



DAILY COVID-19 UPDATE

February 2, 2021

WHAT HAPPENED TODAY

Today, the Biden administration **announced** that the U.S. will increase its weekly supply of COVID-19 vaccines to states by an additional 5%, providing at least 10.5 million doses for the next three weeks. This comes on the heels of a recent announcement from the White House that it would increase vaccine supply to states by 16%. Also, on February 11, the federal government will begin delivering COVID-19 vaccines directly to select pharmacies to expand access nationwide. Furthermore, President Joe Biden **directed** FEMA to retroactively reimburse states for the cost of FEMA-eligible services "including masks, gloves, emergency feeding actions, sheltering at risk populations, and mobilization of the National Guard -- back dated to the beginning of the pandemic in January 2020."

Additionally, Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) announced that the chamber will hold a procedural vote today on a budget resolution with reconciliation instructions, which would allow Senate Democrats to pass portions of President Biden's \$1.9 trillion coronavirus relief package with just 51 votes.

LATEST STATISTICS

52,657,675 COVID-19 vaccines have been distributed in the U.S and **26,440,836** Americans have received the first dose.

There are a total of **103,712,003** confirmed cases worldwide, 2,248,365 deaths and 57,575,609 people have recovered.

There are **26,406,658** confirmed cases of the coronavirus in the U.S. and 446,272 deaths.

LATEST PMJ RESOURCES

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

[Coronavirus State Reopening Tracker](#)

Leader Schumer and Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) introduced the budget resolution last night.

The White House and Democratic leaders appear to be gaining momentum for their relief bill after the introduction of the budget resolution and President Biden's meeting with GOP senators, as Senator Joe Manchin (D-WV), a centrist swing vote, announced today he will vote to advance the Democratic budget resolution. However, he was clear his vote is predicated on the package focusing on "the COVID-19 crisis and Americans who have been most impacted by this pandemic."

Yesterday, President Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris met with a group of 10 Republican senators for more than two hours to discuss their \$618 billion COVID-19 relief proposal. In a [joint statement](#), the senators described the meeting as "excellent" with "a very productive exchange of views." However, the White House issued a [statement](#) noting that President Biden had emphasized to the group that Congress "must respond boldly and urgently," while highlighting "many areas of disagreement with the Republicans." He also reiterated that he will not agree to a package that "leaves the nation short of its pressing needs." In the interim, the two sides have agreed to have their respective aides continue to negotiate a bipartisan relief plan.

Notably, the Biden administration purchased 8.5 million [at-home COVID-19 tests](#) from Ellume USA for \$231.8 million. According to the FDA, the tests are likely to cost \$30 each and provide results to your smartphone in 15 minutes with 95% accuracy. Production is expected to ramp up throughout the year until it reaches 640,000 home tests per day by December 2021.

[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

- Senator Dick Durbin (D-IL) and Rep. Cindy Axne (D-IA) [introduced a bill](#) aimed at providing tax relief to people who received unemployment benefits last year amid the coronavirus pandemic.

- Senator Jack Reed (D-RI), along with over 45 other Senators, sent a letter to Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) and Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) [calling for inclusion](#) of funding for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) in the next COVID-19 relief package.

Administration

TREASURY

- Treasury [released its economic statement](#) for the Treasury Borrowing Advisory Committee of the Securities Industry and Financial Markets.

SPECIAL INSPECTOR GENERAL FOR PANDEMIC RECOVERY (SIGPR)

- In the Special Inspector General for Pandemic Recovery's [quarterly report](#) to Congress, the federal oversight office announced it will probe former Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin on his decision to roll back the Federal Reserve's emergency lending facilities at the end of 2020.

Articles of Interest

- 2/2 The Washington Post published an article titled, "[Biden urges Senate Democrats to go big on his relief package, warns against smaller plan.](#)"
- 2/2 The Washington Post published an article titled, "[White House open to narrowing who qualifies for stimulus checks but keeping payments at \\$1,400 per person.](#)"
- 2/1 The Washington Post published an article titled, "[Biden, Senate Republicans hold lengthy meeting on coronavirus relief bill.](#)"

PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

Congressional

SENATE

- Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-MA) and Rep. Jan Schakowsky (D-IL) [introduced](#) the *Pandemic Emergency Manufacturing Act of 2021* to publicly manufacture personal protective equipment, prescription drugs, and other medical supplies necessary to combat the COVID-19 pandemic. The legislation authorizes the federal government to manufacture medical products, including by contracting with existing manufacturers, to ensure the nation has an adequate supply of critical materials to avoid rationing during this unprecedented crisis.
- Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-MA) and Reps. Ayanna Pressley (D-MA) and Rep. Barbara Lee (D-CA) [reintroduced](#) the *Anti-Racism in Public Health Act*, a bicameral bill to declare structural racism a public health crisis and confront its public health impacts through two bold new programs within the CDC.
- Sens. Catherine Cortez Masto (D-NV) and Bill Cassidy (R-LA) [introduced](#) legislation to reimburse ambulance providers for services delivered to Medicare beneficiaries during the coronavirus pandemic.

Administration

THE WHITE HOUSE

- The White House [released](#) a fact sheet titled, "President Biden Announces Increased Vaccine Supply, Initial Launch of the Federal Retail Pharmacy Program, and Expansion of FEMA Reimbursement for States."

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

- The DOD, in coordination with HHS, [awarded](#) \$231.8 million to Ellume USA LLC to increase production capacity of the Ellume COVID-19 Home Test in the U.S. 640,000 tests per day by December 2021, to support domestic COVID-19 testing.

NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

- NIH Director Dr. Francis Collins [penned](#) a blog post titled, "Can Blood Thinners Keep Moderately Ill COVID-19 Patients Out of the ICU?"

CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION

- CDC [published](#) a Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR) titled, "Demographic Characteristics of Persons Vaccinated During the First Month of the COVID-19 Vaccination Program — United States, December 14, 2020–January 14, 2021."

Articles of Interest

- 2/1 Bloomberg published an article titled, "[U.S. Hits Pandemic Milestone With More Vaccinated Than Cases.](#)"
- 2/1 USA Today published an article titled, "[Only 38% of nursing home workers accepted COVID-19 vaccines, new data shows.](#)"
- 2/1 Politico published an article titled, "[Biden COVID adviser tells providers to stop stockpiling vaccine.](#)"
- 2/1 NPR published an article titled, "[Moderna Increases COVID-19 Vaccine Shipments While Pfizer Lags Behind.](#)"
- 2/2 Axios published an article titled, "[CDC: Vaccine database on race and ethnicity paints incomplete picture.](#)"