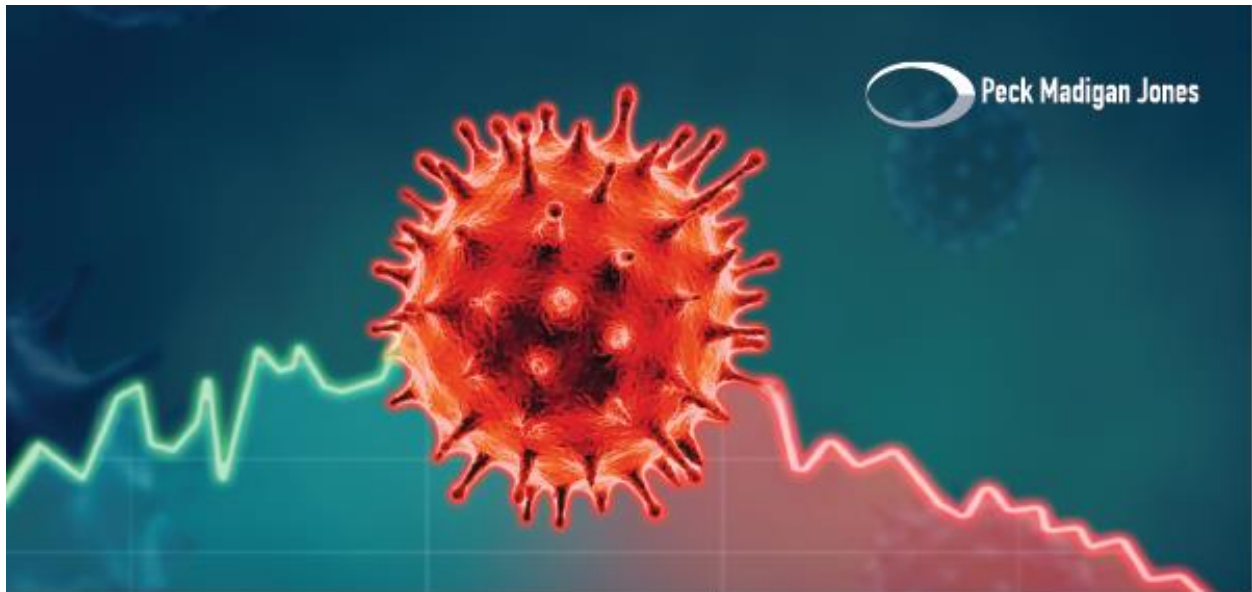




DAILY COVID-19 UPDATE

February 24, 2021

WHAT HAPPENED TODAY

Today, President Joe Biden signed an Executive Order (EO) on Securing America's Critical Supply Chains. Specifically, the EO requires a 100-day government review of the U.S. supply chains with a goal of ending the nation's reliance on China and other countries for critical goods such as active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs) for the development of prescription medications.

Additionally, the White House announced a new effort by the Biden Administration to deliver more than 25 million masks to the nation's most vulnerable populations. The masks will be sent to community health centers, food pantries, and soup kitchens beginning in March and into May.

A ruling from the Senate parliamentarian is expected as early as today on whether a provision to raise the minimum wage to \$15 an hour would violate the rules of the budget reconciliation process being used to pass a COVID-19 relief package.

Yesterday, Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (D-MD) announced that the House will vote Friday on the

LATEST STATISTICS

82,114,370 COVID-19 vaccines have been distributed in the U.S and **44,544,969** Americans have received the first dose.

There are a total of **112,409,584** confirmed cases worldwide, 2,492,420 deaths and 63,440,310 people have recovered.

There are **28,313,003** confirmed cases of the coronavirus in the U.S. and 504,295 deaths.

LATEST PMJ RESOURCES

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

[Coronavirus State Reopening Tracker](#)

American Rescue Plan following a House Rules Committee meeting that morning. The House Rules Committee released [new text](#) of the package earlier today.

Additionally, Sen. Susan Collins (R-ME) predicted that she doesn't see a single one of her Republican colleagues supporting President Biden's \$1.9 trillion coronavirus relief package. Meanwhile, President Biden indicated that the vote on the legislation will be close.

Notably, Johnson & Johnson's single dose COVID-19 vaccine has been found to be safe and provide 72% efficacy against moderate to severe illness. FDA's Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee (VRBPAC) is scheduled to [meet](#) on Friday to consider an emergency use authorization (EUA) for the vaccine. The company has indicated that if granted authorization, it will be able to provide [4 million doses](#) immediately upon approval, followed by 20 million doses in March.

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 Financial Services Chairwoman Maxine Waters' (D-CA) [opening statement](#) and Ranking Member Patrick McHenry's [opening statement](#) at the committee's hearing on monetary policy and the state of the economy.

SENATE

- Senate Banking Committee Chairman Sherrod Brown (D-OH) and Senator Bob Menendez (D-NJ) [introduced legislation](#) to expand access to housing counseling and assistance for households struggling to remain in their homes because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Administration

WHITE HOUSE

- White House Council of Economic Adviser Jared Bernstein [defended](#) President Biden's \$1.9 trillion COVID-19 stimulus plan.
- [Notice on the continuation](#) of the national emergency concerning the COVID-19 pandemic.

Articles of Interest

- 2/24 The Washington Post published an article titled, ["Focus on fate of \\$15 minimum wage in Senate as House prepares to take up Biden's \\$1.9 trillion relief bill."](#)
- 2/24 Politico published an article titled, ["Democrats' \\$1.9 Covid aid bill faces the Senate chopping block."](#)
- 2/24 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, ["Democrats' minimum-wage push hinges on Senate ruling."](#)
- 2/23 The Washington Post published an article titled, ["Moderate Senate Democrats target state aid fund in Biden Covid relief bill."](#)

PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

Congressional

HOUSE

- Rep. Nydia M. Velázquez (D-NY) introduced new legislation to combat vaccine hesitancy and misinformation around the vaccine, especially in communities of color. The [**Building COVID-19 Vaccine Confidence Act of 2021**](#) would direct the CDC to fund grants to state, local, territorial, and tribal health departments to conduct outreach on the vaccine's safety and efficacy.

SENATE

- Sens. Tim Scott (R-SC), Brian Schatz (D-HI), and Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH) reintroduced the bipartisan [**Telehealth Modernization Act**](#), which would update coverage restrictions that have long provided life-saving telehealth services for many of the nation's roughly 61 million Medicare beneficiaries.
- Sens. Tammy Duckworth (D-IL) and Susan Collins (R-ME) re-introduced bipartisan legislation to reduce healthcare costs and ensure parity for Veterans impacted by the COVID19 pandemic. The [**No Coronavirus Copays for Veterans Act**](#) would ensure that Veterans who receive health care from the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) are not liable for out-of-pocket costs for qualifying coronavirus preventive services.

Administration

THE WHITE HOUSE

- The White House released a [**fact sheet**](#) on President Joe Biden's new effort to deliver 25 million masks to disadvantaged U.S. communities to curb the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The White House released a [**fact sheet**](#) on President Joe Biden's upcoming Executive Order, "Securing America's Critical Supply Chains."

FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION

- The FDA issued a [**safety communication**](#) to inform patients and healthcare providers that pulse oximeters have limitations and a risk of inaccuracy under certain circumstances.

CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION

- CDC published a [webpage](#) titled, "VaccineFinder Public Display Checklist for Providers using the COVID Locating Health Provider Portal."
- CDC published a [webpage](#) titled, "How CDC Determines the Level for COVID-19 Travel Health Notices."
- CDC published a [Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report](#) (MMWR) titled, "Community Transmission of SARS-CoV-2 at Three Fitness Facilities — Hawaii, June–July 2020."
- CDC published a [Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report](#) (MMWR) titled, "COVID-19 Outbreak Among Attendees of an Exercise Facility — Chicago, Illinois, August–September 2020."

Articles of Interest

- 2/23 The Atlantic published an article titled, [“A Simple Rule of Thumb for Knowing When the Pandemic Is Over.”](#)
- 2/23 The New York Times published an article titled, [“Studies Examine Variant Surging in California, and the News Isn’t Good.”](#)
- 2/23 CNN published an article titled, [“Almost a third of people with 'mild' Covid-19 still battle symptoms months later, study finds.”](#)
- 2/24 The Atlantic published an article titled, [“Coronavirus Reinfection Will Soon Become Our Reality.”](#)
- 2/24 Axios published an article titled, [“For children, the COVID surge isn't over.”](#)