



DAILY COVID-19 UPDATE

January 27, 2021

WHAT HAPPENED TODAY

Today, President Joe Biden's COVID-19 response team held its first [press briefing](#). White House COVID-19 response coordinator Jeff Zients announced that HHS will be recruiting retired doctors and nurses to administer vaccines. CDC Director Rochelle Walensky urged Americans "to remain vigilant," while forecasting that nearly 100,000 more people will die in the U.S. from COVID-19 by February 20. Dr. Walensky added that a more transmissible and more lethal COVID-19 variant first detected in the U.K. has now been found in 26 states. NIAID Director Dr. Anthony Fauci indicated that variants of the virus have not been found to be resistant to the existing coronavirus vaccines. However, he noted that the COVID-19 response team is working with vaccine manufacturers to develop alternatives or boosters that might be needed to fight the new strains.

Yesterday, President Biden [announced](#) that his administration is increasing the weekly supply of COVID-19 vaccines to states and territories by 16% as of next week, boosting the weekly allocation from 8.6 million to 10 million vaccines. He added that the

LATEST STATISTICS

47,230,950 COVID-19 vaccines have been distributed in the U.S and **20,687,970** Americans have received the first dose.

There are a total of **100,652,861** confirmed cases worldwide, 2,167,506 deaths and 55,624,274 people have recovered.

There are **25,540,414** confirmed cases of the coronavirus in the U.S. and 427,844 deaths.

LATEST PMJ RESOURCES

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

[Coronavirus State Reopening Tracker](#)

U.S. has purchased 100 million more doses from Moderna and another 100 million from Pfizer-BioNTech. As such, he expects we will have enough COVID-19 vaccines to fully inoculate 300 million Americans by the end of summer or early fall.

After Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen's first day on the job, she wrote to Treasury Department employees outlining the challenges facing the department due to COVID-19. Secretary Yellen's [remarks](#) signaled her support for passing additional aid, which she stated is needed to "help the American people endure the final months" of the pandemic. She lauded the department's successful implementation of CARES Act programs and relief for the economy, but noted the agency must prepare to "do it again."

Notably, an [investigation](#) conducted by HHS' Office of Inspector General (OIG) found that the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) misused millions of dollars in funding appropriated for vaccine research and preparedness for public health emergencies such as COVID-19. OIG found that ASPR utilized the funds for the removal of furniture, news subscriptions, administrative expenses, unrelated salaries, and legal services.

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

Congressional

HOUSE

- The New Democrat Coalition, a group of more than 90 members, [sent a letter](#) to Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) and Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (D-MD) pushing for boosted unemployment benefits to be tied directly to economic conditions, among other items.

Administration

TREASURY

- Secretary Janet Yellen [sent a letter](#) to Treasury employees regarding her priorities for the department.

FEDERAL RESERVE

- The Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) **reaffirmed** its “Statement on Longer-Run Goals and Monetary Policy Strategy.”
- The Federal Reserve **issued** its FOMC statement.

Articles of Interest

- 1/27 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, **“Fed Holds Policy Steady as Economy Stumbles.”**
- 1/26 The Hill published an article titled, **“Yellen rallies Treasury staff to battle coronavirus recession.”**

PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

Congressional

HOUSE

- Majority Leader Steny H. Hoyer (D-MD) and Members of the Maryland Congressional Delegation **released** a statement urging the state to ramp up COVID-19 vaccine distribution efforts and ensure equitable access to immunization.

SENATE

- Sens. Dick Durbin (D-IL) and Marco Rubio (R-FL) **introduced** legislation to provide a historic investment in the National Health Service Corps (NHSC), Nurse Corps, and National Disaster Medical System (NDMS) programs to bolster health emergency surge capacity and restore the pipeline of physicians, nurses, and other health professionals to address health workforce shortages throughout our country.

Administration

THE WHITE HOUSE

- President Biden **delivered** remarks on the fight to contain the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The White House **issued** a fact sheet titled, "President Biden Announces New Steps to Boost Vaccine Supply and Increase Transparency for States, Tribes, and Territories."

U.S. OFFICE OF SPECIAL COUNSEL

- Special Counsel Henry Kerner sent a **letter** to President Joe Biden about HHS' apparent misuse of millions of dollars in funding earmarked for vaccine research and public health emergencies such as COVID-19, Ebola, and Zika.

CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION

- CDC **added** a webpage titled, "Building Confidence in COVID-19 Vaccines," which outlines the agency's strategy to reinforce confidence in the coronavirus vaccine.

FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION

- The FDA [updated](#) its FDA COVID-19 Response At-A-Glance Summary, which provides a quick look at facts, figures, and highlights on the FDA's response efforts.
- FDA [posted](#) a CDER Conversation with Katie Gray, Pharm.D., acting director of CDER's Office of Prescription Drug Promotion (OPDP). This conversation describes OPDP's COVID-19 response, which has focused on compliance actions regarding prescription drug promotional materials making false or misleading claims about COVID-19 prevention or treatment.

Articles of Interest

- 1/25 The New York Times updated its article titled, ["How Full Are Hospital I.C.U.s Near You?"](#)
- 1/26 The Washington Post published an article titled, ["Biden administration seeks to buy 200 million more vaccine doses, to be delivered through the summer."](#)
- 1/26 ProPublica published an article titled, ["How the CARES Act Forgot America's Most Vulnerable Hospitals."](#)
- 1/26 The Hill published an article titled, ["World surpasses 100M coronavirus cases."](#)
- 1/27 Morning Consult published an article titled, ["Racial Gaps in COVID-19 Vaccine Willingness Narrow, but Barriers to Adoption Remain."](#)