



DAILY COVID-19 UPDATE

August 7, 2020

WHAT HAPPENED TODAY

The Senate left D.C. on Thursday afternoon when it became clear no deal was imminent on the next coronavirus relief package.

President Trump signaled he is prepared to enact limited relief measures by issuing an executive order (EO) as soon as this evening seeing that the prospects for an agreement remain tenuous. He **tweeted** the EO would suspend payroll taxes, restore a moratorium on evictions, extend boosted unemployment benefits, and provide relief to student loan borrowers. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin told reporters this afternoon that he and White House Chief of Staff Mark Meadows will recommend the President **move forward** with the EO.

After nine meetings over the past two weeks, Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY), Secretary Mnuchin,

LATEST STATISTICS

There are a total of **19,189,737** confirmed cases worldwide, 716,669 deaths and 11,610,152 people have recovered.

There are **4,917,050** confirmed cases of the coronavirus in the U.S., 160,702 deaths and 1,598,624 people have recovered.

LATEST PMJ RESOURCES

[Healthcare Chart on COVID Legislation](#)

and White House Chief of Staff Meadows remain far apart on major issues including the overall cost of the legislation, enhanced unemployment insurance, state and local funding, and liability protections. Yesterday's three-hour meeting yielded **little progress** when Democrats offered to scale back their proposal by \$1 trillion and requested that Republicans increase theirs by \$1 trillion. Secretary Mnuchin called the move "a non-starter."

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 Coronavirus Crisis Subcommittee Chair Jim Clyburn (D-SC) **sent a letter** to the Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin requesting details regarding the Main Street Lending Program.
- House Progressive Caucus Co-Chairs Mark Pocan (D-WI) and Pramila Jayapal (D-WA) **sent a letter** asking Chairman Powell to improve the Municipal Liquidity Facility to help states and municipalities prevent public sector layoffs and budget cuts.

SENATE:

- Senators Bernie Sanders (I-VT), Ed Markey (D-MA), and Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY) **introduced legislation** that would create a 60-percent tax on wealth increases of billionaires during the pandemic to pay for all out-of-pocket medical expenses for all Americans.
- Senator Jack Reed (D-RI), member of the Senate Banking Committee, **pushed** for more aid for state and local governments in the next stimulus package.
- Senate Small Business Committee Chairman Marco Rubio's (R-FL) and Senator Susan Collins' (R-ME) Phase IV small business relief **proposal** garners praise.

Articles of Interest

- 8/7 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, "[Covid-19 Pandemic Triggers Wave of Long-Term Unemployment.](#)"
- 8/7 The Washington Post published an article titled, "[White House, Democratic negotiators to meet again on coronavirus relief bill.](#)"
- 8/6 Politico published an article titled, "[Trump's economic comeback is becoming a slowdown and likely a stall-out.](#)"
- 8/6 The New York times published an article titled, "[Amid Dire Jobless Numbers, Small-Business Relief Program Nears End.](#)"

PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

Congressional

HOUSE:

- Speaker Pelosi (D-CA) penned a [Dear Colleague letter](#) providing an update on coronavirus relief legislation negotiations.
- 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.
- This week, the Ways and Means Committee's Rural and Urban Underserved Taskforce invited several thought leaders to participate in a Member-driven virtual [roundtable](#) to discuss the vast changes to the telehealth landscape during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Ways and Means Republicans published a [coronavirus bulletin](#) titled, "U.S. Domestic Production of Essential Medicines and Their Ingredients with Tax Incentives."

SENATE:

- Sens. Murray (D-WA) and Reed (D-RI) sent a [letter](#) to HHS Secretary Azar and Defense Secretary Esper to express their concerns about plans for the Department of Defense (DOD) to lead the distribution of COVID-19 vaccines, despite decades of public health leadership and deep expertise by the CDC in vaccine distribution and administration.
- Sens. Smith (D-MN) and Murphy (D-CT) [introduced](#) the *Improving Social Determinants of Health Act of 2020*, which would authorize the CDC to begin work on improving health outcomes and reducing inequities by investing in the efforts of the federal government, and of public health agencies and community organizations to address the adverse impact of social determinants of health.
- Sens. Warner (D-VA) and Booker (D-NJ) [introduced](#) legislation to reduce prescription drug costs for children, while bringing in savings for states. The *Fair Drug Prices for Kids Act* would give states the ability to purchase prescription drugs at the lowest price possible, lowering the cost of prescription drugs for children and saving state dollars.
- Sens. Hassan (D-NH) and Cassidy (R-LA) introduced [legislation](#) to improve patient record matching among health care providers and strengthen the country's COVID-19 response efforts. The bipartisan *Patient Matching Improvement Act* works to address inadequate patient matching – the ability to link records for an individual patient across multiple health care providers – which can pose dangers to patients and complicates contact tracing efforts.
- Sens. Cassidy (R-LA) and Smith (D-MN) [introduced](#) legislation to provide states with more resources to increase testing, provide faster results, and allow states to enter into interstate compacts to maximize efforts to eliminate the spread of COVID-19. The *Suppress COVID-19 Act* appropriates \$25 billion for states to purchase tests and

testing supplies, and it authorizes states to enter into interstate compacts and regional agreements that allow them to overcome challenges with the testing supply chain.

- Sens. Smith (D-MN) and Merkley (D-OR) **introduced** legislation, the *Make Medications Affordable by Preventing Pandemic Price-gouging (MMAPPP) Act*, which would forbid monopolies and exclusive licensing of any taxpayer-funded COVID-19 vaccine or treatment, require reasonably affordable prices for said drugs, improve transparency from drug manufacturers on expenditures related to COVID-19 vaccines or treatments, and prohibit price gouging of drugs used to treat future diseases.

Administration

THE WHITE HOUSE

- President Trump issued an **Executive Order** on Ensuring Essential Medicines, Medical Countermeasures, and Critical Inputs are Made in the United States.
- The White House released a **fact sheet** titled, "President Donald J. Trump is Ensuring that Essential Medical Supplies are Produced in the United States."

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

- HHS released a **fact sheet** explaining Operation Warp Speed.

NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

- NIH **announced** research funding to encourage the development of approaches that identify children at high risk for developing Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children (MIS-C), thought to be a severe complication of COVID-19. Up to \$20 million will be awarded to successful research proposals over four years.

FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION

- The FDA issued a **Surgical Masks Umbrella Emergency Use Authorization** in response to concerns relating to insufficient supply and availability of disposable, single-use surgical masks.
- To date, the FDA has currently authorized 204 tests under EUAs; these include 167 molecular tests, 35 antibody tests, and 2 antigen tests.

Articles of Interest

- 8/6 The New York Times published an article titled, "**Even Asymptomatic People Carry the Coronavirus in High Amounts.**"
 - 8/6 Reuters published an article titled, "**University of Washington forecasts 300,000 U.S. COVID-19 deaths.**"
 - 8/7 NPR published an article titled, "**Coronavirus Cases Are Surging. The Contact Tracing Workforce Is Not.**"
 - 8/7 NBC News published an article titled, "**Map: Each state and territory's coronavirus travel restrictions in the U.S.**"
 - 8/7 The Washington Post published an article titled, "**A vaccine, or a spike in deaths: How America can build herd immunity to the coronavirus.**"
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LABOR UPDATE

Administration

THE WHITE HOUSE

- The White House Council of Economic Advisers issued a [press release](#) titled, "Jobs Numbers in July Beat Expectations for Third Straight Month."

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

- The Bureau of Labor Statistics issued its [monthly jobs report](#), which found that the U.S. added 1.8 million jobs in July, dropping the unemployment rate to 10.2% from 11.1% in June.
- U.S. Secretary of Labor Eugene Scalia issued a [statement](#) on the July 2020 Employment Situation Report.

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.