



September 16, 2020

## WHAT HAPPENED TODAY

Today, President Trump urged Republicans to seek more funding in the next coronavirus relief package. He [tweeted](#), "Go for the much higher numbers Republicans, it all comes back to the USA anyway (one way or another)."

Following the President's tweet, White House Chief of Staff Mark Meadows indicated he is more "optimistic" now that an agreement can be reached on a stimulus bill. He stated that if Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) is willing to continue negotiations, so are he and Treasury Secretary Mnuchin. Meadows added that in order for a COVID package to pass prior to Election Day, the two parties must make a deal within the next seven to 10 days.

Additionally, Speaker Pelosi and Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) issued a [joint statement](#) noting they are "encouraged" by the

## LATEST STATISTICS

There are a total of **29,681,773** confirmed cases worldwide, 937,313 deaths and 20,148,975 people have recovered.

There are **6,620,186** confirmed cases of the coronavirus in the U.S., 196,436 deaths and 2,495,127 people have recovered.

## LATEST PMJ RESOURCES

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

President's tweet and "look forward to hearing from the President's negotiators that they will finally meet us halfway with a bill..."

Senate Majority Whip John Thune (R-SD) was less receptive to President Trump's tweet, stating the larger the price tag, the harder it will be to gain Republican support. He stated the package will "have to stay within a realistic range if we want to maximize" Republican support.

Notably, the Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Defense unveiled the Trump administration's COVID-19 vaccine distribution strategy.

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

[President Trump EO Tracker](#)

[COVID-19 Legislative Outlook](#)

[State Responses to EO on Unemployment Insurance](#)

[Coronavirus State Reopening Tracker](#)

[Healthcare Chart on COVID Legislation](#)

[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](#)

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## ECONOMIC UPDATE

### *Congressional*

#### SENATE:

- Senate Rules and Administration Chairman Roy Blunt (R-MO) stated the Senate will join the House in opting out of the Trump Administration's payroll tax deferral.

### *Administration*

#### WHITE HOUSE:

- The White House released a report titled, "Incomes Hit a Record High and Poverty Reached a Record Low in 2019."

#### FEDERAL RESERVE ("FED"):

- The Federal Reserve and Federal Open Market Committee released economic projects from the September 15 to 16 FOMC meeting.

- The Fed **issued its FOMC statement** following the September 15 to 16 meetings.

#### TREASURY:

- Treasury released a **report** on National Financial Literacy Strategy 2020.

#### Articles of Interest

- 9/16 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, **“U.S. Retail Spending Grew at Slower Pace in August.”**
- 9/16 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, **“Fed Signals Interest Rates to Stay Near Zero Through 2023.”**
- 9/16 Politico published an article titled, **“Senate Republicans shrug off Trump’s call for larger COVID-19 relief measure.”**
- 9/16 The Washington Post published an article titled, **“The Federal Reserve projects the economy to improve next year, with unemployment falling to 5.5 percent by the end of 2021.”**

## PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

### *Congressional*

#### HOUSE

- Rep. Ruppertsberger (D-MD) **introduced** federal legislation providing “hero” pay to hospital workers on the frontlines of the COVID-19 pandemic.

#### SENATE

- Sens. Warren (D-MA) and Cassidy (R-LA) sent a **letter** to HHS Secretary Azar and Education Secretary DeVos urging the departments to issue new guidance for how schools and colleges should address the “unique mental health challenges” students are facing due to COVID-19.

### *Administration*

#### DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

- HHS and the Department of Defense (DoD) **released** two documents outlining the Trump Administration’s detailed strategy to deliver safe and effective COVID-19 vaccine doses to the American people as quickly and reliably as possible.

#### CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION

- CDC **released** indicators to help schools make dynamic decisions about in-person learning as local conditions evolve throughout the pandemic.

#### NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

- NIH **announced** a \$12 million award for outreach and engagement efforts in ethnic and racial minority communities disproportionately affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The award will support teams in 11 states established as part of the NIH Community Engagement Alliance (CEAL) Against COVID-19 Disparities.

## FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION

- FDA published comparative performance data for some authorized COVID-19 molecular diagnostic tests. The tables show the Limit of Detection (LoD) of more than 55 authorized molecular diagnostic COVID-19 tests against a standardized sample panel provided by the FDA.

## Articles of Interest

- 9/15 The New York Times published an article titled, [“How Flu Shots Can Help in the Fight Against Covid-19.”](#)
- 9/15 The Washington Post published an article titled, [“Coronavirus kills far more Hispanic and Black children than White youths, CDC study finds.”](#)
- 9/16 KFF published an article titled, [“COVID-19 Racial Disparities in Testing, Infection, Hospitalization, and Death: Analysis of Epic Patient Data.”](#)
- 9/16 KHN published an article titled, [“Tough to Tell COVID From Smoke Inhalation Symptoms — And Flu Season’s Coming.”](#)
- 9/16 Politico published an article titled, [“Top health officials warn America won’t return to normal soon.”](#)

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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.*