



## DAILY COVID-19 UPDATE

January 28, 2021

### WHAT HAPPENED TODAY

Today, in opening floor remarks, Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) indicated the chamber will potentially begin the process of considering a "bold and robust" coronavirus relief package next week. He warned that while his preference is to have a bipartisan bill, if GOP members oppose the legislation, "[Democrats] will have to move forward without them."

Similarly, White House press secretary Jen Psaki **announced** the Biden Administration is not "looking to split a package in two," referring to the proposed \$1.9 trillion stimulus. However, the White House has expressed willingness to compromise on certain aspects of the proposal that could bring down the price, making it more attractive to Republicans and hesitant Democrats. National Economic Council Director Brian Deese is expected to brief Senate Democrats on the status of negotiations later today.

Additionally, Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell **pushed for a robust** vaccination campaign, stating "there's nothing more important to the economy right now than getting [people] vaccinated."

### LATEST STATISTICS

**48,386,275** COVID-19 vaccines have been distributed in the U.S and **21,698,606** Americans have received the first dose.

There are a total of **101,253,267** confirmed cases worldwide, 2,184,718 deaths and 55,946,747 people have recovered.

There are **25,708,124** confirmed cases of the coronavirus in the U.S. and 431,882 deaths.

### LATEST PMJ RESOURCES

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

[Coronavirus State Reopening Tracker](#)

He added the "single most important economic growth policy" is stopping COVID-19 infections. Chair Powell's comments could give lawmakers further evidence that additional funding for vaccine distribution and procurement is necessary for full economic recovery.

Notably, the first known U.S. cases of the South African variant of COVID-19 have been **identified** in two individuals in South Carolina.

Since our last update, the Small Business 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](#)

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## ECONOMIC UPDATE

### *Congressional*

#### HOUSE

- New Jersey's House delegation **sent a letter** to Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) and Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) advocating for the inclusion of a repeal of the SALT deduction cap in any additional pandemic relief package.
- Representative Ilhan Omar (D-MN), joined by over 50 other lawmakers, **sent a letter** to President Biden and Vice President Harris urging the Administration to support recurring direct payments to individuals that are financially struggling amidst the ongoing pandemic.

### *Administration*

#### FEDERAL RESERVE

- Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell **warned** the U.S. economy is still a "long way from a full recovery."

## SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION (SBA)

- The Small Business Administration [published an interim final rule](#) granting 8(a) Program participants a one-year program extension due to the challenges of COVID-19.

## Articles of Interest

- 1/28 The Washington Post published an article titled, "[President Biden's push for \\$15-an-hour minimum wage faces strong headwinds in Senate.](#)"
- 1/27 Bloomberg published an article titled, "[Powell says Fed has not discussed lending programs with Treasury.](#)"
- 1/27 The Washington Post published an article titled, "[Federal Reserve Chair Powell says 'nothing more important' to economy than vaccinating Americans.](#)"

## PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

### *Congressional*

#### HOUSE

- Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) [issued](#) a statement on the Executive Actions announced by President Biden on Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act.

### *Administration*

#### THE WHITE HOUSE

- President Biden [issued](#) an Executive Order on Medicaid, the Affordable Care Act, and other healthcare issues.
- The White House [released](#) a fact sheet on President Biden's Executive Order to "Strengthen Americans' Access to Quality, Affordable Health Care."

#### DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

- HHS [issued](#) a fifth amendment to the Declaration under the Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness Act (PREP Act) to add additional categories of qualified persons authorized to prescribe, dispense, and administer COVID-19 vaccines authorized by the FDA.

#### NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

- According to preliminary [findings](#) from a NIH study, pregnant women who experienced severe symptoms of COVID-19 had a higher risk of complications during and after pregnancy. Compared to COVID-19 patients without symptoms, those with severe symptoms were at higher risk for cesarean delivery, postpartum hemorrhage, hypertensive disorders of pregnancy and preterm birth.
- NIH Director Dr. Francis Collins [penned](#) a blog post titled, "Following COVID-19 Vaccines Around the Country."

#### CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION

- The CDC [issued](#) a media statement announcing that South Carolina has detected the first U.S. cases associated with COVID-19 variant first identified in South Africa.

## Articles of Interest

- 1/27 The Washington Post published an article titled, [“Few states are accurately tracking coronavirus vaccinations by race. Some aren’t at all.”](#)
  - 1/27 Reuters published an article titled, [“White House exploring tapping drugmakers to produce rivals’ vaccines.”](#)
  - 1/27 The Hill published an article titled, [“CDC projects US could see up to 514K coronavirus deaths by Feb. 20.”](#)
  - 1/28 The New York Times published an article titled, [“Millions Meant for Public Health Threats Were Diverted Elsewhere, Watchdog Says.”](#)
  - 1/28 KHN published an article titled, [“Huge Gaps in Vaccine Data Make It Next to Impossible to Know Who Got the Shots.”](#)
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## LABOR UPDATE

### *Administration*

#### DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

- DOL [published](#) the Unemployment Insurance Weekly Claims report for the week ending January 23.