



DAILY COVID-19 UPDATE

August 5, 2020

WHAT HAPPENED TODAY

Today, Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) announced the Senate will be in session next week to continue negotiations on the next coronavirus relief package. Leader McConnell also stated he will be supportive of any final legislation even if he doesn't agree "with certain parts of it."

In addition, Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin, White House Chief of Staff Mark Meadows, Speaker Pelosi (D-CA), and Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) decided on a **deadline** by which they must reach an agreement on the overall COVID-19 stimulus bill. The negotiators hope to finalize a deal by this Friday and hold votes in the House and Senate next week. Citing concrete progress, President Trump told reporters he may not have to take unilateral action and sign any executive orders.

LATEST STATISTICS

There are a total of **18,624,056** confirmed cases worldwide, 702,479 deaths and 11,181,518 people have recovered.

There are **4,802,275** confirmed cases of the coronavirus in the U.S., 157,551 deaths and 1,528,979 people have recovered.

LATEST PMJ RESOURCES

[Healthcare Chart on COVID Legislation](#)

Meanwhile, Leader Schumer urged Trump administration officials and the White House "to go much further on a number of issues" such as restoring enhanced unemployment benefits, funding to help tenants pay their rent, and direct aid for state and local governments. However, Leader McConnell has noted that if the proposal includes an extension of the boosted unemployment benefits, many GOP members will likely vote against passage.

We have updated our Drug Shortage and Medical Supply Chain Tracker. 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

HOUSE:

- The House Budget Committee **released a report** on the importance of extending the supplemental unemployment insurance benefits.

SENATE:

- The Congressional Oversight Commission **announced** it will hold its first public hearing to examine the Fed and Treasury's Main Street Lending Program.
- Senate Small Business Committee Chairman Marco Rubio (R-FL) and Senator Susan Collins (R-ME) **filed two amendments** to legislation that extends the deadline to apply for the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP).
- Senators Kamala Harris (D-CA), Chris Van Hollen (D-MD), Cory Booker (D-NJ), and Bob Menendez (D-NJ) **introduced legislation** to ensure minority communities are represented by the CARES oversight commission.

Administration

TREASURY:

- **Minutes of the meeting** of the Treasury Borrowing Advisory Committee of the Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association.

- [Quarterly refunding statement](#) of Deputy Assistant Secretary for Federal Finance Brian Smith.
- [Report](#) to the Secretary of the Treasury from the Treasury Borrowing Advisory Committee of the Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association.

Articles of Interest

- 8/5 The Washington Post published an article titled, [“White House, Democrats remain at odds over unemployment aid as relief talks continue.”](#)
- 8/5 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, [“U.S. Treasury Expects Borrowing Needs to Remain Elevated Amid Coronavirus Spending.”](#)
- 8/5 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, [“Lapse in Extra Unemployment Benefits to Hurt U.S. Recovery, Economists Say.”](#)
- 8/4 Politico published an article titled, [“White House eyes executive order to upend virus negotiations.”](#)

PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

Congressional

HOUSE:

- Speaker Pelosi (D-CA) and Senate Democratic Leader Schumer (D-NY) held a [media availability](#) after meeting with Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin and White House Chief of Staff Mark Meadows to discuss further coronavirus relief legislation.

SENATE:

- Senate Majority Leader McConnell (R-KY) delivered [remarks](#) on the Senate floor regarding COVID-19 relief.
- Sens. Kennedy (R-LA) and Bennet (D-CO) sent a [letter](#) to CMS Administrator Verma asking the administration to reconsider regulatory action requiring rural providers to prepay any portion of their forgiven Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loans through reductions in future Medicare and Medicaid reimbursements. They urged the administration to work with Congress to ensure the long term viability of our rural hospitals.
- Sens. Scott (R-SC) and Cardin (D-MD) introduced the [REACH Act](#). This legislation codifies the CDC's REACH program, which supports locally tailored and collaborative projects aimed at combating health disparities, with a particular emphasis on chronic disease prevention and response efforts.
- Sen. Cortez Masto (D-NV) introduced the [Virtual Peer Support Act](#) to help boost the capacity of peer behavioral health support programs by transitioning them to an online setting.
- Sens. Murphy (D-CT) and Blunt (R-MO) introduced [legislation](#) that allows any healthcare practitioner or professional in good standing with a valid practitioners' license to render services, including telehealth, anywhere for the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Sens. Capito (R-WV) and Brown (D-OH) introduced the [COVID-19 Hospice Respite Care Relief Act of 2020](#), legislation that would expand Medicare's hospice respite care benefit during a public health crisis. Specifically, the legislation would give the HHS Secretary the authority to allow hospice patients to receive respite care at home and for

longer periods of time during any public health emergency, including the current coronavirus pandemic.

- Sens. Hassan (D-NH), Braun (R-IN), and Murkowski (R-AK) introduced bipartisan legislation to maintain critical safeguards to help assure the public that a potential COVID-19 vaccine that receives emergency use authorization is safe and effective. The [***Safe Authorization for Vaccines during Emergencies \(SAVE\) Act***](#) also aims to improve public confidence in a potential COVID-19 vaccine by increasing the transparency of the vaccine approval process.

Administration

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

- HHS and Department of Defense (DoD) **announced** an agreement with the Janssen Pharmaceutical Companies of Johnson & Johnson, to demonstrate large-scale manufacturing and delivery of the company's COVID-19 vaccine candidate. Under the terms of the agreement, the federal government will own the resulting 100 million doses of vaccine.

NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

- The NIH-Moderna investigational COVID-19 vaccine known as mRNA-1273 **shows promise** in protecting mice from infection with COVID-19. The vaccine is currently being evaluated in Phase 3 clinical testing.
- NIH has **launched** the Medical Imaging and Data Resource Center (MIDRC), an effort that will harness the power of artificial intelligence and medical imaging to fight COVID-19. The multi-institutional collaboration, led by the National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering (NIBIB), part of NIH, will create new tools that physicians can use for early detection and personalized therapies for COVID-19 patients.

FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION

- FDA updated its [**COVID-19 Drug Shortages Response**](#) webpage to provide information regarding in-use time for certain drugs during the COVID-19 public health emergency.

Articles of Interest

- 8/3 FierceHealthcare published an article titled, [**"Fauci explains the 'insidious increase' that has officials worried about new COVID surges."**](#)
- 8/4 USA Today published an article titled, [**"State attorneys general: Use federal law to lower cost, increase supply of COVID-19 drug remdesivir."**](#)
- 8/4 Reuters published an article titled, [**"Proportion of youth with COVID-19 triples in five months: WHO."**](#)
- 8/4 NPR published an article titled, [**"Despite Mask Wars, Americans Support Aggressive Measures To Stop COVID-19, Poll Finds."**](#)
- 8/5 The New York Times published an article titled, [**"'It's Like Having No Testing': Coronavirus Test Results Are Still Delayed."**](#)

LABOR UPDATE

Administration

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

- DOL's Wage and Hour Division (WHD) in New Orleans, Louisiana, will host a [webinar](#) on Aug. 6, 2020, to help area employers and employees understand the benefits and protections provided by the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA).

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.