



DAILY COVID-19 UPDATE

January 25, 2021

WHAT HAPPENED TODAY

Today, President Joe Biden is expected to [sign](#) a "Buy American" Executive Order (EO) aimed at bolstering American manufacturing and strengthening supply chains hit hard as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Among other things, the directive calls for the creation of a new senior position in the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to oversee the changes created by the EO, reduction of loopholes and waivers to make it more difficult for federal agencies to contract with companies overseas, and development of a website where waiver requests can be viewed publicly.

Biden also [reinstated](#) coronavirus travel restrictions on non-U.S. citizens seeking to enter the country from South Africa, Brazil, Ireland, the United Kingdom, and 26 other European countries.

This week, President Biden will continue pressing for urgent action on his \$1.9 trillion coronavirus relief package. During a 75-minute [call](#) held yesterday with the White House, a bipartisan group of 16 senators voiced concern that Biden's *American Rescue Plan* will give too much money to wealthy Americans.

LATEST STATISTICS

[41,411,550](#) COVID-19 vaccines have been distributed in the U.S and [18,502,131](#) Americans have received the first dose.

There are a total of [99,547,547](#) confirmed cases worldwide, 2,135,697 deaths and 54,904,316 people have recovered.

There are [25,217,690](#) confirmed cases of the coronavirus in the U.S. and 420,267 deaths.

LATEST PMJ RESOURCES

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

[Coronavirus State Reopening Tracker](#)

However, there was consensus in regards to the need to act swiftly on vaccine distribution.

Yesterday, CDC Director Dr. Rochelle Walensky [warned](#) that the federal government doesn't know how much coronavirus vaccine supply the nation has, leaving state health officials unable to effectively plan vaccine distribution. However, she noted the Biden administration is working with manufacturers to address supply constraints and expressed hope that production of vaccines will be [scaled up](#) "dramatically" by March. Dr. Walensky also added that the CDC, FDA, Department of Defense, and the Pentagon are boosting surveillance of COVID-19 variants to monitor their effect on coronavirus vaccines and therapeutics.

Notably, in a [letter](#) to states over the weekend, Acting HHS Secretary Norris Cochran informed Governors that the COVID-19 public health emergency "will likely remain in place for the entirety of 2021."

We have updated our Coronavirus State Reopening Tracker and the Drug Shortage and Medical Supply Chain Tracker. Both are 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

- President Biden signed an Executive Order on ["Economic Relief Related to the COVID-19 Pandemic."](#)
- President Biden signed an Executive Order on ["Protecting the Federal Workforce."](#)

TREASURY

- Treasury issued a fact sheet titled, ["Treasury to Work to Ensure Families Get Access to Economic Impact Payments."](#)

Articles of Interest

- 1/24 Politico published an article titled, ["Bipartisan group of senators pushes back on Biden Covid plan."](#)
- 1/24 The Washington Post published an article titled, ["Lawmakers in both parties lobby White House for a more targeted relief bill."](#)

- 1/23 The Washington Post published an article titled, [“Turned off by Biden’s approach, GOP opposition to stimulus relief intensifies.”](#)

PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

Congressional

HOUSE

- Reps. Steve Womack (R-AR) and David Trone (D-MD) **introduced** the *Preventing Mental Health and Substance Use Crises During Emergencies Act* to help address the worsening mental health crisis exacerbated by the coronavirus pandemic.

SENATE

- Following an announcement from the Biden administration that the U.S. would be rejoining the World Health Organization (WHO), Sens. Josh Hawley (R-MO) and Rep. Elise Stefanik (R-NY) **announced** plans to reintroduce their resolution calling for an international investigation into the Chinese Communist Party’s (CCP) cover-up of the COVID-19 outbreak.

Administration

FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION

- The FDA **reissued** the Emergency Use Authorizations (EUAs) for decontamination systems that are authorized to decontaminate compatible N95 respirators for use by healthcare personnel (HCP) to prevent exposure to pathogenic biological airborne particulates when there is an insufficient supply of new respirators resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Articles of Interest

- 1/22 Bloomberg published an article titled, [“CDC Says Vaccine Doses May Be Spaced Further as FDA Eases Stance.”](#)
- 1/23 Washington Post published an article titled, [“100 million doses in 100 days: How Biden’s coronavirus vaccine push compares with those of other countries.”](#)
- 1/24 The New York Times published an article titled, [“Why Vaccines Alone Will Not End the Pandemic.”](#)
- 1/24 CNN published an article titled, [“CDC reviewing new data that suggests coronavirus variant identified in UK could be more deadly.”](#)
- 1/25 NPR published an article titled, [“Biden To Implement Travel Restrictions To Combat New Coronavirus Variants.”](#)