



DAILY COVID-19 UPDATE

August 27, 2020

The Daily COVID-19 Update will be taking a break from August 28 to September 4 and will resume on September 8. Have a safe and happy Labor Day!

WHAT HAPPENED TODAY

White House Chief of Staff Mark Meadows and Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) held a call earlier this afternoon to discuss the possibility of restarting negotiations on a coronavirus relief package. Talks on the stimulus bill have been at an impasse since the two sides last spoke on August 7.

Following the 25-minute call, Speaker Pelosi issued a **statement** that the discussion "made clear the White House continues to disregard the needs of the American people," noting the ongoing disagreement in regards to the overall cost of the bill. She added, "Democrats are willing to resume negotiations once Republicans start to take this process seriously."

LATEST STATISTICS

There are a total of **24,279,315** confirmed cases worldwide, 827,801 deaths and 15,848,692 people have recovered.

There are **5,856,014** confirmed cases of the coronavirus in the U.S., 180,468 deaths and 2,084,465 people have recovered.

On Monday, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) revised its [COVID testing guidance](#), recommending testing only for symptomatic individuals. The change led to [criticism](#) from public health experts who pointed to the critical role asymptomatic individuals play in the spread of the virus. Last night, CDC Director Robert Redfield [defended](#) the guidance, stating "all close contacts of confirmed or probable COVID-19 patients" may consider testing. He added, "Everyone who needs a COVID-19 test can get a test. Everyone who wants a test does not necessarily need a test."

Additionally, Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell announced that the Fed has changed its longstanding policy of keeping inflation at 2 percent, and it will instead not raise interest rates until prices begin to rise more rapidly. The move is intended to boost employment as much as possible, [as the Fed's policymaking committee believes](#) "a robust job market can be sustained without causing an outbreak of inflation."

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.

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:

- House Financial Services Chairwoman Maxine Waters (D-CA) [issued a statement](#) in response to Housing and Urban Development Secretary Ben Carson's announcement of a foreclosure and eviction moratorium extension.

Administration

CONSUMER FINANCIAL PROTECTION BUREAU (CFPB):

- The CFPB [released a guide](#) to assist intermediaries in serving individuals to access their Economic Impact Payments.

Articles of Interest

- 8/27 The Washington Post published an article titled, "[Unemployment claims remain at 1 million, as labor market continues to feel the pain of the coronavirus.](#)"
- 8/27 Politico published an article titled, "[Fed to seek higher inflation in bid to boost employment.](#)"
- 8/27 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, "[\\$454 Billion Treasury Fund Goes Mostly Unused.](#)"

PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

Congressional

HOUSE

- Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) **joined** Stephen Colbert to discuss the HEROES Act and the House-passed Delivering for America Act to fund the United States Postal Service.

Administration

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

- HHS **announced** it has now distributed almost \$2.5 billion of a **planned \$5 billion** distribution to nursing homes to support increased testing, staffing, and personal protective equipment (PPE) needs. This funding allocation was made through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) as a targeted distribution from the \$175 billion Provider Relief program.

CENTERS FOR MEDICARE & MEDICAID SERVICES

- CMS **released** guidance for nursing homes and clinical laboratories to assist in enhancing their abilities to prevent the spread of COVID-19 to nursing home residents and their front line staff.
- CMS **released** a list of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) to Medicare providers regarding the HHS Provider Relief Fund and the Small Business Administration's Paycheck Protection Program payments.

FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION

- FDA issued an **emergency use authorization** for the first COVID-19 antigen test where results can be read directly from the testing card, a similar design to some pregnancy tests. This simple design is fast and efficient for healthcare providers and patients and does not need the use of an analyzer.

NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

- The National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) **announced** that it has awarded 11 grants with a total first-year value of approximately \$17 million to establish the Centers for Research in Emerging Infectious Diseases (CREID). The global network will involve multidisciplinary investigations into how and where viruses and other pathogens emerge from wildlife and spillover to cause disease in people. NIAID intends to provide approximately \$82 million over five years to support the network.

CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION

- CDC Director Dr. Robert Redfield **issued** a media statement on the **Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report** titled, "Preventing and Mitigating SARS-CoV-2 Transmission — Four Overnight Camps, Maine, June–August 2020."

Articles of Interest

- 8/25 TIME published an article titled, **“COVID-19 Is Transmitted Through Aerosols. We Have Enough Evidence, Now It Is Time to Act.”**
 - 8/26 UMN’s Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy (CIDRAP) published an article titled, **“Obesity, metabolic syndrome tied to risk of COVID infection, severity.”**
 - 8/26 The Hill published an article titled, **“COVID-19 vaccine candidate shows promising results in older patients.”**
 - 8/27 The New York Times published an article titled, **“Top U.S. Officials Told C.D.C. to Soften Coronavirus Testing Guidelines.”**
 - 8/27 Politico published an article titled, **“‘Nation of miracles’: Pence pledges coronavirus vaccine by year’s end.”**
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LABOR UPDATE

Administration

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

- DOL released its **Unemployment Insurance Weekly Claims Report** for the week ending August 22.
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SUPPLY CHAIN/CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATE

- Please click **here** to view a readout of today’s FEMA-led COVID-19 call.
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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.