



DAILY COVID-19 UPDATE

September 15, 2020

WHAT HAPPENED TODAY

Today, the House Problem Solvers Caucus released a \$1.5 trillion coronavirus relief plan. The **'March to Common Ground' framework** includes, among other things, a second round of stimulus checks, boosted unemployment benefits, funding for COVID-19 testing and contact tracing, funding for state and local governments, and additional money for small business loans.

House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (D-MD) rejected the package, saying it is smaller "than would be a responsible deal." At the same time, eight Democratic committee chairs noted the proposal "falls short of what is needed to save lives and boost the economy." The plan is also likely to meet sharp resistance from the White House and Senate Republicans due to the price tag. In comparison, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell's (R-KY) **targeted relief package** is estimated to cost around \$650 billion.

LATEST STATISTICS

There are a total of **29,398,712** confirmed cases worldwide, 930,910 deaths and 19,948,785 people have recovered.

There are **6,593,154** confirmed cases of the coronavirus in the U.S., 195,414 deaths and 2,477,942 people have recovered.

LATEST PMJ RESOURCES

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

During a House Democratic Caucus call this morning, Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) reiterated her opposition to a "skinny" legislative package and announced the chamber will **remain in session** until a deal is reached on another coronavirus stimulus bill. She expressed optimism the White House will... "understand that we have to do something."

Since our last update, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services published additional guidance related to the pandemic. Please see below for more details.

We have added a list of Executive Orders issued by President Trump. It is linked under Latest PMJ Resources.

[President Trump EO Tracker](#)

[COVID-19 Legislative Outlook](#)

[State Responses to EO on Unemployment Insurance](#)

[Coronavirus State Reopening Tracker](#)

[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 Ranking Member Kevin Brady (R-TX) **delivered remarks** during a press conference regarding House Republicans fall agenda.
- The House Small Business Committee **passed four bipartisan bills** to improve the Small Business Administration (SBA) Microloan program, increase small business exporting opportunities, and expand federal small business initiatives.

SENATE:

- Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and the Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell **will testify** before the Senate Banking Committee next week.

JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE (JEC):

- The JEC Republicans released a report titled, **"Stable Monetary Policy to Connect More Americans to Work."**

Administration

FEDERAL RESERVE ("FED"):

- The Federal Reserve **will hold** its last policymaking meeting before the elections this week.

Articles of Interest

- 9/15 Politico published an article titled, **“Pelosi: House will stay in until coronavirus deal reached.”**
- 9/15 Politico published an article titled, **“Frustrated lawmakers draft their own pandemic aid package.”**
- 9/15 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, **“Pelosi Say House Should Remain in Session Until Coronavirus Stimulus Deal Is Reached.”**
- 9/15 Politico published an article titled, **“Businesses reject Trump payroll tax plan while postponing their own tax bills.”**

PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

Congressional

HOUSE

- Reps. Pallone (D-NJ) and DeGette (D-CO) sent a **letter** to HHS Secretary Azar regarding reports that political appointees at the department are trying to influence scientific articles published by the CDC.
- Seven Democratic lawmakers sent a **letter** to HHS Secretary Azar and CDC Director Redfield regarding reports that political appointees trying to influence published scientific articles.
- Reps. Cárdenas (D-CA) and Watson Coleman (D-NJ) introduced the **COVID-19 Health Disparities Action Act**, which would require targeted testing, contact tracing, public awareness campaigns, and outreach efforts specifically directed at racial and ethnic minority communities and other populations that have been made vulnerable to the COVID-19 pandemic.

SENATE

- Sen. Hawley (R-MO) sent a **letter** to HHS Secretary Azar regarding utilizing CARES Act resources to curb drug abuse and mental health disorders.
- Sen. Durbin (D-IL) sent a **letter** to HHS Secretary Azar regarding COVID testing capacity challenges for schools, colleges and universities.

Administration

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

- HHS, through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), **awarded** approximately \$25 million to 80 award recipients across 36 states and two territories as part of the Rural Communities Opioid Response Program (RCORP).

CENTERS FOR MEDICARE & MEDICAID SERVICES

- CMS issued [guidance](#) to state Medicaid directors designed to advance the adoption of value-based care strategies across their healthcare systems and align provider incentives across payers. Value-based care may also help ensure that the nation's healthcare system is better prepared and equipped to handle unexpected challenges, including the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

- NIH Director Dr. Francis Collins published a [blog post](#) titled, "Months After Recovery, COVID-19 Survivors Often Have Persistent Lung Trouble."
- NIH [awarded](#) seven contracts to companies and academic institutions to develop digital health solutions that help address the COVID-19 pandemic. The work could lead to user-friendly tools such as smartphone apps, wearable devices, and software that can identify and trace contacts of infected individuals, keep track of verified COVID-19 test results, and monitor the health status of infected and potentially infected individuals.

FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION

- FDA [awarded](#) a new research contract to the University of Liverpool and global partners to sequence and analyze samples from humans and animals to create profiles of various coronaviruses, including SARS-CoV-2, which causes COVID-19. The study will also examine in vitro coronavirus models, such as organs-on-chips.

Articles of Interest

- 9/14 UMN's Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy (CIDRAP) published an article titled, "[Amid spotty response, COVID silently stalked US for weeks.](#)"
- 9/14 AP News published an article titled, "[Anti-inflammatory drug may shorten COVID-19 recovery time.](#)"
- 9/14 Becker's Hospital Review published an article titled, "[Nearly 40% of Americans know a coronavirus patient who was hospitalized or died.](#)"
- 9/15 Washington Post published an article titled, "[Scientists want to predict covid-19's long-term trajectory. Here's why they can't.](#)"
- 9/15 The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation released its fourth annual Goalkeeper report titled, "[COVID-19: A Global Perspective.](#)"

LABOR UPDATE

Administration

- DOL [announced](#) the availability of up to \$40 million in funding in the Rural Healthcare Grant Program to address rural healthcare workforce shortages in communities across the country.

Please note this daily update may not encompass all public guidance documents on implementation; as such, we encourage you to review public agency websites. Please let us know of any questions.