



DAILY COVID-19 UPDATE

August 12, 2020

WHAT HAPPENED TODAY

The stalemate between Democratic leaders and White House officials could continue for weeks as no further meetings have been scheduled as of this time to discuss additional coronavirus relief legislation.

During an interview with Fox News yesterday, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) **urged** Democratic leaders and the Trump administration to "get back to the table" and restart negotiations. He added it has been too long since there was "a meeting of any consequence between the two parties...it's time to sit down and get a deal done."

At the same time, House Democratic freshmen are expressing **concern** about the stalled negotiations having a negative impact in their districts as frustrated voters head to the polls for primary elections. The lawmakers are pushing for talks to resume on the

LATEST STATISTICS

There are a total of **20,445,252** confirmed cases worldwide, 745,229 deaths and 12,632,604 people have recovered.

There are **5,181,637** confirmed cases of the coronavirus in the U.S., 165,531 deaths and 1,714,960 people have recovered.

LATEST PMJ RESOURCES

[Drug Shortage and Medical Supply Chain Tracker](#)

next stimulus bill and calling for Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY), Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin, and White House Chief of Staff Mark Meadows to be more willing to compromise with one another.

Meanwhile, the Treasury is tasked with issuing guidance to accompany President Trump's [memorandum](#) on deferring payroll tax obligations. The agency will need to create the regulatory structure that determines if the deferral is mandatory, who is eligible, and the process for repaying the deferred taxes, among other things.

Since our last update, the Federal Reserve published additional guidance related to the pandemic. Please see below for more details.

We have updated our Drug Shortage and Medical Supply Chain Tracker. It is linked under Latest PMJ Resources.

[Coronavirus State Reopening Tracker](#)

[Healthcare Chart on COVID Legislation](#)

[COVID-19 Legislative Outlook](#)

[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:

- Senate Banking Committee Ranking Member Sherrod Brown (D-OH) [sent a letter](#) to Federal Housing Finance Agency (FHFA) Director Mark Calabria urging the agency to extend the comment period for the proposed capital framework for Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Senate Finance Committee Chairman Chuck Grassley (R-IA) and Senator Maggie Hassan (D-NH) [introduced](#) bipartisan legislation to extend the current year-end deadline for states to use federal CARES Act assistance.

Administration

FEDERAL RESERVE ("FED"):

- The Fed [announced](#) revised pricing for its Municipal Liquidity Facility (MLF), which reduces the interest rate spread on tax-exempt notes for each credit rating category by 50 basis points and reduces the amount by which the interest rate for taxable notes is adjusted relative to tax-exempt notes.

Articles of Interest

- 8/12 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, [“Coronavirus-Hit State Budgets Create a Drag on U.S. Recovery.”](#)

- 8/12 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, "[Funding for \\$300-a-Week Unemployment Benefits Could Run Out in Six Weeks.](#)"
- 8/11 Politico published an article titled, "[Derailment of small business rescue clouds U.S. recovery.](#)"
- 8/11 The Washington Post published an article titled, "[White House clarifies limits of jobless aid plan as talks with Congress dim.](#)"

PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

Congressional

HOUSE:

- House Energy and Commerce Chairman Pallone (D-NJ) and the leaders of the Oversight and Health subcommittees sent a [letter](#) to CDC Director Redfield, calling for a new briefing on the concerning impacts of COVID-19 on the nation's children and young people.
- Reps. Pallone (D-NJ) and Walden (R-OR) sent a [letter](#) to HHS Secretary Azar, asking him to brief them on the latest trends on overdoses, how those trends are affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, and what more the federal government needs to do to address the growing crisis.
- Speaker Pelosi (D-CA) and Senate Democratic Leader Schumer (D-NY) released a [joint statement](#) after Secretary Mnuchin reiterated the Administration's refusal to budge on their position on the size and scope of the next COVID-19 legislative response package.
- Speaker Pelosi (D-CA) penned a [Dear Colleague](#) on Democrats' commitment to children in COVID relief negotiations.
- Speaker Pelosi (D-CA) [joined](#) Craig Melvin on MSNBC's Live to discuss the House-passed Heroes Act, the latest on the COVID-19 response package and other news of the day.

SENATE:

- Senate Majority Leader McConnell (R-KY) delivered [remarks](#) on the floor regarding COVID-19 relief.

Administration

THE WHITE HOUSE

- The White House released a [fact sheet](#) titled, "President Donald J. Trump is Using Every Available Resource to Deliver a Safe and Effective Vaccine to the American People."
- The White House released a [fact sheet](#) titled, "President Donald J. Trump is Supporting America's Students and Families by Encouraging the Safe Reopening of America's Schools."

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

- HHS issued a [Notice of Funding Opportunity](#) to expand and accelerate innovative uses of electronic health information via health information exchanges (HIEs) to support state and local public health agencies. Strengthening health data exchange and use between HIEs and state and local public health agencies will help communities to better

prevent, respond to, and recover from public health emergencies, including disasters and pandemics such as COVID-19.

- HHS and the Department of Defense (DoD) **announced** an agreement with Moderna, Inc. to manufacture and deliver 100 million doses of the company's COVID-19 vaccine candidate. The federal government will own these vaccine doses.

Articles of Interest

- 8/10 Politico published an article titled, **[“Could massive numbers of nursing home deaths have been prevented?”](#)**
- 8/11 The Washington Post published an article titled, **[“Meet the most important federal official you probably don’t know — the man who holds the fate of the coronavirus vaccine in his hands.”](#)**
- 8/11 Ipsos published an article titled, **[“Americans concerned about schools reopening, returning to ‘normal life.’”](#)**
- 8/11 The Hill published an article titled, **[“Study: Youths who vape, smoke over 5 times more likely to contract coronavirus.”](#)**
- 8/11 The New York Times published an article titled, **[“‘A Smoking Gun’: Infectious Coronavirus Retrieved From Hospital Air.”](#)**

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.