with SARS-CoV-2, the virus which causes COVID-19, who have mild to moderate disease not requiring hospitalization.

FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION

- FDA Commissioner Dr. Hahn, and Anand Shah, M.D., Deputy Commissioner for Medical and Scientific Affairs published a [blog post](#) titled, "Investing in Advanced Manufacturing to Support Public Health."

Articles of Interest

- 7/31 The New York Times published an article titled, "[Trump's Coronavirus Testing Chief Concedes a Lag in Test Results.](#)"

- 8/3 Stat published an article titled, **“Nearly half of low-income communities have no ICU beds in their area.”**
 - 8/3 The Washington Post published an article titled, **“Getting a coronavirus vaccine in record time is hard. Distributing it to tens of millions may be equally daunting.”**
 - 8/4 Ipsos published an article titled, **“Most Americans support single, national strategy to combat COVID-19.”**
 - 8/4 The Atlantic published an article titled, **“How the Pandemic Defeated America.”**
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SUPPLY CHAIN/CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATE

- Please click **[here](#)** to view a readout of today’s CISA-led COVID-19 call.
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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.