



## DAILY COVID-19 UPDATE

November 25, 2020

### WHAT HAPPENED TODAY

Today, President-elect Joe Biden **delivered** a Thanksgiving address focusing on the “shared sacrifices Americans are making” to fight the pandemic. President-elect Biden reiterated calls for mask wearing, social distancing, and limiting group sizes as “local health systems are at risk of being overwhelmed.” Biden also stated his Administration will work towards increasing the amount of testing, contracting tracing, and protective gear for businesses and schools so they can begin to reopen safely in the coming months.

Additionally in preparation to take over the COVID-19 response, President-elect Biden is **expected to announce** his pick for a new Health and Human Services (HHS) secretary. The two top candidates for the position are Dr. Vivek H. Murthy, a former surgeon general under President Obama, and Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham of New Mexico. Biden is expected to make his pick as early as Monday of next week.

Since the General Services Administration gave Biden the green light to proceed with the presidential

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[Healthcare Chart on COVID Legislation](#)

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[CARES Act State Funding](#)

transition, Trump Administration health officials [began](#) a series of planned meetings with Biden's transition team on Operation Warp Speed. The first meeting today covered COVID-19 vaccines, therapeutics, and distribution strategies. Yesterday, HHS Secretary Azar told reporters the department will carry out the transition by "looking out for the health and well-being of the American people and ... saving lives through this COVID-19 pandemic."

[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

### *Congressional*

#### SENATE

- In a [letter](#), Republicans on the Senate Banking Committee, led by Chairman Mike Crapo (R-ID) and Senator Pat Toomey (R-PA), applauded Secretary Mnuchin's decision to shut down the Federal Reserve lending facilities and return unused CARES Act funds to Treasury.

### *Administration*

#### FEDERAL RESERVE

- The Fed and the Federal Open Market Committee [released the minutes](#) of the Committee meetings held on November 4 and 5.

#### TREASURY

- Secretary Mnuchin has [moved](#) \$455 billion in CARES Act relief funds from the Federal Reserve back into the Treasury's General Fund.

#### Articles of Interest

- 11/25 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, ["Covid Aid and Stimulus: What's Expiring Soon and What's in the Works."](#)
- 11/25 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, ["U.S. Unemployment Claims Rose to 778,000 Last Week."](#)

## PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

### *Congressional*

#### HOUSE

- Rep. Burgess (R-TX), Ranking Member of the House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health, participated in an [interview](#) with Fox News to discuss COVID-19 relief and the progress of three vaccine candidates.

## SENATE

- Sen. Warren (D-MA) announced she will be introducing a Senate companion for Rep. Lee's (D-CA) bill, the [COVID Community Care Act](#), to provide emergency funding for community organizations to address mistrust of public health information and provide timely services to combat COVID-19 in medically underserved communities.
- Sen. Booker (D-NJ) led 16 Democratic colleagues sent a [letter](#) urging Congressional leaders to provide robust funding to ensure the swift distribution of COVID-19 vaccines as a part of any upcoming legislation to address the pandemic.

## *Administration*

### DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

- HHS announced [plans](#) to allocate initial doses of Regeneron's investigational monoclonal antibody therapeutic, casirivimab and imdevimab.

### FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION

- FDA published a new [webpage](#) on FDA.gov with answers to frequently asked questions about face masks, surgical masks, and respirators.
- FDA posted two [templates](#) with recommendations on what to include in EUA requests for serology tests.

### NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

- The National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) announced that the fourth iteration of the [Adaptive COVID-19 Treatment Trial](#) (ACTT-4) has begun to enroll hospitalized adults with COVID-19 who require supplemental oxygen. The NIAID-sponsored trial will enroll up to 1,500 patients at approximately 100 sites in the United States and other countries.

## Articles of Interest

- 11/24 Morning Consult published an article titled, ["The Public's Willingness to Get a Coronavirus Vaccine Ticks Up Slightly With Promising Developments and Surge in Cases."](#)
- 11/24 The Washington Post published an article titled, ["First 6.4 million doses of Pfizer's coronavirus vaccine could go out in mid-December."](#)
- 11/25 Politico published an article titled, ["How 9 governors are handling the next coronavirus wave."](#)
- 11/25 The Hill published an article titled, ["Biden team to begin getting COVID-19 briefings."](#)