



DAILY COVID-19 UPDATE

January 26, 2021

WHAT HAPPENED TODAY

Today, in opening floor remarks, Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) called for boosted unemployment insurance, state and local government aid, and funding for vaccine distribution in the next COVID-19 relief legislation. He mentioned that while he would prefer to work on this in a bipartisan manner, he is willing to proceed without the support of GOP lawmakers if necessary. Leader Schumer added that the chamber could utilize budget reconciliation to pass COVID-19 relief with a simple majority vote. A vote setting up the process could come as early as the week of February 1.

President Joe Biden struck a similar tone yesterday, **stating** the decision to use budget reconciliation or not "will depend upon how these negotiations go." He also noted COVID-19 relief negotiations will probably last a "couple weeks," and that it is too soon to tell if the entire package will be able to pass with bipartisan support.

However, it is important to note that in the event that budget reconciliation is utilized, Democrats cannot afford to lose a single vote among their members.

LATEST STATISTICS

44,394,075 COVID-19 vaccines have been distributed in the U.S and **19,902,237** Americans have received the first dose.

There are a total of **100,091,831** confirmed cases worldwide, 2,151,992 deaths and 55,279,824 people have recovered.

There are **25,407,414** confirmed cases of the coronavirus in the U.S. and 423,653 deaths.

LATEST PMJ RESOURCES

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

[Coronavirus State Reopening Tracker](#)

There are currently eight Democrats who have reservations about the size and make-up of the proposed stimulus and as such, this pathway could also pose a challenge for Leader Schumer.

At a press briefing today, White House press secretary Jen Psaki indicated that all Americans who want to get the COVID-19 vaccine will not "be eligible this spring." At the same time, NIAID Director Dr. Anthony Fauci predicted that everyone could receive the vaccine by the end of the summer, while Dr. David Kessler who heads the U.S. vaccination program (formerly known as Operation Warp Speed), anticipates most U.S. adults won't be vaccinated until the third or fourth quarter of the year.

[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

- In an interview, Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) **outlined** the Democrats agenda to "deliver help to the American people."

Administration

TREASURY

- Yesterday, Janet L. Yellen **was sworn in** as the 78th Secretary of the United States Department of the Treasury.

INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE (IRS)

- The Internal Revenue Service **urged employers** to use the newly-extended employee retention credit, which was designed to help businesses keep their employees on the payroll during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Articles of Interest

- 1/26 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, [“Saved stimulus checks expected to help spur economic recovery.”](#)
- 1/26 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, [“Small business owners promised more PPP loan application help.”](#)
- 1/25 The Washington Post published an article titled, [“Biden says he’s willing to negotiate parameters of coronavirus deal, but ‘time is of the essence.’”](#)

PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

Congressional

HOUSE

- Reps. Jason Crow (D-CO), Lauren Underwood (D-IL), Jimmy Panetta (D-CA), and Dean Phillips (D-MN) **introduced** the *Health Force, Resilience Force, and Jobs to Fight COVID-19 Act*. The legislation would recruit, train, and employ Americans to expand our public health workforce to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, aid the country’s lagging vaccine distribution campaign, and strengthen America’s longer-term public health response.
- Rep. Andy Biggs (R-AZ) **introduced** two pieces of legislation related to the COVID-19 vaccine. The first bill prohibits the use of federal funds to maintain or collect information that can be used to identify any individual to whom a COVID-19 vaccine is administered. The second bill prohibits the use of federal funds to propose, establish, implement, or enforce any requirement that an individual wear a mask or other face covering, or be vaccinated to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Administration

NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

- NIH **launched** a new database that will collect information from clinicians about COVID-19-related neurological symptoms, complications, and outcomes as well as COVID-19 effects on pre-existing neurological conditions. The COVID-19 Neuro Databank/Biobank (NeuroCOVID), which was created and will be maintained by NYU Langone Health, will be a resource of clinical information as well as biospecimens from people of all ages who have experienced neurological problems associated with SARS-CoV-2 infection.
- NIH Director Dr. Francis Collins **penned** a blog post titled, "Nanoparticle Technology Holds Promise for Protecting Against Many Coronavirus Strains at Once."

FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION

- As part of the FDA's continuing efforts to protect consumers from potentially dangerous or subpotent hand sanitizers, the agency has **placed** all alcohol-based hand sanitizers from Mexico on a countrywide import alert to help stop products that appear to be in violation from entering the U.S. until the agency is able to review the products’ safety.

Articles of Interest

- 1/25 The Hill published an article titled, [“Biden White House to resume COVID-19 briefings with health officials.”](#)

- 1/25 published an article titled, **“Biden now hopes for 1.5 million vaccinations a day, a big jump from earlier comments.”**
- 1/25 CNBC published an article titled, **“Minnesota confirms first known U.S. case of more contagious Covid variant originally found in Brazil.”**
- 1/25 The New York Times published an article titled, **“As Virus Grows Stealthier, Vaccine Makers Reconsider Battle Plans.”**
- 1/26 KHN published an article titled, **“Why Even Presidential Pressure Might Not Get More Vaccine to Market Faster.”**