



DAILY COVID-19 UPDATE

August 13, 2020

WHAT HAPPENED TODAY

Today, Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) announced there will be no votes in the Senate until September 8, unless there is a deal on COVID legislation.

With the majority of House and Senate lawmakers returning to their home states for the next couple of weeks, it appears as though an agreement on the next coronavirus relief package may not be reached until September at the earliest.

Treasury Secretary Mnuchin **called** Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) yesterday to discuss restarting talks. However, the conversation resulted in her and Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) accusing the White House of "not budging." The Democratic leaders stated they are "willing to resume negotiations" once Secretary Mnuchin and White

LATEST STATISTICS

There are a total of **20,728,874** confirmed cases worldwide, 751,448 deaths and 12,875,123 people have recovered.

There are **5,236,599** confirmed cases of the coronavirus in the U.S., 166,777 deaths and 1,755,225 people have recovered.

LATEST PMJ RESOURCES

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

House Chief of Staff Mark Meadows "start tak[ing] this process seriously."

In addition, Secretary Mnuchin **announced** on FOX Business that President Trump's Executive Order (EO) to defer payroll taxes would be "voluntary." However, Secretary Mnuchin indicated he believes "many small businesses will do this and pass on the benefits."

Since our last update, the Department of Labor published additional guidance related to the pandemic. Please see below for more details.

[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](#)

PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

Congressional

HOUSE:

- Reps. Pallone (D-NJ), Eshoo (D-CA), and DeGette (D-CO) sent oversight **letters** to nine health and dental insurance companies seeking information on their policies and practices amid the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Speaker Pelosi (D-CA) **joined** MSNBC's Morning Joe to discuss the House-passed Heroes Act, the latest on the COVID-19 response package and other news of the day.

Administration

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

- HHS **announced** combined investments of \$6.5 million in two commercial diagnostic laboratories to expand capacity to conduct up to 4 million additional SARS-CoV-2 per month.

FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION

- The FDA published an online **Consumer Update** with tips on how we can each take some simple steps to help slow the spread of the coronavirus disease and protect ourselves, our families and our communities.
- The FDA recently **cleared for marketing** in the United States a surgical gown and three polymer patient examination gloves. These gloves and gowns are intended to be

worn for medical purposes to provide a barrier against potentially infectious materials and other contaminants, including for use during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Articles of Interest

- 8/12 The New York Times published an article titled, [“Health Experts Warn About Perils of New Virus Data Collection System.”](#)
 - 8/12 The Washington Post published an article titled, [“U.S. reports highest number of covid-19 deaths in one day since mid-May.”](#)
 - 8/12 Morning Consult published an article titled, [“Mandatory COVID-19 Testing for Students Has Broad Support; Over Half Would Back Requiring Vaccinations.”](#)
 - 8/13 Axios published an article titled, [“We’re doing a lot less coronavirus testing.”](#)
 - 8/13 Bloomberg Businessweek published an article titled, [“Biometric Tracking Can Ensure Billions Have Immunity Against Covid-19.”](#)
-

ECONOMIC UPDATE

Congressional

SENATE:

- Senate Finance Committee Ranking Member Ron Wyden (D-OR) and Senator Jeff Merkley (D-OR) [sent a letter](#) to President Trump urging him to restore full funding to states to cover the cost of the National Guard response to COVID-19.
- Senator John Kennedy (R-LA) [sent a letter](#) to Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) Chairman Jelena McWilliams urging her not to allow industrial loan companies (ILCs) to take advantage of a loophole in the Bank Holding Company Act during the coronavirus pandemic.

Administration

WHITE HOUSE:

- The White House Council of Economic Advisers [released a report](#) stating relief spending significantly reduced the economic impact caused by COVID-19.

TREASURY:

- Secretary Mnuchin [issued a statement](#) regarding Speaker Pelosi’s comments on the coronavirus aid negotiations.

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION (SBA):

- The SBA [released](#) a summary of cumulative Paycheck Protection Program data as of August 8.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE:

- U.S. Chamber [letter](#) to Secretary Mnuchin on implementation of the Executive Order deferring payroll tax obligations in light of the ongoing COVID-19 disaster.

Articles of Interest

- 8/13 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, [“WSJ Survey: Benefits of Extra Unemployment Aid Outweigh Work Disincentive.”](#)

- 8/13 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, "[Trump's Payroll-Tax Deferral Plans Spur Confusion.](#)"
 - 8/12 The Washington Post published an article titled, "[Relief talks stumble again as Trump asserts a deal is 'not going to happen.'](#)"
 - 8/12 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, "[Coronavirus Negotiators Remain 'Miles Apart,' Pelosi Says.](#)"
-

LABOR UPDATE

Administration

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

- DOL published an [Unemployment Insurance Weekly Claims Report](#) for the week ending August 8.
 - DOL announced the release of [guidance](#) to help states implement the Lost Wages Assistance (LWA) program. LWA is authorized by Presidential Memorandum, and provides claimants in most Unemployment Insurance (UI) programs up to \$400 per week additional benefits, starting with weeks of unemployment ending on or after Aug. 1, 2020, and ending Dec. 27, 2020 at the latest.
-

SUPPLY CHAIN/CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATE

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

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.