



DAILY COVID-19 UPDATE

January 4, 2021

WHAT HAPPENED TODAY

Since our last edition of the Daily COVID-19 Update on December 17, please see below for a recap of what happened over the holiday break.

On December 21, the Senate voted 92-6 to approve a \$900 billion coronavirus relief package shortly after the House cleared it by a vote of 359-53, ending a months-long stalemate. The bipartisan relief package was combined with a \$1.4 trillion spending bill, the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021, which funds the government through September 30, 2021.

President Trump signed the 5,593 page legislation into law on December 27. Among other things, the package includes a round of \$600 stimulus checks; provides \$68 billion to support vaccine distribution and COVID-19 testing costs; adds \$300 billion for the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP); provides an extension of boosted unemployment insurance benefits at up to \$300 per week and lengthens the maximum number of weeks; includes \$25 billion in rental assistance and extends a ban on evictions that was scheduled to expire in December.

LATEST STATISTICS

There are a total of **85,520,927** confirmed cases worldwide, 1,849,436 deaths and 48,040,166 people have recovered.

There are 20,757,339 confirmed cases of the coronavirus in the U.S. and 352,858 deaths.

LATEST PMJ RESOURCES

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

[Coronavirus State Reopening Tracker](#)

[Lame Duck Preview Memo](#)

[President Trump EO Tracker](#)

Shortly after Congress passed the omnibus funding package and additional COVID-19 relief, President Trump called for \$2,000 stimulus checks for individuals and \$4,000 for families. In response, the House passed the CASH Act of 2020 ([H.R. 9051](#)) to increase the economic impact payments to \$2000, but the legislation was a nonstarter for Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY). Leader McConnell [called](#) the plan "socialism for rich people," pointing to already passed funding for the PPP, enhanced unemployment benefits, and rental assistance as reasons why increased direct payments are unnecessary.

Since our last update, the Department of Labor has released guidance related to the coronavirus pandemic. Please see below for more details.

[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 Financial Services Committee Chairwoman Maxine Waters (D-CA) [released a statement](#) on the consolidated appropriations Act for FY 2021.
- House Small Business Committee Chairwoman Nydia Velázquez's (D-NY) [statement](#) on the passage of the omnibus and emergency small business relief package.

SENATE

- Senate Appropriations Chairman Richard Shelby (R-AL) [released a statement](#) on the passage of FY21 omnibus appropriations package to fund the government and provide COVID relief.
- Senate Appropriations Vice Chairman Patrick Leahy (D-VT) [released a statement](#) on the FY 2021 omnibus appropriations bills and COVID relief package.
- Senate Banking Committee Ranking Member Sherrod Brown (D-OH) [praised the inclusion](#) of rental assistance, eviction moratorium, and other key priorities in the COVID relief package.
- Senate Small Business Ranking Member Ben Cardin (D-MD) [issued a statement](#) on the passage of the \$900 billion COVID-19 relief bill that provides \$325 billion in funding to support small businesses.

Administration

FEDERAL RESERVE

- The Federal Reserve **extended the termination date** of the Main Street Lending Program facilities to January 8, 2021 to allow more time to process and fund loans that were submitted to Main Street lender portal on or before December 14, 2020.

TREASURY

- Secretary Steven Mnuchin **issued the following statement** on passage of the Coronavirus and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act as part of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021.
- The Treasury Department and Internal Revenue Service **will begin delivering** a second round of Economic Impact Payments as part of the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021.

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION (SBA)

- The SBA **announced** the deadline to apply for the Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) program for the COVID-19 Pandemic disaster declaration is extended to December 31, 2021.

Articles of Interest

- 1/4 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, **“Fed Had a Loan Plan for Midsize Firms Hurt by Covid. It Found Few Takers.”**
- 12/30 The Washington Post published an article titled, **“McConnell says push by Democrats, Trump for \$2,000 stimulus checks has ‘no realistic path to quickly pass the Senate.’”**
- 12/29 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, **“What to Know About Unemployment Benefits in Covid-19 Aid Package.”**
- 12/28 The Washington Post published an article titled, **“Treasury will try to start sending stimulus checks by end of week, rushing after Trump’s delay.”**

PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

Congressional

HOUSE

- Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) **announced** the extension of the Select Committee on the Coronavirus Crisis for the 117th Congress.
- Speaker Pelosi **issued** a statement after the President signed the bipartisan coronavirus relief and omnibus funding bill into law.

SENATE

- Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) **delivered** remarks on the Senate floor on January 1 regarding COVID-19 relief.
- Majority Leader McConnell **delivered** remarks on the Senate floor on December 31 in opposition to Speaker Pelosi's plan to increase stimulus payments for Americans.

- Majority Leader McConnell **issued** a statement after President Trump signed the bipartisan coronavirus relief and omnibus funding bill into law.

Administration

THE WHITE HOUSE

- On December 27, President Trump **signed** into law H.R. 133, an Act making consolidated appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2021, providing coronavirus emergency response and relief, and for other purposes.
- On December 27, President Trump **issued** a statement indicating he would sign the omnibus funding bill and the coronavirus relief package.
- The White House **provided** a readout from the Trump Administration's 45th Governor's Briefing on COVID-19 Best Responses and Practices.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

- HHS and the Department of Defense (DOD) jointly **announced** an agreement with Merck to support advanced development and large-scale manufacturing of their investigational therapeutic MK-7110 to treat hospitalized patients with severe or critical COVID-19.
- The Trump Administration **announced** it will purchase an additional 100 million doses of COVID-19 vaccine from Pfizer.
- Surgeon General VADM Jerome Adams **called on** Americans who have recovered from COVID-19 to consider donating COVID-19 Convalescent Plasma (CCP). A CCP donation may benefit people who are newly diagnosed with COVID-19, and gives frontline health care workers an important tool in treating patients.

CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION

- As of December 24, the CDC is **requiring** air passengers arriving from the United Kingdom (U.K.) to test negative, via PCR or Antigen test, no more than 72 hours before departure from the U.K. to the United States.
- CDC Director Dr. Robert Redfield **announced** that the United States achieved an early but important milestone – jurisdictions reported that as of December 23, more than 1 million people received their first dose of COVID-19 vaccine since administration began 10 days prior.

FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION

- FDA Commissioner Dr. Stephen Hahn **penned** a blog post titled, "2020 at FDA: A Year of Unparalleled Contributions to Public Health."

NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

- The investigational vaccine known as mRNA-1273 was 94.1% efficacious in preventing symptomatic COVID-19, according to preliminary results from a Phase 3 clinical trial **reported** in the New England Journal of Medicine. The vaccine also demonstrated efficacy in preventing severe COVID-19. Investigators identified no safety concerns and no evidence of vaccine-associated enhanced respiratory disease (VAERD).
- In an in-depth **study** of how COVID-19 affects a patient's brain, National Institutes of Health researchers consistently spotted hallmarks of damage caused by thinning and leaky brain blood vessels in tissue samples from patients who died shortly after contracting the disease. In addition, they saw no

signs of SARS-CoV-2 in the tissue samples, suggesting the damage was not caused by a direct viral attack on the brain.

- On December 28, the Phase 3 trial of another investigational coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) vaccine **began** enrolling adult volunteers. The randomized, placebo-controlled trial will enroll approximately 30,000 people at approximately 115 sites in the United States and Mexico. It will evaluate the safety and efficacy of NVX-CoV2373, a vaccine candidate developed by Novavax, Inc.
- NIH Director Dr. Francis Collins **penned** a blog post titled, "Celebrating the Gift of COVID-19 Vaccines."
- NIH Director Dr. Francis Collins **penned** a blog post titled, "A Close-Up of COVID-19 in Lung Cells."

Articles of Interest

- 1/2 The Hill published an article titled, "**COVID-19 model predicts 150,000 more US deaths within the next month.**"
 - 1/3 Bloomberg published an article titled, "**More Than 12.3 Million Shots Given: Covid-19 Vaccine Tracker.**"
 - 1/3 Politico published an article titled, "**Feds may cut Moderna vaccine doses in half so more people get shots, Warp Speed adviser says.**"
 - 1/4 CNN published an article titled, "**CDC hopes to double the number of coronavirus samples checked for new mutations.**"
 - 1/4 Stat published an article titled, "**Five key milestones in the Covid-19 pandemic that we're anticipating in 2021.**"
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LABOR UPDATE

Administration

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

- DOL's Employment and Training Administration has **issued** guidance that provides overarching implementation information about unemployment insurance (UI) provisions contained in the Continued Assistance for Unemployed Workers Act of 2020, which is part of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021.
- DOL **released** the unemployment insurance weekly claims report for the week ending December 26.
- Since the start of the coronavirus pandemic through December 24, 2020, DOL's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has **issued** citations arising from 295 inspections for violations relating to coronavirus, resulting in proposed penalties totaling \$3,849,222.
- DOL's Wage and Hour Division (WHD) **announced** additional guidance to provide information to workers and employers about protections and relief offered by the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA). The new guidance addresses whether workers who did not use their leave entitlement under the FFCRA in 2020 may use such leave after Dec. 31, 2020.