DAILY COVID-19 UPDATE

December 14, 2020

WHAT HAPPENED TODAY

Today, the first doses of the Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine were administered in the U.S. to healthcare workers on the frontlines. HHS Secretary Alex Azar indicated that approximately 2.9 million vaccines were sent out for this week's inoculations, with an updated weekly allocation announcement expected on Friday.

In an interview with NBC, NIAID Director, Dr. Anthony Fauci, noted that healthy Americans with no underlying health conditions should be able to receive the COVID-19 vaccine by the **end of March or beginning of April.**

Additionally, a bipartisan group of lawmakers is **expected to release** two economic relief proposals today instead of one. The group, who originally issued the $908 billion proposal, decided to separate their proposal into a $748 billion package with broadly supported measures as well as a $160 billion package that includes liability protections and state and local aid. The larger package would include unemployment benefits, small business aid, and

LATEST STATISTICS

There are a total of **72,626,153** confirmed cases worldwide, 1,618,509 deaths and 44,603,644 people have recovered.

There are **16,407,785** confirmed cases of the coronavirus in the U.S., 300,267 deaths and 6,298,082 people have recovered.

Today, the U.S. surpassed 300,000 total COVID-19 deaths. The nation is now averaging 2,500 coronavirus deaths each day.

LATEST PMJ RESOURCES

Lame Duck Preview Memo

funding for education, vaccine distribution, and rental assistance, among other things.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) suggested last week that negotiators remove both state and local aid and liability protections in order to swiftly pass a package with broad bipartisan support. While a spokesperson for Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) stated the Speaker believes state and local funding is "even more important" at this time, House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (D-MD) **signaled support** for a more targeted package. Leader Hoyer acknowledged the importance of providing additional funding to states and local governments, but stated it's necessary to pass additional aid for people who are "really, really struggling."

Yesterday, Speaker Pelosi and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin **had a 30-minute phone call** to discuss the latest developments on the omnibus and COVID negotiations. According to Speaker Pelosi's spokesperson, the Speaker reiterated her view that a compromise on liability protections can be reached without "jeopardiz[ing] workers' safety." The two are scheduled to speak again today.

Drug Shortage and Medical Supply Chain Tracker

Coronavirus State Reopening Tracker

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

SENATE
- Senate Small Business Ranking Member Ben Cardin (D-MD) **lauded the inclusion** of his amendment to the NDAA to extend the time limit on the Small Business Administration's 8(a) Business Development Program to ensure vulnerable small businesses do not lose access to the program during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Articles of Interest
- 12/13 Politico published an article titled, **"Bipartisan group to offer 2-part coronavirus relief package."**
- 12/13 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, **"Vaccine Boosts Fed Confidence That Worst-Case Outcomes Can Be Avoided."**

- 12/13 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, **"Getting Covid Vaccines to People Will Cost States Billions They Don't Have."**
- 12/13 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, **"Congressional Leaders Weigh Narrow Covid-19 Relief Bill."**

PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

Congressional

HOUSE
- Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) **issued** a statement following FDA's EUA of the first coronavirus vaccine.

Administration

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
- In a press briefing this morning, Army Gen. Gustave F. Pern **announced** that distribution of the nation's first COVID-19 vaccine doses has begun. By Wednesday, 636 sites across the U.S. will receive the vaccine.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
- HHS Secretary Alex Azar and Acting Secretary of Defense Christopher C. Miller **released** statements after the FDA issued an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) to Pfizer for its COVID-19 vaccine, the first authorization for a COVID-19 vaccine in the United States.
- The Trump Administration, through HHS and the Department of Defense (DoD), will **purchase** an additional 100 million doses of COVID-19 vaccine candidate, called mRNA-1273, from Moderna.

CENTERS FOR MEDICARE & MEDICAID SERVICES
- CMS Administrator Seema Verma **issued** a statement on FDA's EUA of a COVID-19 vaccine candidate.

FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION
- The FDA **issued** the first EUA for a vaccine for the prevention of COVID-19 in individuals 16 years of age and older. The EUA allows the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine to be distributed in the U.S.

NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH
- According to a clinical trial supported by NIAID, the combination of baricitinib, an anti-inflammatory drug, and remdesivir, an antiviral, **reduced time to recovery** for people hospitalized with COVID-19.

Articles of Interest
- 12/11 KHN published an article titled, **"Farmworkers, Firefighters and Flight Attendants Jockey for Vaccine Priority."**
- 12/13 The Hill published an article titled, **"FDA chief: Americans' hesitancy to get vaccine a 'significant problem.'"**
- 12/13 Reuters published an article titled, **"U.S. vaccine campaign launches with first shipments 'delivering hope' to millions."**

- 12/14 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, **"Getting COVID Vaccines to People Will Cost States Billions They Don't Have."**
- 12/14 The Atlantic published an article titled, **"How Science Beat the Virus."**