



## DAILY COVID-19 UPDATE

January 19, 2021

### WHAT HAPPENED TODAY

Today, Treasury Secretary-designate Janet Yellen appeared before the Senate Finance Committee for her confirmation hearing. During the hearing, Yellen discussed her support for additional COVID-related fiscal relief, as President-elect Joe Biden's \$1.9 trillion stimulus plan receives heavy criticism from Republican lawmakers. Secretary-designate Yellen told the committee the "smartest thing we can do is act big" in order to confront the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and mitigate long-term economic damage. She added that defeating the pandemic is the "most important thing ... we can do today to put us on a path to fiscal sustainability."

However, Yellen received pushback from Republican members, notably from outgoing Senate Finance Committee Chairman Chuck Grassley (R-IA) and incoming Senate Banking Committee Ranking Member Pat Toomey (R-PA). Senator Toomey noted the contours of Biden's stimulus bill will make it "difficult" to work with Treasury on further fiscal support, and Chairman Grassley **called the plan** a "laundry list of liberal structural economic reforms."

### LATEST PMJ RESOURCES

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

[Coronavirus State Reopening Tracker](#)

[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](#)

Additionally, as Democrats are set to become the Senate majority after Senators-elect Jon Ossoff (D-GA) and Raphael Warnock (D-GA) and Vice President-elect Kamala Harris are sworn in tomorrow, incoming Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) has reiterated plans to work on additional COVID relief. In a floor speech today, he stated additional COVID-related stimulus is in the top three priorities for the Senate. He added that once the Senate has confirmed key nominations for the Biden Administration, the Senate "will turn to the subject of additional COVID relief."

We have updated our Coronavirus State Reopening Tracker. It is linked under Latest PMJ Resources.

[State and Local Funding Bills](#)

[COVID Legislative Tracker](#)

[Global COVID-19 Export Controls](#)

[Memo - Federal Reserve COVID-19 Announcements](#)

[Federal Reserve Lending Facilities Deck](#)

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## ECONOMIC UPDATE

### *Congressional*

#### HOUSE

- House Small Business Committee Ranking Member Blaine Luetkemeyer (R-MO) [released a statement](#) following President-elect Joe Biden's COVID-19 stimulus proposal.

#### SENATE

- Senator Susan Collins (R-ME) [released a statement](#) regarding the full reopening of the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) today.

### *Congressional*

#### TREASURY

- Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin [announced](#) the Treasury Department approved more than \$12 billion in payroll support for major passenger air carriers to support airline industry workers.

#### SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION (SBA)

- The Small Business Administration [proposed a rule](#) to eliminate regulations that exclude faith-based organizations from seven SBA Programs, including the Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) program.

### Articles of Interest

- 1/19 The Washington Post published an article titled, ["Janet Yellen tells lawmakers it's 'critically important to act now' on economic relief plan."](#)
- 1/19 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, ["Yellen tells lawmakers that American workers would be her focus."](#)

- 1/19 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, "[Biden's first-100-days agenda targets executive orders, fresh Covid aid.](#)"

## **PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE**

### ***Congressional***

#### **HOUSE**

- Speaker Pelosi (D-CA) issued a [statement](#) applauding the Biden-Harris Administration announcement that outlines their vaccine proposal, noting the House "stands ready... to immediately launch this plan."
- Reps. Budd (R-NC) and Garcia (R-CA) sent a [letter](#) to the CDC, urging the agency to issue guidance for states aimed at reducing wasted COVID-19 vaccines.

### ***Administration***

#### **DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

- HHS, through the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC), [announced](#) a series of investments to help increase data sharing between health information exchanges (HIEs) and immunization information systems.

#### **Articles of Interest**

- 1/15 NBC News published an article titled, "[CDC says U.K. coronavirus variant could become predominant strain in U.S. by March.](#)"
- 1/17 KHN published an article titled, "[Black Americans Are Getting Vaccinated at Lower Rates Than White Americans.](#)"
- 1/18 The New York Times published an article titled, "[Trump Orders Lifting of Virus Travel Ban, but Biden Aides Vow to Block Move.](#)"
- 1/18 The Washington Post published an article titled, "[WHO chief warns of 'catastrophic moral failure' as rich countries dominate vaccine supplies.](#)"
- 1/19 AP News published an article titled, "[A new COVID-19 challenge: Mutations rise along with cases.](#)"