



DAILY COVID-19 UPDATE

January 8, 2021

WHAT HAPPENED TODAY

Today, TJ Ducklo, a spokesperson for President-elect Joe Biden's transition indicated that Biden will **release** all available COVID-19 vaccine doses when he takes office on January 20. Ducklo stated, "The President-elect believes...the government should stop holding back vaccine supply so we can get more shots in Americans' arms now." This is in contrast to the strategy of the Trump administration who is keeping half of the vaccine supply in reserve to ensure individuals receiving a first dose can get a second dose as well.

Additionally, Biden announced he is "laying out the groundwork" for a COVID-19 relief package that he is planning to unveil next week. He **pointed to** the 140,000 jobs lost in December and the resurgence of the pandemic as reasons to "provide more immediate relief for working families and businesses." The new plan **will reportedly include** \$2,000 in direct payments, billions in aid to city and state governments, and additional funding for vaccine distribution, schools, and small businesses.

LATEST STATISTICS

There are a total of **88,505,824** confirmed cases worldwide, 1,906,468 deaths and 49,275,713 people have recovered.

There are 21,717,216 confirmed cases of the coronavirus in the U.S. and 367,143 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 Federal Reserve has returned about \$42 billion to the Treasury and will soon transfer another \$20 billion in excess funds from CARES Act emergency lending facilities that stopped offering new loans last month. Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell promised to return the funds to the Treasury last month, complying with Secretary Mnuchin's termination of the lending facilities.

[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

- Senator Joe Manchin (D-WV) [voiced opposition](#) to passing legislation to distribute \$2,000 stimulus checks.

Administration

FEDERAL RESERVE ("FED")

- The Federal Reserve Vice Chair Richard Clarida gave a speech titled, "[U.S. Economic Outlook and Monetary Policy.](#)"

TREASURY

- The Small Business Administration (SBA) and the Treasury Department [announced](#) that the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) will re-open the week of January 11 for new borrowers and certain existing PPP borrowers.

Articles of Interest

- 1/8 Politico published an article titled, "[Reversing job market opens door to larger Biden stimulus.](#)"
- 1/8 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, "[Covid-19 Small-Business Loan Program PPP to Reopen Jan. 11.](#)"

- 1/7 Politico published an article titled, [“Treasury, IRS sending new round of stimulus debit cards, with clearer identification.”](#)

PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

Administration

FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION

- The FDA [alerted](#) clinical laboratory staff and health care providers that the agency is monitoring the potential impact of viral mutations, including an emerging variant from the U.K. known as the B.1.1.7 variant, on authorized SARS-CoV-2 molecular tests, and that false negative results can occur with any molecular test for the detection of SARS-CoV-2 if a mutation occurs in the part of the virus’s genome assessed by that test.

Articles of Interest

- 1/6 MIT Technology Review published an article titled, [“Covid-19 immunity likely lasts for years.”](#)
 - 1/6 CNN published an article titled, [“Loss of smell in mild Covid-19 cases occurs 86% of the time, study says.”](#)
 - 1/7 The Washington Post published an article titled, [“People without symptoms spread virus in more than half of cases, CDC model finds.”](#)
 - 1/7 The Atlantic published an article titled, [“The Next Phase of Vaccination Will Be Even Harder.”](#)
 - 1/7 The Atlantic published an article titled, [“The Most Reliable Pandemic Number Keeps Getting Worse.”](#)
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LABOR UPDATE

Administration

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

- DOL Secretary Eugene Scalia [issued](#) a statement regarding the December 2020 Employment Situation Report.
- The Bureau of Labor Statistics [released](#) its monthly jobs report for the month of December. The U.S. lost 140,000 jobs last month and the unemployment rate held steady at 6.7%.
- Since the start of the coronavirus pandemic through Dec. 31, 2020, the DOL's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has [issued](#) citations arising from 300 inspections for violations relating to coronavirus, resulting in proposed penalties totaling \$3,930,381.