DAILY COVID-19 UPDATE

August 24, 2020

WHAT HAPPENED TODAY

Over the weekend, White House Chief of Staff Mark Meadows returned to the Capitol in an attempt to convince Democratic leaders to accept the Senate GOP's scaled-back COVID-19 relief bill and end the stalemate on negotiations. While he spoke with rank and file Democrats and Republicans about possible paths to an agreement, Meadows did not meet with Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA).

Meadows told reporters of his plans to call Speaker Pelosi to end the stalemate, expressing optimism a compromise can be reached on funding for the United States Postal Service (USPS), boosted unemployment insurance, small business aid, funding for schools, and a second round of stimulus payments for Americans. He added that Democrats would have to forego demands for state and local funding. Meanwhile, Pelosi called Meadow's list "very deficient," and reiterated that Democrats will resume

LATEST STATISTICS

There are a total of **23,519,827** confirmed cases worldwide, 810,051 deaths and 15,175,056 people have recovered.

There are **5,728,363** confirmed cases of the coronavirus in the U.S., 177,063 deaths and 1,997,782 people have recovered.

LATEST PMJ RESOURCES

Drug Shortage and Medical Supply Chain Tracker

negotiations if Republicans increase their package by $1 trillion.

Additionally, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) **criticized** the House for returning to pass U.S. Postal Service (USPS) legislation, stating the chamber "pass[ed] a totally piecemeal postal bill without a dime to help struggling families."

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

We have updated the Coronavirus State Reopening Tracker. 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 ExportControls

Memo - Federal Reserve COVID-19 Announcements

Federal Reserve Lending Facilities Deck

ECONOMIC UPDATE

Congressional

HOUSE:
- The Blue Dog Caucus **sent a letter** to Democratic and Republican leaders urging the parties to restart COVID-relief package negotiations.

SENATE:
- Senate Small Business Committee Ranking Member Ben Cardin (D-MD) **called** for additional federal support for small businesses during a virtual town hall.
- Senate Finance Committee Ranking Member Ron Wyden (D-OR) **asked** the Social Security Administration (SSA) to provide an analysis of the impact of eliminating the payroll tax that funds Social Security's Old Age and Survivors Insurance (OASI) Trust Fund and Disability Insurance (DI) Trust Fund.

Administration
- The SBA **released additional details** about loans approved under the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), including an update of previously released data.

Articles of Interest

- 8/24 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, **"New Thinking on Covid Lockdowns: They're Overly Blunt and Costly."**
- 8/23 Politico published an article titled, **"'Not just a low-wage recession': White-collar workers feel coronavirus squeeze."**
- 8/23 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, **"Coronavirus Lifts Government Debt to WWII Levels – Cutting It Won't Be Easy."**

PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

Congressional

HOUSE:
- Speaker Pelosi's (D-CA) office released **talking points** about the House passing the *Delivering for America Act,* which would provide $25 billion in funding for the United States Postal Service (USPS) and urging Republicans to end the stalemate and work in a bipartisan manner on COVID-19 negotiations.
- Speaker Pelosi (D-CA) penned a **Dear Colleague letter** marking 100 days since House passage of the HEROES Act.
- Reps. Peters (D-CA), McBath (D-GA), Eshoo (D-CA), and Fitzpatrick (R-PA) introduced the ***Health STATISTICS Act of 2020***, legislation that would standardize public health data collection and make it easier for federal agencies and states to share information in an effort to improve their response to the pandemic and other public health emergencies.

SENATE:
- Senate Majority Leader McConnell (R-KY) issued the following **statement** over the weekend, "Speaker Pelosi and House Democrats have spent weeks ignoring the urgent needs of American workers and families, but they rushed back to Washington the instant that overblown conspiracy theories about the United States Postal Service convinced them their own jobs might be in jeopardy."

Administration

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
- The Office for Civil Rights (OCR) at HHS issued amended **guidance** on how the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) Privacy Rule permits covered health care providers (e.g., hospitals, pharmacies, laboratories) and health plans to contact their patients and beneficiaries who have recovered from COVID-19 to inform them about how they can donate their plasma containing antibodies (known as "convalescent plasma") to help treat others with COVID-19.

FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION
- The FDA issued an **emergency use authorization** (EUA) for investigational convalescent plasma for the treatment of COVID-19 in hospitalized patients.
- The FDA issued an **emergency use authorization** (EUA) to NovaSterilis, Inc. for its Nova2200, which uses the NovaClean decontamination process. Nova2200 can be used to decontaminate compatible N95 respirators for single-user reuse by healthcare personnel (HCP) to prevent exposure to pathogenic biological airborne particulates when there are insufficient supplies of face-filtering respirators (FFRs) during the COVID-19 pandemic.

- The FDA issued a **letter to health care providers** (HCP) and health care facilities alerting them of the potential that passive protective barriers (those without negative pressure) pose an increased health risk to patients and HCPs when treating patients who are known or suspected to have COVID-19.

Articles of Interest
- 8/22 Stat published an article titled, **"Drug makers rebut Trump tweet that FDA 'deep state' is delaying Covid-19 vaccines and drugs."**
- 8/22 The Hill published an article titled, **"About 70,000 lives could be saved in near future if people wear masks: researchers."**
- 8/23 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, **"Antibody Drugs Advancing to Fill Covid-19 Treatment Gap."**
- 8/24 The New York Times published an article titled, **"Why Are Coronavirus Cases Decreasing? Experts Say Restrictions Are Working."**
- 8/24 Axios published an article titled, **"Americans want high-risk people to get a coronavirus vaccine first."**

LABOR UPDATE

Administration

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
- DOL **published** its "Promoting Regulatory Openness through Good Guidance Rule." The rule, which implements Executive Order 13891, "Promoting the Rule of Law through Improved Agency Guidance Documents," seeks to create fairer procedures for the issuance and use of regulatory guidance at DOL.

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.