



DAILY COVID-19 UPDATE

August 20, 2020

WHAT HAPPENED TODAY

Yesterday, the Federal Reserve Board and Federal Open Market Committee's end of July meeting showed support for additional fiscal aid to help the economy. Fed officials **stated** "additional fiscal aid would likely be important for supporting vulnerable families," especially now that government aid programs have expired.

Since our last update, the Food and Drug Administration published additional guidance related to the pandemic. Please see below for more details.

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

LATEST STATISTICS

There are a total of **22,511,187** confirmed cases worldwide, 789,728 deaths and 14,380,603 people have recovered.

There are **5,559,547** confirmed cases of the coronavirus in the U.S., 173,798 deaths and 1,925,049 people have recovered.

LATEST PMJ RESOURCES

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

[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

Congressional

HOUSE:

- The House Budget Committee released a report titled, [“State and Local Governments Are in Dire Need of Federal Relief.”](#)

SENATE:

- Senate Banking Committee Ranking Member Sherrod Brown (D-OH), along with 15 Democratic Senators, [sent a letter](#) to Federal Housing Finance Agency (FHFA) Director Mark Calabria expressing concerns regarding Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac mortgage refinancing costs.

Articles of Interest

- 8/20 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, [“U.S. Jobless Claims Rise to 1.1 Million in Latest Week.”](#)
- 8/19 The New York Times published an article titled, [“Fed Officials Said the Economy Needed More Help From Congress.”](#)

PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

Congressional

HOUSE:

- Reps. Beyer (D-VA), Sewell (D-AL), Roybal-Allard (D-CA), and Dingell (D-MI) introduced the [Addressing COVID-19 Health Disparities Act](#), which would direct the HHS Secretary to conduct or support research related to the United States health care system's response to COVID-19.

Administration

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

- HHS **leveraged** the Defense Production Act (DPA) to apply priority rated orders for contracts with [Becton Dickinson \(BD\)](#) and [Quidel Corporation](#). These acquisitions will fulfill a large-volume purchase of diagnostic systems and assays for COVID-19 testing and will expedite shipments of these systems and assays to approximately 14,000 nursing homes in the United States.

CENTERS FOR MEDICARE & MEDICAID SERVICES

- CMS released a [Rural Crosswalk: CMS Flexibilities to Fight COVID-19](#). This new resource documents all current COVID-19-related waivers and flexibilities issued by CMS that impact Rural Health Clinics, Federally Qualified Health Centers, Critical Access Hospitals, rural hospitals generally, and long term care facilities, and describes the significance of each provision for these rural providers and facilities.

FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION

- The FDA released **guidance** titled, "Manufacturing, Supply Chain, and Drug and Biological Product Inspections During COVID-19 Public Health Emergency Questions and Answers."
- The FDA issued the third **Emergency Use Authorization** (EUA) for a COVID-19 antigen test. An antigen test is a diagnostic test that quickly detects fragments of proteins found on or within the virus by testing samples collected from the patient's nasal cavity using swabs.
- The FDA posted frequently asked questions for consumers about [UV lights and lamps](#) for disinfecting spaces from the coronavirus.

CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION

- CMS released a **new study** that examines how COVID-19 is affecting American Indians and Alaska Natives (AI/AN) – one of the racial and ethnic minority groups at highest risk from the disease. CDC found that in 23 selected states, the cumulative incidence of laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases among AI/AN was 3.5 times that of non-Hispanic whites.

Articles of Interest

- 8/18 Forbes published an article titled, ["Fauci: Covid-19 Vaccines Unlikely To Be Mandatory."](#)
- 8/19 The New York Times published an article titled, ["Local Officials in China Hid Coronavirus Dangers From Beijing, U.S. Agencies Find."](#)
- 8/19 KHN published an article titled, ["COVID Testing Choke Points."](#)

- 8/20 GoodRx published an article titled, [“Over 67 Million Americans Lack Access to COVID-19 Testing: Where Are These ‘Testing Deserts’?”](#)
 - 8/20 The Hill published an article titled, [“COVID-19 fatality rates fall as treatments improve.”](#)
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LABOR UPDATE

Administration

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

- DOL released its [Unemployment Insurance Weekly Claims Report](#) for the week ending August 15.
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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.