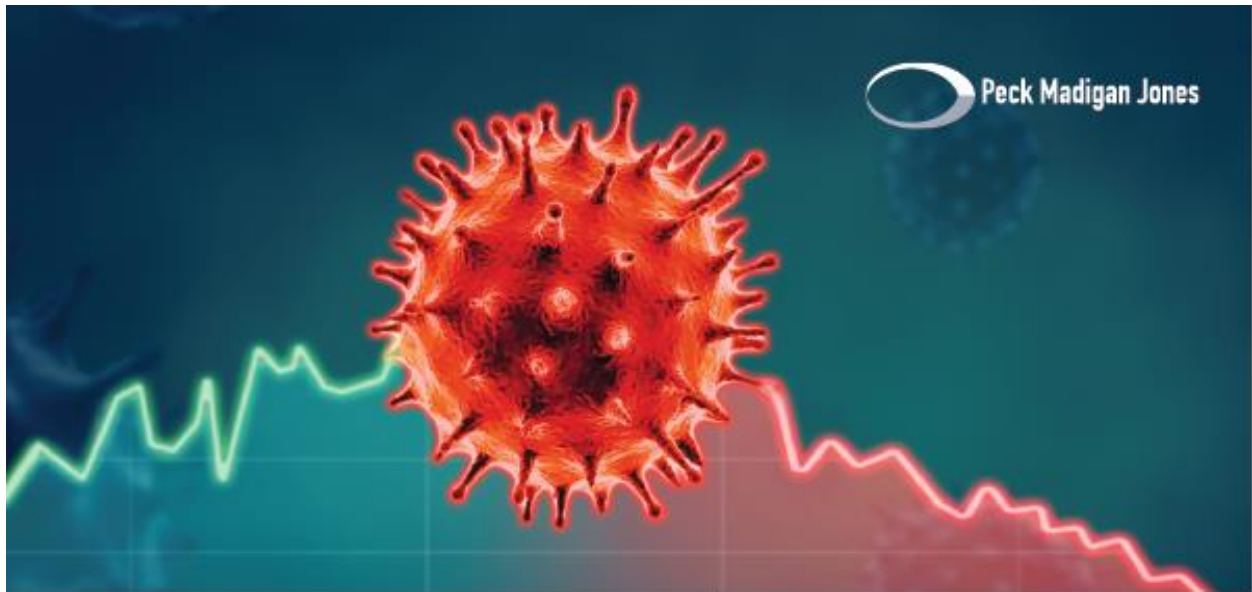




DAILY COVID-19 UPDATE

February 22, 2021

WHAT HAPPENED TODAY

Today, the House Budget Committee is marking up President Biden's \$1.9 trillion coronavirus relief package, teeing up a potential vote on the House floor on Friday or Saturday. Senate action could follow as soon as next week. In addition to any Senate amendments to the bill, the Senate parliamentarian must issue a determination related to provisions that are allowable or prohibited in the budget reconciliation bill. For example, there has been a lot of commentary that raising the minimum wage to \$15 an hour would violate budget reconciliation rules.

Additionally, President Joe Biden announced a series of reforms to further target the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) to the "smallest businesses and those that have been left behind in previous relief efforts." Specifically, the Administration announced it will institute a 14-day period during which only businesses with fewer than 20 employees can access the program. The Administration also revised the loan calculation formula to expand eligibility to sole proprietors, independent contractors, and the self-employed, among other reforms.

LATEST STATISTICS

75,205,940 COVID-19 vaccines have been distributed in the U.S and **44,138,118** Americans have received the first dose.

There are a total of **111,633,133** confirmed cases worldwide, 2,471,794 deaths and 62,943,739 people have recovered.

There are **28,163,547** confirmed cases of the coronavirus in the U.S. and 499,902 deaths.

LATEST PMJ RESOURCES

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

[Coronavirus State Reopening Tracker](#)

Notably, the U.S. coronavirus death toll has nearly reached [500,000](#) despite the number of new cases slowing down and vaccinations increasing. The U.S., which has less than 5% of the global population, has had more than 20% of all COVID-19 deaths worldwide.

Since our last update, the Food and Drug Administration and Small Business Administration have released guidance related to the coronavirus pandemic. Please see below for more details.

We have updated our Coronavirus State Reopening Tracker. It is linked under Latest PMJ Resources.

[President Biden EO Tracker](#)

[Lame Duck Preview Memo](#)

ECONOMIC UPDATE

Congressional

HOUSE

- House Budget Committee Chairman John Yarmuth's (D-KY) [opening statement](#) during the markup of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.

Administration

WHITE HOUSE

- The Biden-Harris Administration [increased lending](#) to small businesses in need and announced changes to the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) to "further promote equitable access to relief."
- [Remarks](#) by President Biden on helping small businesses.

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION (SBA)

- The Small Business Administration, in coordination with the Biden-Harris Administration, are [taking steps](#) to promote equitable access to the PPP.

Articles of Interest

- 2/22 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, ["Biden Prepares for Sweeping Recovery Package After Covid-19 Relief Bill."](#)
- 2/22 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, ["Paycheck Protection Program to Offer Exclusive Covid-19 Loan-Application Window for Smallest Firms."](#)
- 2/19 The Washington Post published an article titled, ["Biden to Critics of \\$1.9 Trillion Relief Plan: 'What would they have me cut?'"](#)

PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

Administration

THE WHITE HOUSE

- The White House [released](#) President Biden's remarks from his visit to Pfizer's Kalamazoo manufacturing site last Friday.

FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION

- FDA [issued](#) three sets of guidance for medical product developers, specifically covering vaccines, diagnostics and therapeutics products, to address the emergence and potential future emergence of variants of COVID-19.

CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION

- CDC is holding a [virtual national forum](#) on COVID-19 vaccines from Monday through Wednesday of this week.

Articles of Interest

- 2/20 The New York Times published an article titled, [“When Could the United States Reach Herd Immunity? It’s Complicated.”](#)
- 2/21 The Washington Post published an article titled, [“500,000 dead, a number almost too large to grasp.”](#)
- 2/22 KHN published an article titled, [“Countless Homebound Patients Still Wait for COVID Vaccine Despite Seniors’ Priority.”](#)
- 2/22 The Hill published an article titled, [“Fauci: ‘Possible’ Americans will need to wear masks into 2022.”](#)
- 2/22 USA Today published an article titled, [“US sticking with two-dose COVID-19 vaccine schedule, though study suggests one shot provides good short-term protection.”](#)