



DAILY COVID-19 UPDATE

February 3, 2021

WHAT HAPPENED TODAY

Today, the Federal Reserve's 12 regional banks **released a report** that found 90 percent of small businesses have not returned to pre-pandemic levels of productivity. Moreover, 30 percent of small businesses surveyed stated they will not survive if additional government support is not provided. The report arrives as Congress takes steps this week to pass additional COVID-related relief along party lines.

Yesterday, President Biden held a conference call with Senate Democrats, urging them to **go big and move quickly** on a COVID-19 relief bill, noting that the \$618 billion aid package proposed by Senate Republicans was "way too small." Both Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) and Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen agreed that if Congress advances a smaller relief bill, it could take the struggling economy years to fully recover from the coronavirus crisis.

However, President Biden signaled he is open to refining elements of his \$1.9 trillion relief package. Specifically, Biden stated he is willing to compromise

LATEST STATISTICS

55,943,800 COVID-19 vaccines have been distributed in the U.S and **27,154,956** Americans have received the first dose.

There are a total of **104,221,874** confirmed cases worldwide, 2,262,923 deaths and 57,864,736 people have recovered.

There are **26,522,785** confirmed cases of the coronavirus in the U.S. and 449,663 deaths.

LATEST PMJ RESOURCES

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

[Coronavirus State Reopening Tracker](#)

on who will be eligible for the next round of stimulus checks, but remained adamant that the checks will be \$1,400. He added he does not want to begin his presidency "by breaking a promise to the American people."

Additionally, the Senate voted 50-49 yesterday to begin the budget reconciliation process, which would allow Senate Democrats to pass portions of President Biden's \$1.9 trillion coronavirus relief package with a simple majority and without GOP support. The House is expected to follow suit today.

As promised, Sen. Joe Manchin (D-WV) backed the motion to proceed on the budget resolution. He also stated today that he will support the almost two trillion dollar price tag. However, he reiterated that when it comes time to vote on the actual bill, he "will only support proposals that will get us through and end the pain of this pandemic."

Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) criticized Democrats for initiating a "rushed budget process," calling it the "wrong path for making law." Senate Republicans have already introduced over 100 amendments to the budget resolution.

[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

- Rep. Lloyd Doggett (D-TX) and Senator Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI) [wrote a letter](#), signed by 118 other House and Senate Democrats, urging Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) and Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) to undo tax breaks related to the treatment of business losses in the next coronavirus relief package.

SENATE

- Senators Marco Rubio (R-FL), Jim Risch (R-ID), and Susan Collins (R-ME) [reintroduced](#) the *Small Business Access to Recovery Capital Act* to provide expanded relief measures to the 7(a) loan program for one year to help businesses cope with challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Administration

TREASURY

- Secretary Janet Yellen [participated in a virtual discussion](#) with a bipartisan group of mayors to discuss the unprecedented public health and economic crises.

Articles of Interest

- 2/3 Politico published an article titled, [“Biden tells Democrats he’s willing to compromise on stimulus checks.”](#)
- 2/3 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, [“Joe Manchin backs price tag of Biden’s coronavirus relief plan.”](#)
- 2/3 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, [“Most small firms below pre-pandemic levels, Fed survey finds.”](#)

PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

Congressional

HOUSE

- Reps. Ann Kuster (D-NH) and John Katko (R-NY) introduced [legislation](#), the *Emergency Support for Substance Use Disorders Act*, to create emergency grants during the COVID-19 crisis for states and community-based organizations that serve individuals with substance use disorder.
- Reps. Lauren Underwood (D-IL), Kim Schrier (D-WA), Kathy Castor (D-FL), Ann Kuster (D-NH), and Sen. Tina Smith (D-MN) introduced the *Community Immunity During COVID-19 Act*. The [legislation](#) would provide robust funding to support local initiatives to boost vaccination rates during the COVID-19 pandemic, including efforts to build vaccine confidence in the COVID-19 vaccine, increase immunization rates for other recommended vaccines, and ensure that people continue to access primary care services.
- Rep. Jackie Speier (D-CA) introduced [legislation](#) to protect against price gouging during national emergencies. *The Unconscionable Pricing Act* will ensure that state governments and private and non-profit businesses attempting to purchase personal protective equipment and other necessary supplies aren’t subject to the mercy of profiteers by preventing sellers from raising prices of covered items by ten percent or more during emergency declarations.

SENATE

- Sens. Chris Murphy (D-CT) and Roy Blunt (R-MO), along with Reps. Bob Latta (R-OH) and Debbie Dingell (D-MI) re-introduced [legislation](#) that allows any health care professional in good standing with a valid practitioners’ license to render services, including telehealth, anywhere for the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Sens. Tina Smith (D-MN) and Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) introduced [two bipartisan bills](#) to address behavioral health needs and substance use disorders during the COVID-19 pandemic. The *Stopping the Mental Health Pandemic Act* would authorize federal grant funding for States, Tribes, Tribal organizations, and community-based entities to address behavioral health needs during the pandemic. The senators also introduced the *Emergency Support for Substance Use Disorders Act*, which aims to address substance use disorders through harm reduction services.

- Sens. Jacky Rosen (D-NV) and Marco Rubio (R-FL) re-introduced their bipartisan *Ensuring Understanding of COVID-19 to Protect Public Health Act*, [legislation](#) that would direct NIH to conduct a longitudinal study on mild, moderate, and severe cases of COVID-19 to gain a full understanding of both the short and long-term health impacts of the novel coronavirus, including on communities of color and other diverse populations.

Administration

CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION

- CDC [published](#) a webpage titled, "New Variants of the Virus that Causes COVID-19."
- CDC [published](#) an Emerging Infectious Diseases article titled, "Addressing COVID-19 Misinformation on Social Media Preemptively and Responsibly."

Articles of Interest

- 2/2 Politico published an article titled, "[Biden administration to begin shipping vaccine doses directly to pharmacies.](#)"
- 2/2 The Washington Post published an article titled, "[U.S. response to coronavirus variants emphasizes masks and vaccines instead of lockdowns.](#)"
- 2/3 The New York Times published an article titled, "[Burned by Low Reimbursements, Some Doctors Stop Testing for COVID.](#)"
- 2/3 Morning Consult published an article titled, "[Essential Workers More Wary of Getting Vaccinated Despite Higher COVID-19 Risk.](#)"
- 2/3 KHN published an article titled, "[100 Million COVID Shots in 100 Days Doesn't Get Us Back to Normal.](#)"