



DAILY COVID-19 UPDATE

December 15, 2020

WHAT HAPPENED TODAY

Today, Treasury Secretary Mnuchin, Senate Majority Leader McConnell (R-KY), Senate Democratic Leader Schumer (D-NY), and House Minority Leader McCarthy (R-CA) were expected to meet with Speaker Pelosi (D-CA) and other congressional leaders at 4 p.m. to discuss a coronavirus relief package as well as an omnibus funding deal.

Leader McConnell stated yesterday, "We're not leaving here without a COVID package. We're going to stay here, no matter how long it takes."

He reiterated that lawmakers should move forward with a bipartisan bill "on what we can agree on."

Leader McConnell also added that the Biden Administration will likely ask for another package, so there will be "another opportunity to debate the merits of liability reform and state and local government in the very near future."

Notably, Senate Minority Whip Dick Durbin (D-IL), one of the members who introduced the \$908 billion bipartisan proposal, stated he would support moving forward with the \$748 billion package. He cited the

LATEST STATISTICS

There are a total of **73,253,728** confirmed cases worldwide, 1,630,211 deaths and 41,475,005 people have recovered.

There are **16,651,589** confirmed cases of the coronavirus in the U.S., 302,689 deaths and 6,298,082 people have recovered.

LATEST PMJ RESOURCES

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

[Coronavirus State Reopening Tracker](#)

[Lame Duck Preview Memo](#)

need to provide "emergency relief for the American people before we go home for the holidays."

Meanwhile, at a White House briefing earlier in the day, Press Secretary Kayleigh McEnany indicated that President Trump will "wait to see what the [stimulus] deal looks like" before committing to sign it.

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 [Moderna](#) for their COVID-19 vaccine candidate. Following the vote, the decision will move to the FDA. The agency intends to issue an EUA for the vaccine on Friday.

We have updated our Coronavirus State Reopening Tracker and the Drug Shortage and Medical Supply Chain Tracker. Both are 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

Congressional

SENATE

- Senators Josh Hawley (R-MO) and Bernie Sanders (I-VT) are [continuing to push](#) for another round of stimulus checks.
- Senator Chris Coons (D-DE), a member of the bipartisan group that released the \$908 billion proposal, [released a statement](#) on the \$748 billion bipartisan legislation to provide COVID-19 relief.

Articles of Interest

- 12/15 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, ["Congressional Leaders to Meet Tuesday to Discuss Covid-19, Year-End Spending Bill."](#)
- 12/15 Politico published an article titled, ["Pelosi moves to break stimulus stalemate with key meeting."](#)

PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

Congressional

HOUSE

- Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) [issued](#) a statement after the U.S. coronavirus death toll crossed 300,000.

SENATE

- Sen. Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) and House Republican Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-CA) [issued](#) a joint statement regarding COVID-19 relief legislation.

Administration

FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION

- The FDA [issued](#) an emergency use authorization (EUA) for the first over-the-counter (OTC) fully at-home diagnostic test for COVID-19. The [Ellume COVID-19 Home Test](#) is a rapid, lateral flow antigen test, a type of test that runs a liquid sample along a surface with reactive molecules. The test detects fragments of proteins of the SARS-CoV-2 virus from a nasal swab sample from any individual 2 years of age or older.
- The FDA [released](#) a briefing document on Moderna's COVID-19 vaccine candidate.
- The FDA posted the [review memorandum](#) outlining the basis of the agency's decision to authorize the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine.
- As of December 14, 299 tests and sample collection devices are authorized by FDA under EUAs; these include 230 molecular tests and sample collection devices, 61 antibody tests, and 8 antigen tests.

NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

- NIH Director Dr. Francis Collins [penned](#) a blog post titled, "New Online Resource Shows How You Can Help to Fight COVID-19."

Articles of Interest

- 12/13 Former FDA Commissioner Scott Gottlieb published an op-ed in the Wall Street Journal titled, "[Antibodies as COVID Insurance.](#)"
- 12/14 The Hill published an article titled, "[Fauci warns people not to drop normal 'public health measures' as vaccinations begin.](#)"
- 12/14 The Washington Post published an article titled, "[As covid-19 vaccines roll out, what should Americans expect next?](#)"
- 12/15 The New York Times published an article titled, "[With First Dibs on Vaccines, Rich Countries Have 'Cleared the Shelves.'](#)"
- 12/15 KFF published an article titled, "[COVID-19 Vaccine Monitor: December 2020.](#)"