



DAILY COVID-19 UPDATE

January 21, 2021

WHAT HAPPENED TODAY

Today, on his first full day in office, President Joe Biden issued **10 executive orders** to tackle the COVID-19 crisis. Among other things, these directives leverage the Defense Production Act to prioritize and boost manufacturing of supplies necessary to combat the virus; establish a new pandemic testing board; commit the U.S. to rejoin the World Health Organization; extend the bans on home evictions and foreclosures; extend the freeze on federal student loan repayments; and create or reestablish federal positions to handle the pandemic response.

President Biden also unveiled a **21-page summary** of his **National Strategy for the COVID-19 Response and Pandemic Response**. The plan aims to scale up vaccination, expand testing and masking, restore public trust, safely reopen schools and businesses, and advance racial equity. However, Biden warned that the U.S. will experience a "dark winter" and stated "it's going to take months before we can get the majority of Americans vaccinated."

LATEST STATISTICS

37,960,000 COVID-19 vaccines have been distributed in the U.S and **15,053,257** Americans have received the first dose.

There are a total of **97,308,604** confirmed cases worldwide, 2,085,095 deaths and 53,637,920 people have recovered.

There are **24,570,340** confirmed cases of the coronavirus in the U.S. and 408,877 deaths.

LATEST PMJ RESOURCES

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

[Coronavirus State Reopening Tracker](#)

In preparation to pass additional aid, House Democratic leaders have rearranged the chamber's schedule in order to allow relevant committees to consider various provisions in President Biden's relief package next week. Today, Speaker Pelosi (D-CA) [told reporters](#) the new package could be brought to the floor as soon as the week of February 1.

Since our last update, the Food and Drug Administration has released guidance related to the pandemic. Please see below for more details.

[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

SENATE

- Senate Banking Committee incoming Chairman Sherrod Brown (D-OH) and Senator Jack Reed (D-RI) [sent a letter](#) to the Federal Housing Finance Agency (FHFA) requesting clarification on the FHFA's policy regarding loan sales by Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Congressional

WHITE HOUSE

- President Biden issued an Executive Order titled, [“Organizing and Mobilizing the United States Government to Provide a Unified and Effective Response to Combat COVID-19 and to Provide United States Leadership on Global Health and Security.”](#)
- President Biden [extended the pause](#) on federal student loan payments and collections and kept the interest rate at 0%.

TREASURY

- The Treasury Department [announced new staff members](#) who will serve in senior roles “as the country faces a deep economic downturn triggered by a global pandemic.”

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION (SBA)

- The Small Business Administration [announced](#) it has approved approximately 60,000 Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan applications submitted by nearly 3,000 lenders, for over \$5 billion in lending.

COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION (CFTC)

- The Commodity Futures Trading Commission [announced](#) the Market Participants Division (MPD) and the Division of Market Oversight (DMO) are providing a short continuation of limited parts of the temporary no-action relief used in response to the COVID-19 pandemic that expired on January 15, 2021.

Articles of Interest

- 1/21 Politico published an article titled, [“Democrats weigh their stimulus options: Go big or go fast.”](#)
- 1/21 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, [“U.S. unemployment claims remained elevated last week.”](#)
- 1/21 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, [“Biden moves to set Covid-19 workplace-safety rules.”](#)
- 1/21 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, [“Biden’s agenda depends on success in curbing Covid-19 pandemic.”](#)

PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

Congressional

HOUSE

- Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) [penned](#) a Dear Colleague on President Biden's Day One Executive Actions
- Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) [issued](#) a statement on the milestone of 400,000 American lives lost to the coronavirus.

Administration

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

- NIAID Director Dr. Anthony Fauci [delivered](#) remarks at the World Health Organization Executive Board Meeting.

NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

- NIH Director Dr. Francis Collins [penned](#) a blog post titled, "Trying to Make Sense of Long COVID Syndrome."

CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION

- CDC Director Dr. Rochelle Walensky [issued](#) a statement on extending the eviction moratorium until at least March 31, 2021.

FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION

- FDA Commissioner Dr. Stephen Hahn and Frank Yiannas, Deputy Commissioner of Food Policy and Response [penned](#) a FDA Voices blog post titled, "Unleashing the Power of FDA Data to Support COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution to Food and Agriculture Workers."
- The FDA [issued](#) a new guidance, "Policy for Testing of Alcohol (Ethanol) and Isopropyl Alcohol for Methanol, Including During the Public Health Emergency (COVID-19)," to notify drug manufacturers and compounders of FDA's policy on certain testing procedures on all lots of alcohol and isopropyl alcohol prior to manufacturing to prevent methanol contamination or substitution in drugs.
- The FDA [created](#) a new collaboration with the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) through a memorandum of understanding (MOU). This MOU is intended to increase U.S. medical supply chain resilience and advanced domestic manufacturing of pharmaceuticals, biopharmaceuticals and medical devices—including those necessary to fight the COVID-19 pandemic—through adoption of 21st century manufacturing technologies.
- The FDA [updated](#) its "Investigational COVID-19 Convalescent Plasma" guidance and [corresponding webpage](#). The revisions provide recommendations regarding when individuals who have received an investigational COVID-19 vaccine as a participant in a clinical trial, or received an authorized or licensed COVID-19 vaccine, qualify as convalescent plasma donors. In addition, the agency has extended the period of enforcement discretion described in the guidance.
- The FDA [posted](#) updated information on its website for blood establishments regarding the COVID-19 pandemic and blood donation.

Articles of Interest

- 1/20 The Hill published an article titled, ["Pence delivers coronavirus task force report to Biden."](#)
- 1/20 Bloomberg published an article titled, ["COVID Death Rate in U.S. Expected to Dip Further in Next Month."](#)
- 1/21 Politico published an article titled, ["Biden to sign 10 executive orders aimed at turning around the pandemic."](#)
- 1/21 Stat published an article titled, ["The 10 Biden officials to watch on the COVID-19 response."](#)
- 1/21 ProPublica published an article titled, ["How Many Vaccine Shots Go to Waste? Several States Aren't Counting."](#)