



DAILY COVID-19 UPDATE

January 12, 2021

WHAT HAPPENED TODAY

Today, HHS Secretary Alex Azar [announced](#) that effective immediately, the federal government will no longer keep half of the COVID-19 vaccine supply in reserve. This policy is in alignment with President-elect Joe Biden's recently announced plan to prioritize the first dose and release all the available COVID-19 vaccines. Azar stated, "...our manufacturing is predictable enough" to ensure the availability of second doses. He also urged states to provide the vaccine to everyone 65 and older and make the shot available at pharmacies, community health centers, and mass vaccination sites.

Additionally, Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) announced that the chamber will move forward on additional coronavirus relief when President-elect Biden assumes office next week. In a [Dear Colleague letter](#), Leader Schumer wrote, the "first order of legislative business," after the "new Senate is organized" will be additional COVID-19 emergency relief legislation. He noted the package will include \$2,000 in direct payments as well as additional funding for vaccine distribution, small

LATEST STATISTICS

[25,480,725](#) COVID-19 vaccines have been distributed in the U.S and [8,987,322](#) Americans have received the first dose.

There are a total of [90,695,701](#) confirmed cases worldwide, 1,940,593 deaths and 50,153,852 people have recovered.

There are [22,529,399](#) confirmed cases of the coronavirus in the U.S. and 375,350 deaths.

LATEST PMJ RESOURCES

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

[Coronavirus State Reopening Tracker](#)

businesses, schools, and state and local governments.

As of today, the Daily COVID-19 Update will include data related to COVID-19 vaccine distribution and administration in the U.S. This information can be found under the Latest Statistics section.

[Lame Duck Preview Memo](#)

[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

CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE (CBO)

- The CBO's December 2020 [monthly budget review](#) found the federal budget deficit was \$572 billion in the first quarter of fiscal year 2021.

Administration

FEDERAL RESERVE ("FED")

- The Federal Reserve Board [released the minutes](#) of its interest rate meetings from November 16 through December 16, 2020.

Articles of Interest

- 1/12 Bloomberg published an article titled, ["Vaccines Might Ensure Work for Americans as U.S. Economy Recovers."](#)
- 1/12 Politico published an article titled, ["Schumer pledges to confirm Biden's Cabinet, press for more Covid relief amid impeachment."](#)

- 1/12 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, [“Fed’s Mester Says Fed Policy Set at an Appropriate Level for Year Ahead.”](#)

PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

Administration

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

- HHS [launched](#) a web-based COVID-19 outpatient treatment locator to assist healthcare providers and patients in finding potential locations for treatment with monoclonal antibody therapeutics. These medicines are authorized for emergency use in treating patients with mild or moderate COVID-19 who are at high risk of developing severe symptoms and requiring hospitalization.

CENTERS FOR MEDICARE & MEDICAID SERVICES

- CMS [launched](#) an innovative web-based platform to help standardize “Section 1135” waiver requests and other Public Health Emergency (PHE)-related inquiries the agency receives.

Articles of Interest

- 1/11 Politico published an article titled, [“Biden dresses down his COVID team over plans to speed vaccinations.”](#)
- 1/11 Reuters published an article titled, [“CDC says 9 million Americans now vaccinated as U.S. states scramble.”](#)
- 1/11 The Hill published an article titled, [“WHO: Japan identifies another new coronavirus variant.”](#)
- 1/12 CNBC published an article titled, [“Coronavirus mutations: Here are the major Covid strains we know about.”](#)
- 1/12 Axios published an article titled, [“The Trump administration's plan to speed up vaccinations.”](#)