



DAILY COVID-19 UPDATE

August 25, 2020

WHAT HAPPENED TODAY

On Sunday night, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) granted an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) for convalescent plasma as a treatment for the coronavirus. At a press conference with President Trump, FDA Commissioner Stephen Hahn claimed that convalescent plasma is "very safe and effective" and has "proven to reduce mortality by 35%" in COVID-19 patients. Following criticism for his remarks, Hahn acknowledged yesterday that he had overstated the effectiveness of the experimental therapy. He [**tweeted**](#), "The criticism is entirely justified. What I should have said better is that the data shows a relative risk reduction not an absolute risk reduction."

According to the Social Security Administration (SSA), President Trump's proposed payroll tax breaks would deplete the Social Security retirement trust fund by 2023 and disability insurance by 2022.

LATEST STATISTICS

There are a total of **23,736,101** confirmed cases worldwide, 815,248 deaths and 15,395,429 people have recovered.

There are **5,764,304** confirmed cases of the coronavirus in the U.S., 178,065 deaths and 2,020,774 people have recovered.

LATEST PMJ RESOURCES

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

The [SSA states](#) its Old Age and Survivors Insurance (OASI) Trust Fund and Disability Insurance (DI) Trust Fund benefits "could not be met after the depletion of the asset reserve and elimination of payroll taxes."

Since our last update, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services 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.

[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 [released minutes](#) of the Board's discount rate meetings from June 22 through July 29, 2020.
- Richmond Fed President Thomas Barkin [released a statement](#) regarding the trajectory of the personal service sectors, such as restaurants, retail, and entertainment, during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Articles of Interest

- 8/25 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, "[SBA Accused of Skirting Financial Disclosure Rule.](#)"
- 8/23 The Washington Post published an article titled, "[Debt, eviction and hunger: Millions fall back into crisis as stimulus and safety nets vanish.](#)"

PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

Administration

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

- HHS, through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), **announced** over \$117 million in quality improvement awards to 1,318 health centers across all U.S. states, territories and the District of Columbia.

CENTERS FOR MEDICARE & MEDICAID SERVICES

- CMS **implemented** a national nursing home training program designed to equip frontline nursing home staff and nursing home management with the knowledge they need to stop the spread of COVID-19 in their nursing homes.
- CMS **released** a Medicaid Informational Bulletin (CIB) that provides guidance to states on flexibilities that are available to increase reimbursement for nursing facilities that implement specific infection control practices, such as designating a quarantine or isolation wing for COVID-19 patients.

FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION

- The FDA took steps to encourage the development of SARS-CoV-2 tests. The FDA posted a new **webpage** that provides an overview of available resources related to SARS-CoV-2 screening testing and testing using pooled samples.

NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

- NIH Director Dr. Francis Collins penned a **blog post** titled, "Masks Save Lives."

Articles of Interest

- 8/24 Bloomberg published an article titled, "**FDA Walks Back Claim of Dramatic Benefit From Covid Therapy.**"
- 8/24 The Washington Post published an article titled, "**These are the top coronavirus vaccines to watch.**"
- 8/24 Reuters published an article titled, "**Exclusive: Fauci says rushing out a vaccine could jeopardize testing of others.**"
- 8/25 The New York Times published an article titled, "**First Documented Coronavirus Reinfection Reported in Hong Kong.**"
- 8/25 Stat published an article titled, "**Four scenarios on how we might develop immunity to Covid-19.**"

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.