



## DAILY COVID-19 UPDATE

October 21, 2020

### WHAT HAPPENED TODAY

Today, White House chief of staff Mark Meadows expressed optimism that the White House and Democratic negotiators could reach an agreement on coronavirus stimulus legislation "in the next 48 hours or so." Meadows also noted that while differences still remain in regards to state and local aid as well as the price tag of the bill, progress has been made in the past 24 hours. White House communications director Alyssa Farah added that President Trump is "willing to go up on the number for PPP loans and the direct payments."

However, even if a deal is reached on a relief package, the White House could face opposition from Republicans. Yesterday, Senate Majority Leader McConnell (R-KY) reportedly warned the White House against reaching a consensus on a large-scale COVID-19 bill with Speaker Pelosi prior to the

### LATEST STATISTICS

There are a total of **41,033,709** confirmed cases worldwide, 1,127,797 deaths and 27,977,942 people have recovered.

There are **8,300,451** confirmed cases of the coronavirus in the U.S., 221,550 deaths and 3,295,426 people have recovered.

### LATEST PMJ RESOURCES

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

election as it could disrupt the confirmation of Judge Amy Coney Barrett to the Supreme Court.

Earlier this afternoon, Senate Democrats blocked a \$500 billion GOP stimulus plan by a procedural vote of 51-44. This comes on the heels of a failed 40-57 procedural vote in the Senate on a standalone measure, which would have authorized another round of loans through the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP).

Since our last update, the Department of Health and Human Services published additional guidance related to the pandemic. Please see below for more details.

[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](#)

[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

### *Congress*

#### SENATE:

- Senate Small Business Committee Ranking Member Ben Cardin (D-MD), along with Senators Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH) and Chris Coons (D-DE) and Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY), **introduced** the *HEROES Small Business Lifeline Act*.
- Senate Small Business Committee Chairman Marco Rubio (R-FL), along with Senators Jim Risch (R-ID), Susan Collins (R-ME), and Josh Hawley (R-MO), **introduced** the *Small Business Access to Recovery Capital Act*.

### *Administration*

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

- The Fed **released** its October Beige Book that summarizes commentary on current economic conditions by Federal Reserve district.

## Articles of Interest

- 10/21 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, [“Fed’s Brainard Says More Spending Needed to Avoid Recovery Imbalance.”](#)
- 10/21 The Washington Post published an article titled, [“Senate Democrats block slimmed-down relief bill as Capitol Hill rancor worsens.”](#)
- 10/21 Politico published an article titled, [“Pelosi suggests coronavirus relief deal could slip past November elections.”](#)

## PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

### *Congressional*

#### HOUSE

- Speaker Pelosi (D-CA) penned a [Dear Colleague letter](#) providing an update on coronavirus relief negotiations.

#### SENATE

- Senate Majority Leader McConnell (R-KY) delivered [remarks](#) on the Senate floor regarding COVID-19 relief.

### *Administration*

#### DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

- HHS, through the Assistant Secretary for Health (ASH), issued [guidance](#) under the Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness Act (PREP Act) authorizing qualified pharmacy technicians and State-authorized pharmacy interns to administer childhood vaccines, COVID-19 vaccines, and COVID-19 tests, all subject to several requirements.

#### FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION

- In a new “FDA Voices”, entitled the [FDA’s Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee and its Role in Advising the Agency on COVID-19 Vaccines](#), Peter Marks, Director, Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research highlights the value of transparency.
- The FDA posted a new [“FDA Insight” podcast](#) featuring Deputy Commissioner Anand Shah, M.D., and Dr. Peter Marks, the Director of FDA’s Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research, discussing the upcoming Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee meeting on October 22, 2020.
- The FDA issued a Consumer Update entitled, [Advisory Committees Give FDA Critical Advice and the Public a Voice](#). It describes how the FDA relies on its many advisory committees to help it make sound decisions based on the best science available.

#### CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION

- Today, CDC Director Robert Redfield and agency leadership will [meet](#) with HHS Secretary Azar to discuss the ongoing COVID-19 response and Operation Warp Speed. Following the meeting, the Secretary and Dr. Redfield will host a press briefing.

### Articles of Interest

- 10/21 The Washington Post published an article titled, **"CDC expands definition of who is a 'close contact' of an individual with COVID-19."**
- 10/21 The New York Times published an article titled, **"A Third Coronavirus Surge Has Taken Root in the U.S."**
- 10/21 The Washington Post published an article titled, **"Unprecedented vaccine trials on track to begin delivering results."**