



## DAILY COVID-19 UPDATE

November 18, 2020

### WHAT HAPPENED TODAY

With 12 days left on the legislative calendar, Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) and Senate Majority Leader McConnell (R-KY) have not discussed another coronavirus relief package. Yesterday, in a [letter](#) to Leader McConnell, Speaker Pelosi and Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) requested that he join them at the negotiating table this week to resume bipartisan stimulus talks.

In response, Leader McConnell [tweeted](#), "Republicans have tried for weeks to pass another targeted rescue package... Democrats repeatedly blocked it all. Let's hope they let us make law soon." Today, in remarks on the Senate floor, Leader McConnell stated that Democrats' proposal "is a multi-trillion laughing stock that never had a chance of becoming law." He also reiterated his demand that any coronavirus stimulus package be "targeted" and have a price tag of approximately \$500 billion.

Additionally, White House Chief of Staff Mark Meadows indicated that while another COVID-19 bill "has been a priority for the president," it is up to

### LATEST STATISTICS

There are a total of **56,051,621** confirmed cases worldwide, 1,345,851 deaths and 35,969,779 people have recovered.

There are **11,468,739** confirmed cases of the coronavirus in the U.S., 249,935 deaths and 4,293,640 people have recovered.

### LATEST PMJ RESOURCES

[Lame Duck Preview Memo](#)

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

[Coronavirus State Reopening Tracker](#)

Congress to proceed with any discussions. He added, "We haven't seen a real willingness by our House colleagues..."

Notably, the Food and Drug Administration approved the first [at-home](#) COVID-19 diagnostic self-test, which generates results in 30 minutes or less.

[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*

#### SENATE

- Senate Banking Committee Ranking Member Sherrod Brown (D-OH) [pushed for an additional](#) coronavirus relief package citing concerns over the expiring eviction moratoriums and continued inability to backpay months of rent or mortgage payments.

#### Articles of Interest

- 11/18 The Washington Post published an article titled, ["White House chief of staff 'can't guarantee' U.S. government will avert December shutdown."](#)

## PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

### *Congressional*

#### HOUSE

- Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) and Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) sent a [letter](#) to Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell requesting he

join them at the negotiating table this week to produce a bipartisan, bicameral COVID-19 relief agreement.

- Reps. Greg Walden, Michael Burgess, and Brett Guthrie sent a [letter](#) to CDC Director Dr. Redfield, asking the agency to clarify details about the national BioSafety Level (BSL)-3 and Animal BSL (ABSL)-3 lab capacity. The lawmakers note that limited lab capacity appears to have stymied necessary research into coronavirus and could cause problems for future pandemics.

## ***Administration***

### **DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

- HHS Secretary Azar delivered [remarks](#) at an Operation Warp Speed briefing.
- HHS Secretary Azar issued a [statement](#) on FDA's authorization of the first COVID-19 test for home self-tests.

### **CENTERS FOR MEDICARE & MEDICAID SERVICES**

- There are 125,506 individuals from 7,313 nursing homes who have completed [CMS training](#) designed to help staff combat the spread of COVID-19 in nursing homes. This represents only 12.5% of the approximately 1 million nursing home staff in the country. As such, CMS is calling on nursing homes to take action, urging them to require their staff to take this free training to keep nursing home residents safe.

### **FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION**

- The FDA issued an [emergency use authorization \(EUA\)](#) for the first COVID-19 diagnostic test for self-testing at home and that provides rapid results. The Lucira COVID-19 All-In-One Test Kit is a molecular (real-time loop mediated amplification reaction) single use test that is intended to detect the novel coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 that causes COVID-19.
- The FDA has reorganized the [FAQs on Testing for SARS-CoV-2](#) webpage to make it easier to navigate to questions by topic.

### **Articles of Interest**

- 11/17 NPR published an article titled, [“A Rush On Coronavirus Testing Strains Laboratories, Drives Supply Shortages.”](#)
- 11/18 The New York Times published an article titled, [“The Vaccines Will Probably Work. Making Them Fast Will Be the Hard Part.”](#)
- 11/18 Healthcare Dive published an article titled, [“Hospitals across US cancel elective procedures — again.”](#)
- 11/18 Politico published an article titled, [“Inoculations by December? States aren’t so sure.”](#)
- 11/18 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, [“Pfizer Says Covid Vaccine Is 95% Effective in Final Data, Will Seek Authorization.”](#)