



DAILY COVID-19 UPDATE

December 7, 2020

WHAT HAPPENED TODAY

Today, the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) announced it will be **awarding** \$523 million in performance-based stimulus payments to over 9,000 nursing homes that achieved specific COVID-19 infection and death reduction benchmarks between September and October. Payments will be disbursed beginning December 9.

Additionally, a group of House and Senate lawmakers is expected to formally release, as soon as today, the legislative text of their bipartisan, bicameral \$908 billion coronavirus relief package. Senate Minority Whip Dick Durbin (D-IL), a member of the bipartisan group, stated he is unsure if Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) will agree to take up the bill on the floor. However, Senator Durbin stated Leader McConnell has expressed "some interest" and "positive feeling" towards the proposal.

Notably, to avoid a partial government shutdown on Friday, congressional leaders are expected to introduce a stopgap funding measure that would set December 18 as a new deadline for a final spending

LATEST STATISTICS

There are a total of **67,397,801** confirmed cases worldwide, 1,541,338 deaths and 43,256,979 people have recovered.

There are **14,846,645** confirmed cases of the coronavirus in the U.S., 283,211 deaths and 5,624,444 people have recovered.

LATEST PMJ RESOURCES

[Lame Duck Preview Memo](#)

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

[Coronavirus State Reopening Tracker](#)

package. The continuing resolution is intended to allow the lawmakers additional time to reach a deal on the FY 2021 omnibus bill and to attach any additional coronavirus aid.

Since our last update, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention published additional guidance related to the pandemic. Please see below for more details.

We have updated our Coronavirus State Reopening Tracker. It is 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 Export Controls](#)

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

[Federal Reserve Lending Facilities Deck](#)

ECONOMIC UPDATE

Administration

FEDERAL RESERVE ("FED")

- The Fed [announced](#) the annual indexing of the reserve requirement exemption amount and the low reserve tranche for 2021.

TREASURY

- Today, Secretary Mnuchin [hosted a discussion](#) with France Ministers and Central Bank Governors from Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the UK, the European Commission, and the Eurogroup to discuss the pandemic response.

INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE (IRS)

- The IRS, state tax agencies, and the tax industry [warned all tax professionals](#) about potential telework scams during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Articles of Interest

- 12/7 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, [“Covid-19 Resurgence and the Election Changed Calculus for Aid Negotiators.”](#)
- 12/7 The Washington Post published an article titled, [“Congress likely to seek one-week government funding bill as stimulus negotiations continue.”](#)

- 12/6 The Washington Post published an article titled, [“Unemployment sick leave and housing aid are set to expire in weeks, threatening Americans with sudden financial ruin.”](#)

PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

Congressional

HOUSE

- Rep. Jim Banks (R-IN) sent a [letter](#) to Speaker Pelosi to impose limitations on messaging on face masks worn by lawmakers.

SENATE

- Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-MA) and Rep. Ayanna Pressley (D-MA) sent a [letter](#) to Gene L. Dodaro, U.S. Comptroller General, requesting a Government Accountability Office (GAO) report on how COVID-19 relief funds have been distributed to disproportionately affected communities.

Administration

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

- The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), operating under HHS, [announced](#) it will distribute \$523 million in second round performance payments to over 9,000 nursing homes. These nursing homes are being rewarded for successfully reducing COVID-19 related infections and deaths between September and October.

FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION

- The FDA [authorized](#) the first diagnostic test for at home collection of patient samples to detect both COVID-19 and influenza A and B (flu).

CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION

- The CDC [issued](#) interim guidance for antigen testing for SARS-CoV-2.
- The CDC [published](#) a resource document titled, "Operational Considerations for Adapting a Contact Tracing Program to Respond to the COVID-19 Pandemic."

Articles of Interest

- 12/4 The Atlantic published an article titled, [“The U.S. Has Passed the Hospital Breaking Point.”](#)
- 12/5 NPR published an article titled, [“‘Extraordinary Acceleration’: Takeaways From The Pandemic Last Week.”](#)
- 12/5 CNN published an article titled, [“First shipments of coronavirus vaccine will fall short.”](#)
- 12/6 Politico published an article titled, [“States defer to health providers on who gets first vaccines.”](#)
- 12/7 KHN published an article titled, [“Demand for COVID Vaccines Expected to Get Heated — And Fast.”](#)