



DAILY COVID-19 UPDATE

March 4, 2021

WHAT HAPPENED TODAY

Today, the Senate voted 51-50 to begin debate on a \$1.9 trillion COVID-19 stimulus package, with Vice President Kamala Harris casting the tie-breaking vote.

In an effort to delay passage of the American Rescue Plan, Senate Republicans have pledged to file numerous amendments to the legislation. Sen. Ron Johnson (R-WI) is rallying his Republican colleagues to force as many votes on amendments as possible, stating he is "coming up with a process that keeps people from tiring out" including a "shift schedule."

Additionally, Sen. Johnson has promised to require Senate clerks to read the 700-page COVID-19 stimulus bill in its entirety on the floor, potentially delaying the floor debate and amendment process by an estimated 10 hours. In response, Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) stated Senate Democrats "want America to hear what's in the plan," so if Sen. Johnson wants it read "let everybody listen." After the reading, the Senate will then have 20 hours of debate on the bill.

LATEST STATISTICS

102,353,940 COVID-19 vaccines have been distributed in the U.S and **51,755,447** Americans have received the first dose.

There are a total of **115,013,896** confirmed cases worldwide, 2,555,733 deaths and 65,083,034 people have recovered.

There are **28,764,731** confirmed cases of the coronavirus in the U.S. and 518,458 deaths.

LATEST PMJ RESOURCES

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

[Coronavirus State Reopening Tracker](#)

The bill's vote-a-rama may now be pushed until Friday, as a result of delays on Wednesday in getting a Congressional Budget Office (CBO) score for the legislation to ensure it meets budget reconciliation restrictions. However, Leader Schumer has vowed the Senate will pass the coronavirus relief package this week "no matter how long it takes."

[President Biden EO Tracker](#)

[Lame Duck Preview Memo](#)

ECONOMIC UPDATE

Administration

FEDERAL RESERVE ("FED")

- Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell [reaffirmed his intention](#) to keep the central bank's easy-money policies in place until the labor market improves.

TREASURY

- Treasury announced that it [will open the application process](#) for the Emergency Capital Investment Program (ECIP), a new initiative designed to support access to capital in communities traditionally excluded from the financial system and that have struggled the most during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Articles of Interest

- 3/4 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, ["Democrats prepare to advance Covid-19 aid bill."](#)
- 3/4 The Washington Post published an article titled, ["Senate readies for grind to the finish line on Biden \\$1.9 trillion coronavirus relief bill."](#)
- 3/3 Politico published an article titled, ["Biden faces backlash over small business rescue overhaul."](#)

PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

Congressional

HOUSE

- Rep. Doris Matsui (D-CA) and Sen. Richard Blumenthal (D-CT) announced the introduction of [legislation](#) to restore full funding to the Prevention and Public Health Fund (PPHF). The Public Health Funding Prevents Pandemics Act would authorize and appropriate \$2 billion in Fiscal Year 2022 and each subsequent fiscal year to fully restore the PPHF.

Administration

FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION

- FDA Acting Commissioner Dr. Janet Woodcock and Dr. Janet Maynard, Director, Office of Orphan Products Development, penned an FDA Voices [blog](#)

post titled, "FDA Shows Sustained Support of Rare Disease Product Development During the Public Health Emergency."

NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

- NIH's [ACTIV-3 clinical trial](#), which is evaluating the safety and efficacy of investigational therapeutics for COVID-19 in hospitalized patients, has halted enrollment in two sub-studies examining two investigational monoclonal antibody therapies.

CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION

- CDC published a [web page](#) titled, "Interim Considerations: Preparing for the Potential Management of Anaphylaxis after COVID-19 Vaccination."
- CDC published a [web page](#) titled, "COVID-19 Vaccine Monitoring Systems for Pregnant People."
- CDC published a [Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report](#) titled, "Travel from the United Kingdom to the United States by a Symptomatic Patient Infected with the SARS-CoV-2 B.1.1.7 Variant — Texas, January 2021."
- CDC published a [Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report](#) titled, "First Identified Cases of SARS-CoV-2 Variant P.1 in the United States — Minnesota, January 2021."

Articles of Interest

- 3/3 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, ["mRNA Covid-19 Vaccines Are Fast to Make, but Hard to Scale."](#)
 - 3/3 Politico published an article titled, ["CDC delays guidelines for vaccinated people."](#)
 - 3/4 Stat published an article titled, ["The short-term, middle-term, and long-term future of the coronavirus."](#)
 - 3/4 CNN published an article titled, ["Fauci calls loosening Covid-19 restrictions inexplicable as variants threaten another surge."](#)
 - 3/4 KHN published an article titled, ["Coronavirus Deranges the Immune System in Complex and Deadly Ways."](#)
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LABOR UPDATE

Administration

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

- DOL released an [Unemployment Insurance Weekly Claims Report](#) for the week ending February 27.