



DAILY COVID-19 UPDATE

August 17, 2020

WHAT HAPPENED TODAY

Today, Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) announced the House is extending remote voting until October 2 due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Speaker Pelosi also **called members back to D.C.** for a vote this Saturday on U.S. Postal Service (USPS) legislation. Funding for USPS has been a point of disagreement during pandemic relief talks. Democratic leaders are pushing for the inclusion of additional USPS funding to ensure vote by mail capacity for the November election. President Trump remains strongly opposed to mail-in voting.

Additionally, Treasury Secretary Mnuchin tried to reassure employers that if they participate in the new payroll tax holiday they will not have to repay the deferred taxes. Secretary Mnuchin stated President Trump will "ask Congress to have this money forgiven..."

LATEST STATISTICS

There are a total of **21,755,069** confirmed cases worldwide, 776,469 deaths and 13,716,751 people have recovered.

There are **5,421,806** confirmed cases of the coronavirus in the U.S., 170,277 deaths and 1,833,067 people have recovered.

LATEST PMJ RESOURCES

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

Last Friday, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced it is releasing the next round of provider relief funds. Specifically, HHS will allocate \$1.4 billion to 80 free-standing children's hospitals. The disbursement is expected to occur beginning this week.

We have updated our Coronavirus State Reopening Tracker and the Drug Shortage and Medical Supply Chain Tracker. Both are 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](#)

PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

Congressional

HOUSE:

- Speaker Pelosi (D-CA) penned a [Dear Colleague letter](#) noting it has been three months since House passage of the HEROES Act.
- Ways and Means Republicans published two coronavirus bulletins titled, "[Important Update: HHS Accepting Applications for Fund Distributions for Medicare Providers](#)" and "[POTUS Set to Deliver More Funding to Children's Hospitals.](#)"
- Reps. Trone (D-MD) and Joyce (R-PA) introduced the bipartisan [Strengthening our Health Security Through Resilient Medical Supply Chains Annual Review Act](#). This legislation would require the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to produce an annual report detailing the United States' dependence on critical devices, supplies, and drugs sourced outside of the U.S. and provide recommendations to strengthen domestic medical supply chains.
- Reps. McKinley (R-WV) and Trone (D-MD) introduced the [U.S. MADE Act of 2020](#) to decrease the United States dependency on foreign countries like China for critical Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) that healthcare workers and other frontline heroes rely on.

Administration

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

- HHS and Department of Defense (DoD), in support of Operation Warp Speed (OWS) **announced** that McKesson Corporation will be a central distributor of future COVID-19 vaccines and related supplies needed to administer the pandemic vaccinations.
- HHS, through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), **announced** an additional \$1.4 billion in targeted distribution funding to almost 80 free-standing children's hospitals nationwide.

CENTERS FOR MEDICARE & MEDICAID SERVICES

- CMS **announced** that the agency has imposed more than \$15 million in civil money penalties (CMPs) to more than 3,400 nursing homes during the public health emergency for noncompliance with infection control requirements and the failure to report COVID-19 data.

FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION

- The FDA **released** a medical device shortage list as part of the implementation of section 506J of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FD&C Act). The device shortage list reflects categories of devices that the agency has determined to be in shortage, and will be updated as the COVID-19 pandemic evolves.
- The FDA **issued** an emergency use authorization (EUA) to Yale School of Public Health for its SalivaDirect COVID-19 diagnostic test, which uses a new method of processing saliva samples when testing for COVID-19 infection.
- The FDA issued an updated **FDA COVID-19 Response At-A-Glance Summary** that provides a quick look at facts, figures, and highlights of the agency's response efforts.

CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION

- CDC **issued** a media statement titled, "Updated Isolation Guidance Does Not Imply Immunity to COVID-19."

Articles of Interest

- 8/14 The Hill published an article titled, **[“One in three Americans say they won't get coronavirus vaccine: poll.”](#)**
- 8/14 The New York Times published an article titled, **[“Older Children and the Coronavirus: A New Wrinkle in the Debate.”](#)**
- 8/15 NPR published an article titled, **[“Can Air Conditioners Spread COVID-19?”](#)**
- 8/17 CNN published an article titled, **[“Covid-19 is now the No. 3 cause of death in the US. And testing to find and isolate cases has dropped off.”](#)**
- 8/17 Stat published an article titled, **[“Seven months later, what we know about Covid-19 — and the pressing questions that remain.”](#)**

ECONOMIC UPDATE

Administration

TREASURY:

- **Readout** from Secretary Mnuchin's discussion with G7 Finance Ministers who continue to coordinate on timely and effective actions in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Internal Revenue Service (IRS):

- The IRS **continues to look** for ways to help people who were unable to provide their information in time to receive Economic Impact Payments for their children.

Articles of Interest

- 8/16 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, **“More Americans Go Hungry Amid Coronavirus Pandemic, Census Shows.”**
 - 8/15 The Washington Post published an article titled, **“South Dakota declines to boost unemployment payments under Trump’s order.”**
 - 8/14 Politico published an article titled, **“Democrats fight to give ‘severely underfunded’ business rescue new life.”**
 - 8/13 The Washington Post published an article titled, **“30 million unemployed lose extra jobless benefits, as talks between Congress and the White House are at an impasse.”**
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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.