



## DAILY COVID-19 UPDATE

**August 18, 2020**

### WHAT HAPPENED TODAY

Today, Secretary Mnuchin indicated that Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) may be open to resuming coronavirus aid negotiations when she reconvenes the House this weekend. He **expressed hope** Speaker Pelosi "will be more interested in sitting down" for negotiations while the chamber returns to D.C. to vote on U.S. Postal Service legislation.

Additionally, President Trump's executive order calling for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to provide an additional \$300 a week in unemployment benefits is starting to see participation by some states. Arizona, Iowa, Louisiana, New Mexico, Colorado, Missouri, and Utah **were among the first states** to receive approval for the program.

### LATEST STATISTICS

There are a total of **21,974,080** confirmed cases worldwide, 776,154 deaths and 13,934,497 people have recovered.

There are **5,469,444** confirmed cases of the coronavirus in the U.S., 171,343 deaths and 1,865,580 people have recovered.

### LATEST PMJ RESOURCES

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

Since our last update, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services and the Department of Labor published additional guidance related to the pandemic. Please see below for more details.

We have updated our Drug Shortage and Medical Supply Chain Tracker and added a list of State Responses to President Trump's Executive Order on Unemployment Insurance. Both are linked under Latest PMJ Resources.

[State Responses to EO on Unemployment Insurance](#)

[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](#)

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## ECONOMIC UPDATE

### *Administration*

#### **SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION (SBA):**

- The SBA **announced** the federal government exceeded its small business federal contracting goal, awarding 26.50 percent or \$132.9 billion in federal contracting dollars to small businesses.

#### **Internal Revenue Service (IRS):**

- The IRS and Treasury **will send interest payments** to about 13.9 million individual taxpayers who timely filed their 2019 federal income tax returns and are receiving refunds.

#### **Articles of Interest**

- 8/18 The Wall Street Journal published an article, **[“Renewed Focus on Race Triggers Surge of Interest in community-Based Lenders.”](#)**
- 8/18 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, **[“Several States Commit to Extra Jobless Benefit of \\$300 a Week Offered by Trump.”](#)**
- 8/18 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, **[“Mnuchin Says Stimulus Talks Remain Stalled.”](#)**

- 8/18 The Washington Post published an article titled, [“Business leaders say they are unlikely to implement Trump’s payroll tax order.”](#)

## **PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE**

### ***Congressional***

#### **HOUSE:**

- Speaker Pelosi **joined** Joy Reid on MSNBC’s to discuss the House-passed Heroes Act, the House’s plans to come back into session to save the U.S. Postal Service this week and other news of the day.

### ***Administration***

#### **DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

- HHS released [Healthy People 2030](#), the nation’s 10-year plan for addressing our most critical public health priorities and challenges. This decade, Healthy People 2030 features 355 core – or measurable – objectives with 10-year targets, new objectives related to opioid use disorder and youth e-cigarette use, and resources for adapting Healthy People 2030 to emerging public health threats like COVID-19. For the first time, Healthy People 2030 also sets 10-year targets for objectives related to social determinants of health.

#### **CENTERS FOR MEDICARE & MEDICAID SERVICES**

- CMS issued [updated guidance](#) to ensure medical providers are able to provide essential surgical, life-sustaining procedures while continuing to reinforce and bolster infection control precautions at dialysis facilities in states and communities located in COVID-19 hotspots witnessing a surge or resurgence of the virus to help prevent and minimize the risk of transmission among dialysis patients.
- CMS **announced** it will resume routine inspections of all Medicare and Medicaid certified providers and suppliers to improve the safety and quality of life of patients and residents. CMS had previously suspended certain routine inspections as part of its response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

#### **FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION**

- The FDA issued a joint warning letter with the Federal Trade Commission to [SilveryGuy](#), a company that participates in the Amazon Associates program, for selling fraudulent COVID-19 related products.

### **Articles of Interest**

- 8/17 The Hill published an article titled, [“COVID-19 now No. 3 cause of death in US.”](#)
- 8/17 UMN’s Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy (CIDRAP) published an article titled, [“COVID-19 cases, deaths may follow weekly pattern.”](#)
- 8/17 Reuters published an article titled, [“WHO blasts ‘vaccine nationalism’ in last-ditch push against hoarding.”](#)
- 8/18 The New York Times published an article titled, [“Federal Study of Covid Treatments Enters a New Phase.”](#)
- 8/18 Politico published an article titled, [“‘We’re going to get it done’: Governors mobilize to fill Trump’s testing gap.”](#)

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## LABOR UPDATE

### *Administration*

#### DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

- DOL **issued** a second Unemployment Insurance Program Letter to assist states in the administration of the new Lost Wages Assistance (LWA) program. The **guidance** answers questions related to eligible claimants, the state match, administrative costs, reporting requirements, and the payment process.
- U.S. Secretary of Labor Eugene Scalia issued a **statement** regarding the first round of awards to Iowa, Arizona, New Mexico, Louisiana, Utah, Colorado, and Missouri as part of the Lost Wages Assistance (LWA) program.

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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.*