



DAILY COVID-19 UPDATE

January 22, 2021

WHAT HAPPENED TODAY

Today, President Joe Biden will sign an Executive Order (EO) aimed at delivering additional economic relief for households and businesses that are continuing to face financial hardship during the COVID-19 pandemic. According to a [fact sheet](#) released by the White House, the EO will launch an all-of-government approach to "provide equitable emergency economic relief to working families, communities, and small businesses across the nation."

The EO will include expanded federal nutrition assistance programs; ensure equitable and effective delivery of economic impact payments; request a pause on federal collections on overpayments and debts for veterans; clarify that workers who do not return to "unsafe working conditions" continue to qualify for unemployment insurance; and establish an interagency benefit coordination structure.

National Economic Council Director Brian Deese indicated that President Biden's impending EO will "provide immediate relief to hard hit families," but "these actions are not a substitute for comprehensive

LATEST STATISTICS

39,892,400 COVID-19 vaccines have been distributed in the U.S and **16,243,093** Americans have received the first dose.

There are a total of **97,782,862** confirmed cases worldwide, 2,098,077 deaths and 53,926,485 people have recovered.

There are **24,673,298** confirmed cases of the coronavirus in the U.S. and 411,426 deaths.

LATEST PMJ RESOURCES

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

[Coronavirus State Reopening Tracker](#)

legislative relief." Deese added the Biden Administration will still engage with Congress to work on passing President Biden's \$1.9 trillion stimulus package. Within the coming days, Deese plans to discuss the proposal with a 16-member bipartisan group of senators.

Sen. Susan Collins (R-ME), a member of the bipartisan group, expressed skepticism in regards to President Biden's coronavirus relief package. She stated, "It's hard for me to see when we just passed \$900 billion of assistance why we would have a package that big now." However, Sen. Collins did note that the potential for additional aid could become evident in the coming months.

Notably, NIAID Director Dr. Anthony Fauci told CNN that a lack of truthfulness from the Trump Administration regarding the COVID-19 pandemic "very likely" [cost lives](#) and prevented Americans from trusting medical and scientific information conveyed by health officials.

Since our last update, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has released guidance related to the pandemic. Please see below for more details.

We have updated our Drug Shortage and Medical Supply Chain Tracker. It is linked under Latest PMJ Resources.

[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

Administration

WHITE HOUSE

- The White House [released a fact sheet](#) on President Biden's new executive actions to deliver economic relief for American families and businesses amid the COVID-19 crises.
- The White House [released talking points](#) on the impending January 22 Executive Order regarding economic relief.

Articles of Interest

- 1/22 The Washington Post published an article titled, "[Senior Democrats drafting plan to give parents \\$3,000 per child in Biden stimulus.](#)"
- 1/22 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, "[Biden to Sign Executive Orders to Boost Covid-19 Aid, Expand Worker Protections.](#)"

- 1/22 The Washington Post published an article titled, [“President Biden to increase federal food benefits among executive actions aimed stabilizing U.S. economy.”](#)

PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

Congressional

HOUSE

- Rep. Lauren Boebert (R-CO) [introduced](#) the *No Mask Mandates Act*. The bill would allow for masks to be encouraged but not mandated when people are on federal property or engaging in interstate commerce.
- Reps. Ted Budd (R-NC) and Mike Garcia (R-CA) [introduced](#) the *Vaccinate More Americans Act*. The bill would allow vaccine providers to administer leftover COVID-19 vaccines to individuals eligible to receive the vaccine in the following phased allocation group, instead of letting the doses go to waste.

SENATE

- Sen. Tina Smith (D-MN) sent a [letter](#) to President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris, calling on them to work with Congress to ensure COVID-19 vaccines are free for all Americans.

Administration

NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

- In a large NIH clinical trial conducted worldwide, full dose anti-coagulation (blood thinner) treatments given to moderately ill patients hospitalized for COVID-19 [reduced](#) the requirement of vital organ support—such as the need for ventilation. A trend in possible reduction of mortality was also observed and is being further studied.

CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION

- The CDC [issued](#) interim guidance for expanded screening and testing to reduce the spread of COVID-19.
- CDC [issued](#) a Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR) titled, "COVID-19 Trends Among Persons Aged 0–24 Years — United States, March 1–December 12, 2020."
- CDC [issued](#) a Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR) titled, "Emergence of SARS-CoV-2 B.1.1.7 Lineage — United States, December 29, 2020–January 12, 2021."
- CDC [issued](#) a Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR) titled, "COVID-19 Case Investigation and Contact Tracing Efforts from Health Departments — United States, June 25–July 24, 2020."

Articles of Interest

- 1/21 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, [“A Year In, Covid-19 Cases Have Reached Every U.S. County.”](#)
- 1/21 The Washington Post published an article titled, [“Biden says death toll from pandemic likely will top 500,000 next month, says it will take months ‘for us to turn things around.’”](#)

- 1/21 AP News published an article titled, [“Biden’s COVID-19 plan: Masks, testing, more vaccine supplies.”](#)
 - 1/22 KHN published an article titled, [“COVID Vaccine Rollout Leaves Most Older Adults Confused Where to Get Shots.”](#)
 - 1/22 The New York Times published an article titled, [“Biden Inherits a Vaccine Supply Unlikely to Grow Before April.”](#)
-

LABOR UPDATE

Administration

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

- DOL [issued](#) its Unemployment Insurance Weekly Claims Report for the week ending January 16.