



DAILY COVID-19 UPDATE

September 17, 2020

WHAT HAPPENED TODAY

With Senate Republican leaders aiming to let members head home at the end of next week to hit the campaign trail, it appears unlikely that a deal on another COVID-19 relief package will be reached prior to the election. Majority Whip John Thune (R-SD) indicated the primary goal is to complete work on a continuing resolution to fund the government beyond September 30. He added that the coronavirus stimulus bill will be taken up once the chamber returns to Washington, D.C. in November.

Meanwhile, Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) voiced optimism that a bipartisan agreement on coronavirus legislation is possible, but stated, "...it's hard to see how we can go any lower[than \$2.2 trillion] when you only have greater needs." House Democratic leaders have told members they can leave the District with the understanding they will be given 24-hour notice to return for a potential vote.

LATEST STATISTICS

There are a total of **29,992,968** confirmed cases worldwide, 942,939 deaths and 20,375,399 people have recovered.

There are **6,662,256** confirmed cases of the coronavirus in the U.S., 197,397 deaths and 2,525,573 people have recovered.

LATEST PMJ RESOURCES

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

Yesterday, the Senate Appropriations LHHHS Subcommittee held a hearing to examine HHS' response efforts to date as well as next steps on the coronavirus. CDC Director Dr. Redfield predicted we could have approval of a COVID vaccine by November or December, but tempered expectations by noting it will take approximately six to nine months for everyone to be inoculated. As such, a vaccine would likely not be available for wide distribution to the American public until spring or summer of next year. Therefore, Dr. Redfield implored all Americans to take personal responsibility to prevent spread by wearing a mask, washing hands, and maintaining social distance.

Additionally, Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell [pushed for additional fiscal support](#) and indicated he believes there is "appetite on the part of all the relevant players to do something." He added that if additional support is not provided to the economy there will be an increase in evictions, foreclosures, and unemployment that will "scar and damage the economy."

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](#)

ECONOMIC UPDATE

Congressional

CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT COMMISSION:

- The Congressional Oversight Commission [held its second public hearing](#) to examine and hear testimony regarding the Municipal Lending Facility (MLF).

Administration

INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE (IRS):

- The IRS [released a state-by-state breakdown](#) of the roughly nine million people receiving a special mailing this month encouraging them to see if they're eligible to claim an Economic Impact Payment.

Articles of Interest

- 9/17 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, ["Lawmakers Tangle Over Fed's Muni-Market Rescue."](#)

- 9/17 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, [“Lacking Tools, Fed Pins Hopes on Powerful Words.”](#)
- 9/17 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, [“A Million Mortgage Borrowers Fall Through COVID-19 Safety Net.”](#)

PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

Congressional

HOUSE

- Reps. Eshoo (D-CA) and Pallone (D-NJ) released a [joint statement](#) in response to the Trump Administration’s refusal to hand over documents related to the FDA’s denial of an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) request to use hydroxychloroquine for certain COVID-19 patients.
- Rep. Clyburn (D-SC) sent a [letter](#) to Vice President Mike Pence and Coronavirus Response Coordinator Dr. Deborah Birx raising concerns that the Task Force has weakened or retracted previous science-based recommendations in numerous states still in the “red zone,” including states that failed to comply with previous Task Force recommendations. The letter also demands the release of all White House Coronavirus Task Force reports tracking the spread of the virus and making recommendations to contain the outbreak.
- Rep. Neal (D-MA) sent a [letter](#) to HHS Secretary Azar requesting information on the reports that HHS improperly interfered with COVID-19 reports from the CDC as well as detailed information on relevant publication processes.

Administration

CENTERS FOR MEDICARE & MEDICAID SERVICES

- CMS [received](#) the final report from the independent Coronavirus Commission for Safety and Quality in Nursing Homes (Commission), which was facilitated by MITRE. CMS also released an overview of the robust public health actions the agency has taken to date to combat the spread of COVID-19 in nursing homes.

CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION

- The CDC [released](#) new data that shows adult obesity prevalence is increasing and racial and ethnic disparities persist. Notably, adults with obesity are at heightened risk for severe outcomes from COVID-19.

Articles of Interest

- 9/16 UMN’s Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy (CIDRAP) published an article titled, [“Fears of a ‘perfect storm’ as flu season nears.”](#)
- 9/16 KHN published an article titled, [“Lack of Antigen Test Reporting Leaves Country ‘Blind to the Pandemic.’”](#)
- 9/16 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, [“CDC Chief Predicts Covid-19 Vaccine May Not Be Generally Available Until Next Summer.”](#)
- 9/16 NPR published an article titled, [“Contradicting The CDC, Trump Says COVID-19 Vaccine Could Be Ready By End Of Year.”](#)

- 9/16 Politico published an article titled, **“Trump admin unveils plan for distributing coronavirus vaccines.”**
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LABOR UPDATE

Administration

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

- DOL **released** its Unemployment Insurance Weekly Claims Report for the week ending September 12.
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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.