



DAILY COVID-19 UPDATE

December 10, 2020

WHAT HAPPENED TODAY

Today, disagreements over what provisions to include in a new coronavirus relief package escalated and Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) **suggested** negotiations could continue beyond Christmas. With increasing disagreements, the House passed a stopgap funding bill yesterday to keep the government funded for another week, through December 18, as negotiations continue.

Yesterday evening, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell's (R-KY) staff told congressional leaders that any compromise reached on state and local aid and liability protections is **unlikely to satisfy** Senate Republicans. While no details in the \$908 billion proposal on state and local aid and liability protections have been released, Senator Chris Coons (D-DE) said the proposal will likely include a six-month moratorium on COVID-related lawsuits to allow states time to implement their own liability protection legislation.

Leader McConnell and Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) **spurred** on the Senate floor today over their parties' respective priorities. Leader

LATEST STATISTICS

There are a total of **69,363,786** confirmed cases worldwide, 1,578,008 deaths and 44,603,644 people have recovered.

There are **15,535,565** confirmed cases of the coronavirus in the U.S., 291,403 deaths and 5,891,885 people have recovered.

LATEST PMJ RESOURCES

[Lame Duck Preview Memo](#)

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

[Coronavirus State Reopening Tracker](#)

Schumer stated liability protections and state and local aid are "not remotely equivalent in terms of importance," as state and local aid would "solve a real, immediate problem." Leader McConnell disagreed, indicating liability protections provide relief to small businesses and schools who may fear lawsuits during the pandemic.

Notably, the FDA granted an emergency use authorization for the first over-the-counter COVID-19 test kit for at-home use without a prescription.

[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

HOUSE

- House Ways and Means Republicans issued a press released titled, "[**Main Street's Message to Congress: We Need Help Finding Workers.**](#)"

SENATE

- Senator Josh Hawley (R-MO), member of the Senate Small Business Committee, introduced the [**Emergency Direct Payments for Families and Workers Act**](#) to provide a second round of stimulus checks to qualifying individuals.
- Senate Banking Committee Ranking Member Sherrod Brown (D-OH) [**pushed to include**](#) a multi-employer pension fix in next COVID-19 relief package.
- Senate Small Business Committee Chairman Marco Rubio (R-FL) [**wrote an op-ed**](#) detailing successes of the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP).

Articles of Interest

- 12/10 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, "[**Covid-19 Aid Bill Negotiators Seek Compromise on Liability Shield.**](#)"
- 12/10 The Washington Post published an article titled, "[**Economic relief talks descend into disarray as congressional bickering intensifies.**](#)"

- 12/10 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, [“U.S. Unemployment Claims Rise to Highest Level Since September.”](#)

PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

Congressional

HOUSE

- Rep. James Clyburn (D-SC) sent a [letter](#) to HHS Secretary Azar and CDC Director Redfield demanding information after a CDC employee testified that the Trump Administration may have deliberately concealed and destroyed evidence that senior political appointees interfered with career officials’ response to the coronavirus crisis at the CDC.

SENATE

- Sen. Mark Warner (D-VA) led nine of his colleagues in a [letter](#) urging HHS Secretary Azar and CDC Director Redfield to ensure a fair and equitable COVID-19 vaccine distribution.

Administration

THE WHITE HOUSE

- Vice President Pence [led](#) a roundtable discussion on COVID-19 vaccine progress and the upcoming distribution stage.
- The White House

FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION

- The FDA [authorized](#) LabCorp’s Pixel COVID-19 Test Home Collection Kit for use by any individual 18 years and older without a prescription. This product, which is authorized as the first COVID-19 direct-to-consumer (non-prescription) test system, allows an individual to self-collect a nasal swab sample at home and then send that sample for testing to LabCorp.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

- DOD [unveiled](#) its coronavirus vaccine distribution plan. It plans to administer approximately 44,000 doses of Pfizer’s COVID-19 vaccine within 24 to 48 hours of authorization for emergency use. The vaccine will be distributed through 16 DOD installations -- 13 in the U.S. and three overseas.

Articles of Interest

- 12/9 LA Times published an article titled, [“Infected after 5 minutes, from 20 feet away: South Korea study shows coronavirus’ spread indoors.”](#)
- 12/9 The New York Times published an article titled, [“‘There’s No Place for Them to Go’: I.C.U. Beds Near Capacity Across U.S.”](#)
- 12/9 The Washington Post published an article titled, [“U.S. sets daily record for coronavirus deaths, as Britain warns of allergic reactions to vaccine.”](#)
- 12/9 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, [“Covid-19 Vaccines Pose Potential Side Effects, Doctors Say.”](#)

- 12/9 Morning Consult published an article titled, "[As States Prioritize Who Gets COVID-19 Vaccines, Essential Worker Groups, Businesses Make Their Case.](#)"
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LABOR UPDATE

Administration

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

- DOL [released](#) its Unemployment Insurance Weekly Claims Report for the week ending December 5.