



DAILY COVID-19 UPDATE

January 15, 2021

WHAT HAPPENED TODAY

Yesterday, President-elect Joe Biden outlined his \$1.9 trillion coronavirus relief proposal. \$400 billion would be allotted to combat the pandemic, and the remaining \$1.5 trillion would be designated for state and local aid as well as economic relief. Among other things, Biden's legislative proposal, the [American Rescue Plan](#), includes \$1400 direct payments, \$50 billion to expand testing, \$130 billion to help schools reopen, boosted unemployment benefits through September at \$400 per week, \$25 billion in rental assistance, and temporary increase in tax credits for low-and middle-income families.

Senator Pat Toomey (R-PA), incoming Senate Banking Committee Ranking Member, [criticized](#) President-elect Biden's plan, calling it a "colossal waste and economically harmful." He pointed to the nearly \$3.4 trillion Congress authorized in COVID-related aid in 2020 as a reason additional fiscal support would be harmful. Sen. Toomey's early criticism and the package's trillion dollar price tag could indicate significant opposition from Republican lawmakers.

LATEST STATISTICS

31,161,075 COVID-19 vaccines have been distributed in the U.S and **12,279,180** Americans have received the first dose.

There are a total of **93,604,952** confirmed cases worldwide, 2,003,885 deaths and 51,573,307 people have recovered.

There are **23,461,685** confirmed cases of the coronavirus in the U.S. and 390,809 deaths.

LATEST PMJ RESOURCES

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

[Coronavirus State Reopening Tracker](#)

This afternoon, President-elect Biden is expected to announce a [plan](#) to vaccinate more Americans, with a particular focus on addressing vaccine misinformation and mistrust and making vaccines more accessible to low-income communities of color. He is also expected to unveil a \$1 billion national ad campaign to increase awareness and encourage Americans to get vaccinated.

Notably, President-elect Biden has [appointed](#) former FDA Commissioner [Dr. David Kessler](#) to lead Operation Warp Speed, replacing former pharmaceutical executive Moncef Slaoui. Dr. Kessler's role will focus primarily on maximizing the supply of COVID-19 vaccines that are authorized or approved and work with manufacturers to get more vaccines online.

[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

HOUSE

- House Financial Services Chairwoman Maxine Waters (D-CA) [released a report](#) on the committee's work during the second session of the 116th Congress "during a time of crisis."

SENATE

- Senate Finance Committee Ranking Member Ron Wyden (D-OR) [released a statement](#) on President-elect Biden's COVID relief plan.

Articles of Interest

- 1/15 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, "[Biden covid-19 relief plan aims to ease poverty, advance democratic priorities.](#)"
- 1/15 The Washington Post published an article titled, "[Congressional Republicans balk at Joe Biden's \\$1.9 trillion relief, plan complicating push for quick passage.](#)"

- 1/14 Politico published an article titled, [“A call for unity’: Biden lays out vast federal expansion of pandemic response.”](#)

PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

Administration

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

- HHS, through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), [announced](#) that it will be amending the reporting timeline for the Provider Relief Fund Program (PRF) due to the recent passage of the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act. PRF recipients will now be required to submit their reporting requirements on their use of these funds later than previously announced.
- HHS' Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) [released](#) a fact sheet titled, "Understanding Your COVID-19 Treatment Options."
- HHS' Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) [released](#) a fact sheet titled, "Monoclonal Antibody Treatment for High Risk COVID-19 Positive Patients."
- HHS Secretary Alex Azar [delivered](#) remarks on lessons from COVID-19 testing.

Articles of Interest

- 1/14 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, [“Biden Proposes \\$1.9 Trillion Covid-19 Relief Package.”](#)
- 1/14 The Atlantic published an article titled, [“The Worst Week for Deaths Since the Pandemic Began.”](#)
- 1/14 ABC News published an article titled, [“Hospitals and businesses are offering incentives to those hesitant about getting COVID-19 vaccines.”](#)
- 1/15 APNews published an article titled, [“Expanded vaccine rollout in US spawns a new set of problems.”](#)
- 1/15 The New York Times published an article titled, [“Biden Picks Former F.D.A. Chief to Lead Federal Vaccine Efforts.”](#)