DAILY COVID-19 UPDATE

October 15, 2020

WHAT HAPPENED TODAY

Today, President Trump **called** for a larger stimulus package than the White House's most recent offer of $1.8 trillion. During an interview on Fox Business, President Trump stated he "would take more" and "go higher," echoing his previous comments this week of "go big or go home."

Additionally, Secretary Mnuchin **signaled** today his willingness to accept Speaker Pelosi's national COVID-19 testing strategy. Secretary Mnuchin stated he is ready to "fundamentally agree with their testing language." However, Speaker Pelosi's spokesperson stated the Speaker has not been informed of any specifics on what Secretary Mnuchin is willing to agree on.

Even though President Trump and his Administration are willing to accept a larger stimulus package, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-

LATEST PMJ RESOURCES

Drug Shortage and Medical Supply Chain Tracker

Coronavirus State Reopening Tracker

President Trump EO Tracker

COVID-19 Legislative Outlook

State Responses to EO on Unemployment Insurance

Healthcare Chart on COVID Legislation

Liability Reform State of Play

KY) **asserted** Senate Republicans will not vote for a larger package. Leader McConnell told reporters in Kentucky "a half a trillion dollars, highly targeted, is the best way to go." Additionally, he **added** he would not put a larger package negotiated by Speaker Pelsoi and Secretary Mnuchin on the floor.

ECONOMIC UPDATE

Administration

TREASURY:
- Secretary Mnuchin **gave a statement** at the annual meetings of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, in which he discussed the U.S.'s response to COVID-19.

Articles of Interest
- 10/15 The Washington Post published an article titled, **"Pelosi walks tightrope in stimulus talks amid pressures of election, economy."**
- 10/15 Politico published an article titled, **"Trump: Mnuchin 'hasn't come home with the bacon' in stimulus talks."**
- 10/15 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, **"U.S. Jobless Claims Rose to 898,000 Last Week."**

PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

Congressional

HOUSE
- Reps. Sherman (D-CA), Chu (D-CA) and McGovern (D-MA) led over 100 House members in a **letter** to HHS Secretary Azar and Secretary of State Pompeo expressing concern over moves to scale back global health cooperation before and during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The House delegation from New Jersey sent a **letter** to CDC Director Redfield requesting the agency ensure that federal, state, and local governments work together to effectively administer a COVID-19 vaccine.

SENATE

- Sens. Murray (D-WA), Hassan (D-NH), and Warren (D-MA) sent a **letter** to CMS Administrator Verma regarding the collection and reporting of COVID-19 data in congregate care facilities.
- Sen. Collins (R-ME) sent a **letter** urging Senate leadership to prevent cuts to physician pay during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Administration

BIOMEDICAL ADVANCED RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
- BARDA announced a **collaboration** with Beckman Coulter to aid in the detection of Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children (MIS-C), a severe complication following SARS-CoV-2 infection.

CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION
- CDC released **guidance** on the regulatory requirements for SARS-CoV-2 point-of-care (POC) testing, using POC tests safely, and information on reporting POC test results.
- CDC released **information** titled, "Ensuring the Safety of COVID-19 Vaccines in the United States."
- CDC released **information** titled, "10 Things Healthcare Professionals Need to Know about U.S. COVID-19 Vaccination Plans."
- CDC released a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) **document** about COVID-19 vaccinations.

CENTERS FOR MEDICARE AND MEDICAID SERVICES
- CMS released a **report** titled, "State Medicaid & CHIP Telehealth Toolkit: Policy Considerations for States Expanding Use of Telehealth, COVID-19 Version."

Articles of Interest
- 10/12 The Atlantic published an article titled, **"How to Tell If Socializing Indoors Is Safe."**
- 10/14 The Washington Post published an article titled, **"Emboldened by his covid-19 recovery, Trump pushes return to normalcy."**
- 10/14 UMN's Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy (CIDRAP) published an article titled, **"Trust in COVID info sources varies by demographics, beliefs."**
- 10/14 Reuters published an article titled, **"'Long COVID' may affect multiple parts of body and mind, doctors say."**

LABOR UPDATE

Administration

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
- DOL **released** its Unemployment Insurance Weekly Claims for the week ending October 10.