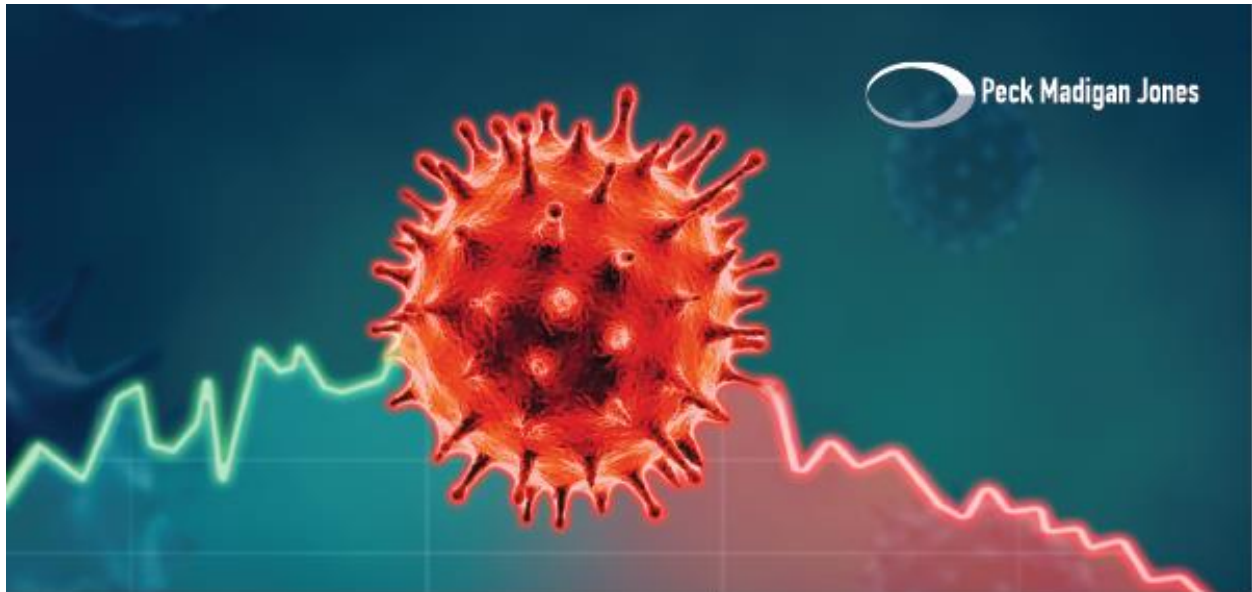




DAILY COVID-19 UPDATE

February 8, 2021

WHAT HAPPENED TODAY

This week, a dozen House committees will continue drafting and start marking up their respective pieces of legislation to comprise the Biden administration's \$1.9 trillion coronavirus relief package. Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) stated the chamber plans to "send something over to the Senate" before several initiatives such as boosted unemployment benefits are set to expire on March 15.

Notably, the House Ways and Means Committee will be responsible for \$941 billion of the budget resolution. The committee has jurisdiction over the \$1,400 direct stimulus payments, which is the single largest component in President Joe Biden's plan.

Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen voiced support for President Biden's relief package, projecting a return to full employment next year "if this package is passed." Secretary Yellen dismissed Republicans' and moderate Democrats' calls for a smaller package, stating "we need a big package, and we need to get this done quickly."

LATEST STATISTICS

59,307,800 COVID-19 vaccines have been distributed in the U.S and **32,340,146** Americans have received the first dose.

There are a total of **106,404,054** confirmed cases worldwide, 2,322,915 deaths and 59,316,395 people have recovered.

There are **27,064,922** confirmed cases of the coronavirus in the U.S. and 464,470 deaths.

LATEST PMJ RESOURCES

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

[Coronavirus State Reopening Tracker](#)

In an interview yesterday evening with CBS News, President Biden noted that it will be "very difficult" to vaccinate enough Americans to achieve herd immunity "before the end of this summer." He also expressed support for a proposal from the NFL to utilize its stadiums as mass vaccination sites. Additionally, President Biden told CBS News he does not believe his proposal to increase the minimum wage to \$15 an hour will pass congressional negotiations. He signaled if the minimum wage increase is rejected from the stimulus deal, he would support a standalone measure.

Last Friday evening, the Biden administration announced plans to utilize the Defense Production Act (DPA) to ramp up supplies of vaccines, surgical gloves, and at-home testing kits, while decreasing U.S. dependence on imports. The U.S. is in the process of finalizing DPA contracts with six at-home COVID-19 test suppliers with a goal of having as many as 61 million at-home and point-of-care tests available for Americans by the end of the summer. The administration also announced plans to use the DPA to give Pfizer priority access to key products and materials used to produce its COVID-19 vaccine.

We have updated our Coronavirus State Reopening 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

- House Financial Services Committee Democrats published their [markup memo](#) regarding the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2021 (S.Con.Res.5).

SENATE

- Senate Banking Committee Chairman Sherrod Brown (D-OH) and Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Patrick Leahy (D-VT) [reintroduced](#) the \$75 billion Homeowner Assistance Fund bill.
- In a [tweet](#), Senate Budget Committee Chairman Bernie Sanders (I-VT) criticized Democrats for being willing to lower the eligibility threshold for direct stimulus payments.

Administration

INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE (IRS)

- The Internal Revenue Service [announced a new form](#) is available for eligible self-employed individuals to claim sick and family leave tax credits under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA).

Articles of Interest

- 2/8 The Washington Post published an article titled, [“Democratic lawmakers splinter over criteria for \\$1,400 stimulus payments as Biden relief bill advances.”](#)
- 2/7 The New York Times published an article titled, [“Yellen warns jobs will be slow to rebound without stimulus.”](#)
- 2/7 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, [“Covid-19’s hit to state and local revenues is smaller than many feared.”](#)
- 2/7 The Washington Post published an article titled, [“Senior Democrats to unveil \\$3,000-per-child benefit as Biden stimulus gains steam.”](#)

PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

Congressional

HOUSE

- Reps. Josh Gottheimer (D-NJ) and Tom Malinowski (D-NJ) sent a [letter](#) to CDC Director Rochelle Walensky, requesting new steps to support the safe return to in-person learning across the country, by having states prioritize the vaccination of educators and staff in the same category as first responders, ensuring schools optimize their COVID-19 testing procedures, and ensuring a standard set of quarantine guidelines for all states and counties to mitigate confusion.

SENATE

- Sens. Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH) and Maggie Hassan (D-NH) joined a group of five other senators in a bipartisan [letter](#) to Acting HHS Secretary Norris Cochran, calling on the Department to prioritize and quickly distribute federal funding to rural and underserved communities hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Sens. Tammy Duckworth (D-IL) and Mike Rounds (R-SD) introduced bipartisan [legislation](#) to strengthen the national response to pandemics by modernizing the production of critical medical supplies for frontline healthcare providers. The *Public Health Emergency (PHE) Production Act* would ensure HHS fully leverages its allocation authorities under the Defense Production Act to respond to current and future emergencies.
- Sen. Bob Menendez (D-NJ) and Reps. Bill Pascrell, Jr. (D-NJ) and Mikie Sherrill (D-NJ) introduced [legislation](#) to restore regulations regarding infection control and emergency preparedness in skilled nursing facilities and nursing facilities.

Administration

NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

- An international randomized, controlled Phase 3 [clinical trial](#) sponsored by NIH has begun evaluating the safety and efficacy of an investigational long-acting antibody combination for treating people hospitalized with COVID-19. The trial,

part of a master protocol known as ACTIV-3, has an adaptive design allowing investigators to add new sub-studies of additional investigational agents. ACTIV-3 is

CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION

- CDC [published](#) a Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR) titled, "Decline in COVID-19 Hospitalization Growth Rates Associated with Statewide Mask Mandates — 10 States, March–October 2020." The study found that states and counties that implemented mask mandates saw a substantial decline in the number of people admitted to the hospital to treat COVID-19 symptoms in the weeks after the mandates took effect.

Articles of Interest

- 2/6 NPR published an article titled, ["Why The Pandemic Is 10 Times Worse Than You Think."](#)
- 2/6 The Hill published an article titled, ["Vaccine troubles overseas could haunt United States."](#)
- 2/7 The Hill published an article titled, ["UK strain doubling every 10 days in US: study."](#)
- 2/7 The New York Times published an article titled, ["South Africa Says AstraZeneca's Covid-19 Vaccine is Not Effective at Stopping Variant."](#)
- 2/7 The New York Times published an article titled, ["Where Do Vaccine Doses Go, and Who Gets Them? The Algorithms Decide."](#)