



DAILY COVID-19 UPDATE

January 6, 2021

WHAT HAPPENED TODAY

First and foremost, today was an unprecedented day in Washington with the events in and around the U.S Capitol. That said, we did want to send out the Daily COVID-19 Update given that there were a number of developments today. We hope everyone is staying safe.

Despite a slow nationwide rollout of COVID-19 vaccines, NIAID Director Dr. Anthony Fauci expressed optimism yesterday that the U.S. could soon begin giving out at least **1 million doses per day**. He noted that it's "very possible" President-elect Joe Biden will fulfill his promise to administer 100 million vaccines within his first 100 days in office. Dr. Fauci added that 70% to 85% of Americans must be vaccinated in order to achieve herd immunity, a goal he hopes to reach by September.

Additionally, Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) joined other Democratic leaders in support of \$2,000 stimulus checks. He noted an increase in economic impact payments will be the first priority for the Senate if Democrats gain control of the chamber.

LATEST STATISTICS

There are a total of **86,948,012** confirmed cases worldwide, 1,877,852 deaths and 48,689,878 people have recovered.

There are 21,213,347 confirmed cases of the coronavirus in the U.S. and 359,784 deaths.

LATEST PMJ RESOURCES

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

[Coronavirus State Reopening Tracker](#)

[Lame Duck Preview Memo](#)

[President Trump EO Tracker](#)

Notably, the Senate runoff elections in Georgia resulted in Democratic candidates Raphael Warnock and Jon Ossoff defeating Kelly Loeffler and David Perdue, respectively. This creates a 50-50 Senate split, with Vice President-elect Kamala Harris (D-CA) as the tie-breaking vote.

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

We have updated our Drug Shortage and Medical Supply Chain Tracker. It is linked under Latest PMJ Resources.

[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

Administration

FEDERAL RESERVE ("FED")

- The Federal Reserve Board and the Federal Open Market Committee **[released the attached minutes](#)** of the Committee meeting held on December 15 to 16, 2020.

INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE (IRS)

- The Treasury Department and the Internal Revenue Service **[issued guidance today](#)** allowing deductions for the payments of eligible expenses when such payments would result in the forgiveness of a loan under the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP).

Articles of Interest

- 1/6 The Washington Post published an article titled, **["\\$2,000 stimulus checks could become a reality as Democrats lead Georgia elections."](#)**
- 1/6 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, **["Fed Debated Plans to Reinforce Open-Ended Stimulus at December Meeting."](#)**

PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

Congressional

HOUSE

- Rep. Velazquez **unveiled** the *COVID-19 Prevention and Awareness Act*, a bill that would allocate \$2.12 billion in funding for grants to help community health centers prevent and address the pandemic for New Yorkers who have underlying health conditions, and are therefore more susceptible to the coronavirus.

SENATE

- Sen. Tina Smith (D-MN) sent a **letter** to President-elect Biden and Vice President-elect Harris about the persistent COVID-19 testing challenges and outlined a plan to ensure testing is free and widely available for all Americans.

Administration

FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION

- The FDA **posted** a new webpage on the CARES Act highlighting authorities that are intended to enhance the FDA's ability to identify, prevent, and mitigate possible drug shortages by, among other things, enhancing the FDA's visibility into drug supply chains.
- The FDA **released** a new episode of its podcast, FDA Insight. In this episode, Gail Bormel from the Office of Compliance in the FDA's Center for Drug Evaluation and Research joins Deputy Commissioner for Medical and Scientific Affairs Anand Shah, M.D. for a discussion on drug compounding and its contribution to fighting COVID-19.
- The FDA **issued** a safety communication titled, "Risk of False Results with the Curative SARS-Cov-2 Test for COVID-19."
- As of today, 310 tests and sample collection devices are authorized by the FDA under emergency use authorizations (EUAs). These include 235 molecular tests and sample collection devices, 64 antibody tests, and 11 antigen tests. There are 32 molecular authorizations that can be used with home-collected samples. There is one molecular prescription at-home test, one antigen prescription at-home test, and one over-the-counter (OTC) at-home antigen test.

Articles of Interest

- 1/4 Stat published an article titled, **"Primary care doctors are being left behind in the vaccine rollout."**
- 1/5 CNBC published an article titled, **"South African Covid variant appears to 'obviate' antibody drugs, Dr. Scott Gottlieb says."**
- 1/5 AP News published an article titled, **"Fauci: US could soon give 1 million vaccinations a day."**
- 1/5 The Washington Post published an article titled, **"Los Angeles is running out of oxygen for patients as covid hospitalizations hit record highs nationwide."**
- 1/5 Epic Health Research Network published an article titled, **"COVID-19 Impact on Nurse Staffing and ICU Beds."**

LABOR UPDATE

Administration

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

- DOL'S Employment and Training Administration **issued** updated guidance that provides implementation information to states regarding two unemployment insurance programs: Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC) and Mixed Earner Unemployment Compensation (MEUC).