



DAILY COVID-19 UPDATE

February 4, 2021

WHAT HAPPENED TODAY

Yesterday, the House voted 218-212 to approve its budget resolution measure, launching the reconciliation process to allow Democrats to pass the \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan without GOP support, if necessary. If both chambers pass the budget resolution as expected, House and Senate committees will have until February 16 to craft the elements of the stimulus bill.

Today, the Senate begins a "vote-a-rama" in the latest procedural step to pass Democrat's budget resolution. In preparation, Senate Republicans had already filed more than 550 amendments as of last night. Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) stated, GOP Republicans "will be ready and waiting with a host of amendments to improve the rushed procedural step that's being jammed through." If any amendments are adopted, the budget resolution will be sent back to the House, which is remaining in session tomorrow in case this occurs.

Notably, a bipartisan group of 16 senators have filed an [amendment](#) that would target the next round of direct payments to lower income workers.

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 **104,694,138** confirmed cases worldwide, 2,278,469 deaths and 58,201,761 people have recovered.

There are **26,642,744** confirmed cases of the coronavirus in the U.S. and 454,596 deaths.

LATEST PMJ RESOURCES

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

[Coronavirus State Reopening Tracker](#)

Specifically, it would bar "upper-income taxpayers" from receiving the \$1,400 stimulus check. The amendment is led by Sens. Joe Manchin (D-WV) and Susan Collins (R-ME), who have both advocated for reaching a bipartisan agreement on COVID relief.

President Biden has signaled his willingness to compromise on the scope of the stimulus checks but not the amount, as well as a smaller amount of state and local aid, which Republicans have not yet incorporated in their \$618 billion package.

[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

- Republicans on the House Committee on Energy and Commerce [sent a letter](#) to Office of Management and Budget Acting Director Rob Fairweather asking for details on the amount of remaining funds unspent from the CARES Act, the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), the Health Care Enhancement Act, and the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021.
- House Financial Services Chairwoman Maxine Waters' (D-CA) [statement](#) at a committee hearing on the need for additional COVID-19 stimulus.

SENATE

- Senate Banking Committee Incoming Chair Sherrod Brown's (D-OH) [floor statement](#) on the need to pass a budget resolution to provide additional COVID-19 aid.
- Incoming Chair Brown met with President Biden and other Senate Chairmen at the White House to [discuss efforts](#) to move forward on President Biden's COVID relief package.

Articles of Interest

- 2/4 The Washington Post published an article titled, [“Mitt Romney unveils plan to provide \\$3,000 per child, giving bipartisan support to President Biden’s effort.”](#)
- 2/4 Politico published an article titled, [“Manchin, Collins push effort to bar payments to high-income earners.”](#)
- 2/4 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, [“U.S. unemployment claims fell to 779,000 last week.”](#)
- 2/4 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, [“Partisan pressures weigh heavily as Senate looks for coronavirus relief deal.”](#)

PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

Congressional

HOUSE

- Reps. Bennie Thompson (D-MS) and Val Demings (D-FL) sent a [letter](#) to Dr. Marcella Nunez-Smith, White House COVID-19 Equity Task Force Chair, regarding equitable distribution and administration of COVID-19 vaccines.

SENATE

- Sen. Tammy Baldwin (D-WI) and Reps. Ami Bera (D-CA) and Scott Peters (D-CA) introduced bicameral [legislation](#) to dramatically scale up efforts to track coronavirus variants. The *Tracking COVID-19 Variants Act* would provide \$2 billion for the CDC to support a robust, national sequence-based surveillance program to protect public health and combat the next phase of the COVID-19 pandemic, while preparing for emerging threats.

Administration

CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION

- CDC [posted](#) a webpage titled, "Understanding the Federal Retail Pharmacy Program for COVID-19 Vaccination."

Articles of Interest

- 2/3 The Hill published an article titled, [“Fauci: Still time to prevent mutant virus strains from becoming dominant.”](#)
 - 2/3 UMN's Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy (CIDRAP) published an article titled, [“CDC: COVID-19 cases drop to pre-Thanksgiving levels.”](#)
 - 2/3 NPR published an article titled, [“A Rocky Road On The Way To Herd Immunity For COVID-19.”](#)
 - 2/4 Axios published an article titled, [“U.K. to test mixing COVID-19 vaccines in world-first trial.”](#)
 - 2/4 The New York Times published an article titled, [“Coming Soon: The ‘Vaccine Passport.’”](#)
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LABOR UPDATE

Administration

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

- DOL [released](#) its Unemployment Insurance Weekly Claims Report for the week ending January 30.