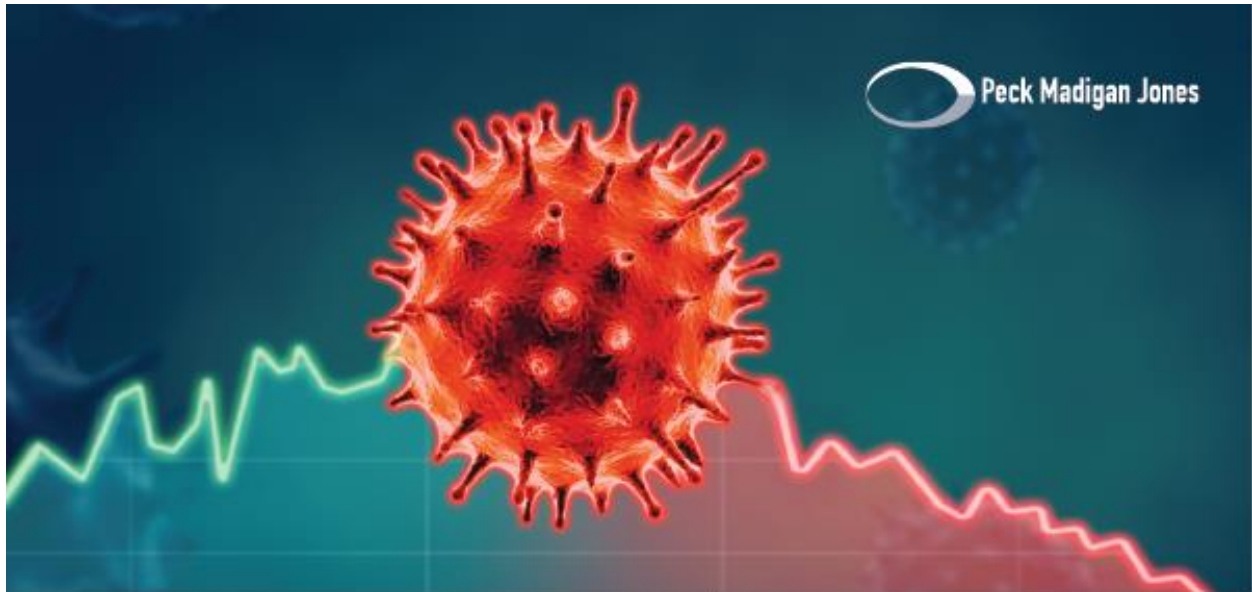




DAILY COVID-19 UPDATE

February 9, 2021

WHAT HAPPENED TODAY

Today, the Biden administration announced that the U.S. will increase its weekly supply of COVID-19 vaccines to states, territories, and tribes by an additional 5%, providing 11 million doses for the next three weeks. This comes on the heels of recent announcements from the White House that it would increase the vaccine supply by 23%, boosting the total by 28% since January 20. Also, on February 15, the federal government will begin delivering COVID-19 vaccines directly to Federally Qualified Community Health Centers (FQHCs).

Yesterday, House Education and Labor Chairman Bobby Scott (D-VA) released a [legislative proposal](#) comprising portions of President Biden's American Rescue Plan. Among other things, the measure includes a gradual increase of the minimum wage to \$15/hour by 2025; \$130 billion to help K-12 schools reopen; \$39 billion for child care providers; and \$40 billion for institutions of higher education. The committee is currently [marking up](#) the bill text this afternoon.

LATEST STATISTICS

62,898,775 COVID-19 vaccines have been distributed in the U.S and **32,867,213** Americans have received the first dose.

There are a total of **106,740,881** confirmed cases worldwide, 2,334,374 deaths and 59,566,875 people have recovered.

There are **27,160,308** confirmed cases of the coronavirus in the U.S. and 466,991 deaths.

LATEST PMJ RESOURCES

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

[Coronavirus State Reopening Tracker](#)

House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Richard Neal (D-MA) also released [legislative proposals](#) comprising portions of Democrats' \$1.9 trillion COVID-19 relief package. The measure includes another round of \$1,400 in direct economic stimulus payments; an extension of expanded unemployment benefits at \$400/week through August 29; fully subsidized Affordable Care Act (ACA) coverage for individuals on unemployment insurance as well as those earning up to 150% of the federal poverty level; among other things; and a \$15/hour minimum wage, among other things. The committee plans to mark up the proposals from tomorrow through Friday.

Meanwhile, Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) told reporters the chamber will continue working on the budget resolution this week, even as former President Donald Trump's impeachment trial begins. Leader Schumer said the chamber is capable of focusing on both priorities, and he has instructed committees to begin crafting the legislative text for the \$1.9 trillion COVID relief package. Additionally, Leader Schumer announced Democrats are still working to include a \$15/hour minimum wage increase in the upcoming relief bill. Senate rules require that measures passed under budget reconciliation must have budgetary effects, so it is not clear whether raising the minimum wage will be considered permissible.

Notably, in a press briefing yesterday, CDC Director Rochelle Walensky suggested that requiring passengers to have a negative COVID-19 test prior to boarding domestic flights could help reduce spread of the virus. Walensky also warned states against relaxing coronavirus restrictions and urged Americans to continue wearing masks, social distance, and avoid travel and poorly ventilated spaces.

We have updated our Drug Shortage and Medical Supply Chain Tracker. It is linked under Latest PMJ Resources.

[President Biden EO Tracker](#)

[Lame Duck Preview Memo](#)

ECONOMIC UPDATE

Congressional

HOUSE

- House Ways and Means Chairman Richard Neal (D-MA) [announced](#) the committee will consider nine legislative proposals under the budget reconciliation instructions.

SENATE

- Senate Finance Committee Chairman Ron Wyden (D-OR), Senate HELP Committee Chair Patty Murray (D-WA), House Ways and Means Chairman Richard Neal (D-MA), and House Education and Labor Committee Chairman Bobby Scott (D-VA) [applauded the inclusion](#) of legislation to protect retirees' pensions in the COVID-19 relief package.
- Senate Chris Coons (D-DE) [applauds the inclusion](#) of \$1 billion to expand national service programs to aid COVID-19 response and recovery.
- Senate Jack Reed (D-RI), member of the Senate Banking Committee, [pushed for the inclusion](#) of additional funding for vaccine distribution, \$1,400 direct stimulus payments, state and local aid, expanded unemployment insurance, housing and LIHEAP assistance, and aid to schools and libraries in the COVID-19 relief package.

Articles of Interest

- 2/9 The Washington Post published an article titled, ["Jamie Dimon, other CEOs to meet with President Biden at White House as relief plan advances."](#)
- 2/9 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, ["Schumer says Senate Democrats working to raise minimum wage."](#)
- 2/9 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, ["Covid-19 mortgage relief ends soon for millions of homeowners."](#)
- 2/8 The Washington Post published an article titled, ["House Democrats reject plan to sharply curtail \\$1,400 stimulus payments in coronavirus relief package."](#)

PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

Congressional

HOUSE

- Rep. James Clyburn (D-SC), Chairman of the Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis, sent [letters](#) to White House Chief of Staff Ronald Klain and HHS Acting Secretary Norris Cochran about renewing the Select Subcommittee's investigation into political interference that crippled the previous Administration's response to the coronavirus pandemic.
- Rep. Ami Bera (D-CA) sent a [letter](#) to Congressional leaders urging them to include in the upcoming COVID-19 relief package at least \$16.5 billion for vaccination efforts, including \$12 billion for community health centers and a \$1 billion awareness campaign to ensure communities of color and other underserved communities are not left behind in the COVID-19 vaccine rollout.
- Reps. Tony Cárdenas (D-CA) and Linda Sánchez (D-CA) introduced the *Stronger Medicaid Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic Act*. This [legislation](#) would allow Medicaid programs to pay for prevention and treatment, hospitalization, vaccinations, and other related services for individuals with COVID-19 who are uninsured. The bill builds on previous

legislation led by Reps. Cárdenas and Sánchez to provide COVID-19 testing for uninsured individuals.

Administration

THE WHITE HOUSE

- President Biden [announced](#) the Community Health Centers Vaccination Program as well as another increase in the vaccine supply for states, territories, and tribes.

NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

- NIH Director Dr. Francis Collins published a [blog post](#) titled, "Mapping Which Coronavirus Variants Will Resist Antibody Treatments."

CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION

- CDC published a [webpage](#) titled, "Facility Planning and Operations for COVID-19," which outlines ways for various types of healthcare facilities to plan and stay prepared, operate effectively, and manage surges.

Articles of Interest

- 2/8 NPR published an article titled, "[White House COVID-19 Adviser Andy Slavitt Says There Are No Vaccine 'Silver Bullets.'](#)"
- 2/8 KFF published an article titled, "[At This Early Stage of the COVID-19 Vaccine Roll-Out, Most Older Adults Have Not Yet Been Vaccinated As Supply Remains Limited.](#)"
- 2/8 Pew Charitable Trusts published an article titled, "[COVID-19 Variants Further Strain Public Health Agencies.](#)"
- 2/8 The New York Times published an article titled, "[How a Dangerous New Coronavirus Variant Thwarted Some Countries' Vaccine Hopes.](#)"