



DAILY COVID-19 UPDATE

February 5, 2021

WHAT HAPPENED TODAY

Today, the 56-member House Problem Solvers Caucus called for an immediate vote on a \$160 billion package to advance vaccine deployment and testing nationwide while the broader bipartisan talks and budget reconciliation process continue.

The "**Defeating COVID-19**" package includes \$50 billion to expand testing, \$35 billion for the provider relief fund with 20% set aside for rural hospitals, \$30 billion for the Disaster Relief Fund, \$20 billion for the National Vaccine Program, \$15 billion for the National Strategic Stockpile, and \$5 billion each for Title III of the Defense Production Act as well as PPE for first responders, physicians, and dentists.

In the early hours of this morning, the Senate adopted the budget resolution with Vice President Harris providing the tie-breaking vote. The House adopted the measure by a vote of 219 to 209 this afternoon. House and Senate committees will now have until February 16 to write the legislative language for COVID-19 relief bill under the approved budget instructions.

LATEST STATISTICS

57,489,675 COVID-19 vaccines have been distributed in the U.S and **27,905,197** Americans have received the first dose.

There are a total of **105,223,208** confirmed cases worldwide, 2,293,263 deaths and 58,500,396 people have recovered.

There are **26,763,861** confirmed cases of the coronavirus in the U.S. and 458,037 deaths.

LATEST PMJ RESOURCES

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

[Coronavirus State Reopening Tracker](#)

Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) and Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (D-MD) both told reporters that they anticipate the House will vote on a stimulus package and send it to the Senate during the week of February 22. Speaker Pelosi added the relief bill will "absolutely without any question" be enacted into law by March 15, which is when boosted unemployment benefits are set to expire.

Additionally, President Joe Biden appeared to signal today that he could push for passage of his \$1.9 trillion COVID-19 relief package without Republican support. He stated, "If I have to choose between getting help right now to Americans who are hurting so badly and getting bogged down in a lengthy negotiation...that's an easy choice...I'm going to act fast."

Notably, Johnson & Johnson has [submitted](#) its application to the FDA for an emergency use authorization of its one-dose COVID-19 vaccine.

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

- Speaker Nancy Pelosi's (D-CA) [statement](#) on the January jobs report.
- Speaker Pelosi's [Dear Colleague letter](#) on the progress of the American Rescue Plan.
- Ranking Member Blaine Luetkemeyer's (R-MO) [statement](#) on providing small businesses "with the opportunity to return to economic independence."

SENATE

- A group of 10 Republican Senators [sent a letter](#) to President Biden following a more than two-hour meeting with him and Vice President Harris at the White House on Monday.

Administration

WHITE HOUSE

- [Remarks](#) by President Joe Biden before meeting with House Democratic leaders regarding the American Rescue Plan.

INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE (IRS)

- The IRS [announced](#) eligible educators can deduct unreimbursed expenses for COVID-19 protective items to stop the spread of COVID-19 in the classroom.

Articles of Interest

- 2/5 The Washington Post published an article titled, [“15-hour ‘vote-a-rama’ got Senate Democrats closer to a relief bill. Yet much of the night was anything but.”](#)
- 2/5 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, [“House approves budget resolution setting stage for covid-19 relief package.”](#)

PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

Congressional

HOUSE

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

SENATE

- Sen. Edward Markey (D-MA) reintroduced [legislation](#) to support comprehensive research for the creation of a universal coronavirus vaccine or therapeutic. The legislation calls for a total investment of \$1 billion – \$250 million for each of FY 2021 through 2024 for NIAID.

Administration

FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION

- FDA Acting Administrator Dr. Janet Woodcock [issued](#) a statement indicating the agency continues to work with medical product sponsors and international partners to evaluate the impact each identified and emerging COVID-19 variant circulating globally as on effectiveness or utility of authorized medical products.
- The FDA has [scheduled](#) a meeting of its Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee (VRBPAC) on February 26, 2021, to discuss the request for emergency use authorization (EUA) for a COVID-19 vaccine from Janssen Biotech Inc.
- The FDA [updated](#) its emergency use authorization (EUA) for COVID-19 convalescent plasma to reflect new data.

CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION

- CDC [published](#) a Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR) titled, "Racial and Ethnic Disparities in the Prevalence of Stress and Worry, Mental

Health Conditions, and Increased Substance Use Among Adults During the COVID-19 Pandemic - United States, April and May 2020."

- 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."
- CDC [published](#) a Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR) titled, "Early COVID-19 First-Dose Vaccination Coverage Among Residents and Staff Members of Skilled Nursing Facilities Participating in the Pharmacy Partnership for Long-Term Care Program — United States, December 2020–January 2021."

Articles of Interest

- 2/5 Forbes published an article titled, "[Fauci Warns Infectious U.K. COVID-19 Variant Could Become Dominant U.S. Virus.](#)"
 - 2/4 POLITICO published an article titled, "[Biden Health Team Hatches New Vaccine Strategy as Variant Threat Builds.](#)"
 - 2/4 The Atlantic published an article titled, "[The Pandemic is in Tenuous Retreat.](#)"
 - 2/4 The Atlantic published an article titled, "[The Pandemic Broke the Flu.](#)"
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LABOR UPDATE

Administration

U.S. BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS

- BLS released a [jobs report](#) for the month of January. It found that the the economy added 49,000 jobs last month and the unemployment rate fell to 6.3%, a drop of 0.4% from December.