



DAILY COVID-19 UPDATE

October 29, 2020

WHAT HAPPENED TODAY

Today, Speaker Pelosi (D-CA) sent a [letter](#) to Treasury Secretary Mnuchin, requesting a response to the Democrats' latest coronavirus relief proposal so that "negotiations can continue." She warned that inaction will result in continued negative health and economic effects as the pandemic surges across the country and COVID-19 infections hit record levels in the U.S.

Pelosi also urged the Administration to compromise on unresolved issues such as a national testing strategy, health coverage for unemployed individuals, unemployment benefits, funding for schools, tax credits for low-income families, and liability protections.

Additionally, President Trump [signaled support](#) today for reaching a stimulus deal during the lame duck session, stating "We're going to do a very big package as soon as the election is over."

LATEST STATISTICS

There are a total of [44,845,216](#) confirmed cases worldwide, 1,177,898 deaths and 30,138,392 people have recovered.

There are [8,922,632](#) confirmed cases of the coronavirus in the U.S., 228,370 deaths and 3,518,140 people have recovered.

LATEST PMJ RESOURCES

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

President Trump **added** that extending the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) in future stimulus "makes sense," as the program has been a success in providing aid to small businesses.

Notably, the Small Business Administration's (SBA) Office of Inspector General **issued a new report** that raised concerns of fraud for more than \$78 billion in aid approved through the SBA's Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) program. According to the report, \$58 billion disbursed in multiple loans used the same IP addresses, email addresses, bank accounts or the same physical addresses, and \$13.4 billion was deposited in accounts that differed from those listed on the initial loan applications. However, Small Business Administrator Carranza claimed the report's findings "rest on hasty, incomplete conclusions."

Since our last update, the Food and Drug Administration published additional guidance related to the coronavirus pandemic. Please see below for more details.

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

[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](#)

ECONOMIC UPDATE

Congressional

HOUSE

- House Ways and Means Ranking Member Kevin Brady (R-TX) **released a statement** in response to the estimated GDP growth for the third quarter of 2020.

Administration

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION (SBA)

- The SBA **announced** a summary of Fiscal Year 2020 loan data of the financial assistance provided through traditional lending and aid provided via the CARES Act.
- The SBA Inspector General released a report titled, "**Inspection of Small Business Administration's Initial Disaster Assistance Response to the Coronavirus Pandemic.**"

Articles of Interest

- 10/29 The Washington Post published an article titled, [“Trump, Pelosi hold out hope for post-election economic relief deal.”](#)
- 10/29 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, [“U.S. Economy Recovered Significant Ground in Record Third-Quarter GDP Rebound.”](#)
- 10/29 Politico published an article titled, [“Pelosi signals Covid deal possible before January.”](#)

PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

Congressional

HOUSE

- Speaker Pelosi (D-CA) sent a [letter](#) to Treasury Secretary Mnuchin urging a response from the White House to the Democrats' latest offer on coronavirus relief legislation.

Administration

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

- HHS, through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), [announced](#) it will distribute approximately \$333 million in first round performance payments to over 10,000 nursing homes.

CENTERS FOR MEDICARE & MEDICAID SERVICES

- CMS [announced](#) steps to ensure all Americans, including the nation's seniors, have access to the COVID-19 vaccine at no cost when it becomes available.

NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

- Researchers at NIH have [discovered](#) a biological pathway that the novel coronavirus appears to use to hijack and exit cells as it spreads through the body. In cell studies, the researchers showed for the first time that the coronavirus can exit infected cells through the lysosome, an organelle known as the cells' "trash compactor."

FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION

- The FDA [updated an immediately in effect guidance](#), Enforcement Policy for Non-Invasive Remote Monitoring Devices Used to Support Patient Monitoring During the Coronavirus Public Health Emergency.
- The FDA approved two generic drugs indicated to facilitate tracheal intubation and to provide skeletal muscle relaxation during surgery or mechanical ventilation: [succinylcholine chloride injection](#) USP 200 mg/10 mL and [cisatracurium besylate injection](#) USP 10 mg/5 mL.
- As of today, 285 tests are authorized by FDA under EUAs; these include 222 molecular tests, 56 antibody tests, and 7 antigen tests.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

- Right now, six vaccines for COVID-19 are in development as part of Operation Warp Speed according to the program's chief operating officer, Army Gen.

Gustave F. Perna. At a Heritage Foundation event, he **stated** that once one or more of those vaccines proves both effective and safe, their fast and efficient distribution will require knowing where every dose is at all times, tracking uptake of the vaccine, and making sure vaccine doses are allocated equitably to the entire country simultaneously.

Articles of Interest

- 10/28 The Hill published an article titled, **[“Washington, Oregon, Nevada join California plan to review COVID-19 vaccine.”](#)**
 - 10/29 Stat published an article titled, **[“It may be time to reset expectations on when we’ll get a Covid-19 vaccine.”](#)**
 - 10/29 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, **[“How Many Have Recovered From Covid-19 Cases? No One Knows.”](#)**
 - 10/29 The New York Times published an article titled, **[“Death Rates Have Dropped for Seriously Ill Covid Patients.”](#)**
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LABOR UPDATE

Administration

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

- DOL **released** its Unemployment Insurance Weekly Claims Report for the week ending October 24.