



DAILY COVID-19 UPDATE

August 19, 2020

WHAT HAPPENED TODAY

Yesterday, Senate Republicans unveiled a new, smaller [coronavirus relief proposal](#) in response to a measure the House is expected to vote on this Saturday that includes \$25 billion in new funding for the United States Postal Service (USPS). The GOP's latest COVID relief bill is a scaled-back version of the \$1 trillion [HEALS Act](#) and includes \$10 billion in funding for USPS, liability protections, an extension of the boosted unemployment benefits at a reduced level of \$300 per week, \$105 billion for schools, and a second round of Paycheck Protection Program loans, among other things.

Additionally, the Chamber of Commerce [sent a letter](#) to Speaker Pelosi, Senate Majority Leader McConnell, and Secretary Mnuchin stating President Trump's Executive Order (EO) to defer payroll taxes is "unworkable" and many employers will "likely decline to implement deferral." The letter claims the

LATEST STATISTICS

There are a total of **22,239,071** confirmed cases worldwide, 783,243 deaths and 14,162,379 people have recovered.

There are **5,515,775** confirmed cases of the coronavirus in the U.S., 172,640 deaths and 1,898,159 people have recovered.

LATEST PMJ RESOURCES

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

EO "creates a substantial tax liability" for employees after the deferral period.

We have updated the State Responses to EO on Unemployment Insurance. It is 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](#)

ECONOMIC UPDATE

Administration

FEDERAL RESERVE ("FED"):

- The Fed and the Federal Open Market Committee **released the minutes** of the Committee meeting held on July 28-29, 2020.

Articles of Interest

- 8/19 The Washington Post published an article titled, "**Economists talking up 'K shaped' recovery as stocks surge but inequality widens.**"
- 8/19 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, "**Fed Resumed Deliberations Over Policy-Setting Revamp.**"
- 8/19 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, "**Next Steps on Coronavirus Stimulus Package Divide Both Parties.**"

PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

Administration

THE WHITE HOUSE

- The White House issued a [press release](#) titled, "The Trump Administration Strongly Supports Telehealth Innovation."
- The White House provided a [readout](#) from Vice President Pence's Governors briefing on COVID-19 response and best practices.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

- HHS [issued](#) a third amendment to the Declaration under the Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness Act (PREP Act) to increase access to lifesaving childhood vaccines and decrease the risk of vaccine-preventable disease outbreaks as children across the United States return to daycare, preschool and school.
- HHS' Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) published a [blog post](#) titled, "Promoting Behavioral Health for Responders on the Front Lines of Health during the COVID-19 Pandemic."

FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION

- The FDA has updated its [COVID-19 Resources for Health Professionals](#) page to include the [CURE ID app](#). CURE ID allows clinicians to quickly and easily share their experiences treating COVID-19 patients and patients with other difficult-to-treat infectious diseases.

Articles of Interest

- 8/17 The New York Times published an article titled, "[Coronavirus Doctors Battle Another Scourge: Misinformation.](#)"
- 8/17 AP News published an article titled, "[Report: Nursing home cases up nearly 80% in COVID-19 rebound.](#)"
- 8/18 The Washington Post published an article titled, "[WHO warns young people are emerging as main spreaders of the coronavirus.](#)"
- 8/18 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, "[What Derailed America's Covid Testing: Three Lost Weeks.](#)"
- 8/18 The Hill published an article titled, "[Coronavirus mutation found in US may be less deadly, expert says.](#)"

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.