



DAILY COVID-19 UPDATE

December 8, 2020

WHAT HAPPENED TODAY

Today, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) and House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-CA) are expected to speak with White House Chief of Staff Mark Meadows and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin regarding coronavirus aid.

Leader McConnell told reporters that Congress should "set aside" the issues of liability protections and state and local funding, which have once again emerged as key hurdles in current negotiations. McConnell indicated he would be willing to re-evaluate those issues next year but for now, Congress must pass a smaller, targeted relief bill.

White House economic adviser Larry Kudlow stated yesterday that President Trump is "likely" to sign some version of the \$908 billion bipartisan stimulus proposal dependent on "some of the policy details inside." Additionally, President-elect Joe Biden has also endorsed the plan released last week, while Speaker Pelosi and Senate Minority Leader Schumer said it could improve on funding for state and local government.

LATEST STATISTICS

There are a total of **68,010,230** confirmed cases worldwide, 1,553,025 deaths and 43,743,769 people have recovered.

There are **15,087,418** confirmed cases of the coronavirus in the U.S., 285,518 deaths and 5,714,557 people have recovered.

LATEST PMJ RESOURCES

[Lame Duck Preview Memo](#)

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

[Coronavirus State Reopening Tracker](#)

Additionally, the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee (VRBPAC) is slated to [meet](#) this Thursday to consider whether to grant emergency use authorization (EUA) to Pfizer/BioNTech for their COVID-19 vaccine candidate. Following the vote, the decision will move to the FDA.

Notably, President-elect Biden committed to distributing [100 million doses](#) of a COVID-19 vaccine to Americans within his first 100 days in office.

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

[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

- Senator Bernie Sanders (I-VT), along with Senators Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY), Elizabeth Warren (D-MA), Jeff Merkley (D-OR), Ed Markey (D-MA), and Ron Wyden (D-OR), [sent a letter](#) to Senate colleagues urging lawmakers to include another round of stimulus checks and remove liability protections in additional COVID-19 stimulus.
- Senate Appropriations Committee Vice Chairman Patrick Leahy (D-VT) [urged Congress](#) to pass additional COVID relief.
- Senators Mark Warner (D-VA) and Susan Collins (R-ME), members of the bipartisan, bicameral group that proposed the \$908 billion relief package, [authored an op-ed](#) regarding their proposal.

CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE (CBO)

- The CBO released its [Monthly Budget Review for November 2020](#) that showed the federal deficit increased \$87 billion over first two months of the 2021 fiscal year from the same period last year.

Articles of Interest

- 12/8 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, [“Will There Be a Second Stimulus Check Before the End of the Year?”](#)
- 12/8 The Hill published an article titled, [“Bipartisan support for new PPP loans gains momentum in Congress.”](#)
- 12/7 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, [“Covid-Aid Negotiators Grapple Over Liability Protections.”](#)

PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

Congressional

SENATE

- Sen. Gary Peters (D-MI) sent a [letter](#) to HHS Secretary Alex Azar and Acting Secretary of Defense Chris Miller for information on their preparations to meet the challenge of coordinating the wide distribution of coronavirus vaccines to all Americans once cleared by the FDA. He also requested details on steps the Secretaries are taking to ensure that vaccines will be readily available to all who want one.

Administration

THE WHITE HOUSE

- Today, the White House [held](#) an all-day Coronavirus Vaccine Summit during which officials discussed vaccine development and distribution.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

- HHS [released](#) new hospital COVID-19 capacity data at the facility level. This new, more granular, data release aggregates daily hospital reports into a "week at a time" picture to protect patient privacy, while providing a view of how COVID-19 is impacting hospitals and local communities across the country.

NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

- NIH Director Dr. Francis Collins [penned](#) a blog post titled, "Study of Healthcare Workers Shows COVID-19 Immunity Lasts Many Months."
- The National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering (NIBIB), part of NIH, [funded and released](#) an innovative online tool that helps organizations choose a COVID-19 testing strategy that will work best for their specific needs. The COVID-19 Testing Impact Calculator is a free resource that shows how different approaches to testing and other mitigation measures, such as mask use, can curb the spread of the virus in any organization. It is the first online tool in the nation to provide schools and businesses with clear guidance on risk-reducing behaviors and testing to help them stay open safely.

CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION

- CDC [released](#) guidance outlining considerations for wearing a mask.
- CDC [released](#) guidance for developing a framework for assessing and managing individual-level risk of COVID-19 exposure in mobile populations.

Articles of Interest

- 12/6 Reuters published an article titled, **“Biden transition, U.S. coronavirus vaccine teams to meet amid surge, distribution questions.”**
- 12/7 The New York Times published an article titled, **“Trump administration officials passed when Pfizer offered months ago to sell the U.S. more vaccine doses.”**
- 12/7 The Hill published an article titled, **“Fauci: Christmas could be worse than Thanksgiving for COVID-19 spread.”**
- 12/7 NPR published an article titled, **“COVID-19 Data Release Shows Where Hospitals Around The Country Are Filling Up.”**
- 12/8 The Washington Post published an article titled, **“Britain launches the West’s first mass coronavirus vaccination.”**