



DAILY COVID-19 UPDATE

November 19, 2020

WHAT HAPPENED TODAY

Today, the White House Coronavirus Task Force **held its first press briefing** in months as infections surge across the country. During the briefing, Vice President Mike Pence highlighted ongoing efforts and progress in combating the pandemic by preparations for speedy vaccine distribution and new therapeutics that have reduced the mortality rate of the virus. Vice President Pence announced the day after federal approval of a vaccine it will be available to states, and “a day after that we will begin” vaccinations for the “most vulnerable” and health care workers. Additionally, he reiterated the Trump Administration does not support another national lockdown or school closures.

Previously, other federal officials have also **expressed confidence** that every state will have access to at least some doses of a COVID-19 vaccine for distribution within 24-hours after federal authorization of the new drugs. General Gustavo Perna, chief operating officer for Operation Warp Speed, stated every jurisdiction will have “access immediately upon the initial push of the vaccine” with

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](#)

weekly replenishments to cities, counties and states as more doses become available.

Additionally, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) held a rare media briefing today to [caution against traveling](#) for Thanksgiving. COVID-19 incident manager at the CDC Henry Walke cited an “exponential growth in cases” and the “opportunity to translocate disease or infection from one part of the country to another” as reasons the CDC is recommending people avoid traveling around the holiday.

We have updated our Drug Shortage and Medical Supply Chain Tracker. This can be found linked under Latest PMJ Resources.

[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 ExportControls](#)

[Memo - Federal Reserve COVID-19 Announcements](#)

[Federal Reserve Lending Facilities Deck](#)

ECONOMIC UPDATE

Congressional

HOUSE

- House Financial Services Chairwoman Maxine Waters (D-CA) [warned](#) that small businesses may permanently close due to COVID-19 if additional relief is not passed soon.

SENATE

- In a [floor speech](#), Senate Banking Committee Ranking Member Sherrod Brown (D-OH) urged Congress to work on passing additional COVID-19 relief.

Administration

TREASURY

- The Treasury and IRS [released guidance](#) clarifying the tax treatment of expenses where a Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan has not been forgiven by the end of the year the loan was received.

INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE (IRS)

- The IRS **reminded** people who don't normally file tax returns that November 21 is the deadline to register for an Economic Impact Payment.

Articles of Interest

- 11/19 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, **"U.S. Unemployment Claims Rise Amid Coronavirus Surge."**

PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

Congressional

HOUSE

- House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (D-MD) released a **statement** following reports that coronavirus deaths in the U.S. have surpassed 250,000.

Administration

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

- HHS announced the **launch** of a pilot program with five states to use rapid, portable, cartridge-based COVID-19 molecular test kits. The program will assess the integration of diagnostic tech into disease surveillance and infection control for nursing homes and other facilities.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

- During a recent **press conference**, a panel of Operation Warp Speed officials emphasized their optimism for both vaccine candidates from pharmaceutical companies Pfizer and Moderna, emphasizing they are "safe and effective."

Articles of Interest

- 11/18 A bipartisan group of seven U.S. governors penned an op-ed in the Washington Post titled, **"Americans need to stay home this Thanksgiving."**
- 11/18 Politico published an article titled, **"U.S. Covid deaths exceed 250,000 as cases continue to surge."**
- 11/18 Modern Healthcare published an article titled, **"Trifecta of shortages' hampering response to COVID-19 surge."**
- 11/19 KHN published an article titled, **"Take It From an Expert: Fauci's Hierarchy of Safety During COVID."**
- 11/19 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, **"Oxford, AstraZeneca Coronavirus Vaccine's Strong Response in Elderly Confirmed in Review."**