



DAILY COVID-19 UPDATE

March 5, 2021

WHAT HAPPENED TODAY

Today, Senate Democrats reached an agreement to keep boosted unemployment benefits at \$300 per week through October 4 and make the first \$10,200 of the 2020 benefits tax deductible. However, Sen. Joe Manchin (D-WV) has held up the vote on the amendment, stating he will not yet commit to supporting it and may support Senator Rob Portman's (R-OH) proposal to extend \$300 unemployment benefits until July 18.

Senate Democrats have expressed concern that passing any GOP changes to the unemployment benefits would result in another round of negotiations with the House and President Biden, which would push passage of the bill closer to March 14 when the current enhanced unemployment benefits are set to expire.

Additionally, the Senate voted 58-42 to block a proposal sponsored by Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-VT) to raise the federal minimum wage to \$15 per hour. Eight Democratic Senators voted against the measure, including Sens. Manchin, Kyrsten Sinema (D-AZ), Chris Coons (D-DE), and Tom Carper (D-

LATEST STATISTICS

109,905,530 COVID-19 vaccines have been distributed in the U.S and **54,035,670** Americans have received the first dose.

There are a total of **115,913,859** confirmed cases worldwide, 2,576,079 deaths and 65,535,887 people have recovered.

There are **28,873,800** confirmed cases of the coronavirus in the U.S. and 522,221 deaths.

LATEST PMJ RESOURCES

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

[Coronavirus State Reopening Tracker](#)

DE), Jon Tester (D-MT), Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH), Maggie Hassan (D-NE), and Angus King (I-ME), who caucuses with Senate Democrats.

Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) reiterated his promise that the Senate will "power through" and pass the coronavirus relief package, no matter how "long it takes." He also warned of a lengthy vote-a-rama process, which began this afternoon following three hours of debate this morning. Republicans are expected to offer a slew of amendments, which will push the final vote on the COVID-19 stimulus bill into the weekend.

Yesterday, Sen. Ron Johnson (R-WI) forced a reading of the 628-page coronavirus relief package in its entirety on the floor, which delayed the floor debate and amendment process by nearly 11 hours.

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

[President Biden EO Tracker](#)

[Lame Duck Preview Memo](#)

ECONOMIC UPDATE

Congress HOUSE

- Speaker Nancy Pelosi's (D-CA) [statement](#) on the February Jobs Report.

Administration

WHITE HOUSE

- The White House released an update on ["The Employment Situation in February."](#)

Articles of Interest

- 3/5 The Washington Post published an article titled, ["What's in the Senate's \\$1.9 trillion covid bill: Checks, unemployment insurance and more."](#)
- 3/5 Politico published an article titled, ["8 Democrats defect on \\$15 minimum wage hike."](#)
- 3/5 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, ["Pandemic-hit industries gain jobs on long road to recovery."](#)
- 3/5 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, ["Democrats agree to lower additional federal jobless benefits to \\$300 a week in Covid-19 aid bill."](#)

PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

Congressional

HOUSE

- Reps. Veronica Escobar (D-TX), Juan Vargas (D-CA), Raúl Grijalva (D-AZ), Ann Kirkpatrick (D-AZ), Tony Gonzales (R-TX), Henry Cuellar (D-TX), Vicente Gonzalez (D-TX), and Filemon Vela (D-TX), reintroduced H.R. 1538, the Binational Health Strategies Act of 2021. This bipartisan [legislation](#) is designed to protect border communities against the COVID-19 pandemic by amending the United States-Mexico Border Health Commission Act to direct the U.S.-Mexico Border Health Commission to assemble a report on COVID-19 response along the border and create binational plans addressing COVID-19 and future infectious diseases.

Administration

FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION

- FDA issued [guidance](#) on glass vials and stoppers for approved sterile drug products, including biologics.

CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION

- CDC published a [Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report](#) titled, "The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices' Interim Recommendation for Use of Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine — United States, February 2021."
- CDC published a [Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report](#) titled, "Estimated SARS-CoV-2 Seroprevalence Among Persons Aged <18 Years — Mississippi, May–September 2020."
- CDC published a [Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report](#) titled, "Reduction in COVID-19 Patients Requiring Mechanical Ventilation Following Implementation of a National COVID-19 Vaccination Program — Israel, December 2020–February 2021."

Articles of Interest

- 3/3 CNBC published an article titled, [“Insurers launch pilot program aimed at getting 2 million American seniors vaccinated.”](#)
- 3/4 Axios published an article titled, [“The danger of a fourth wave.”](#)
- 3/4 ABC News published an article titled, [“Which states have dropped mask mandates and why.”](#)
- 3/4 The Hill published an article titled, [“Most virus deaths recorded in nations with high obesity levels: analysis.”](#)
- 3/5 The New York Times published an article titled, [“U.S. Vaccination Pace Increases to 2 Million Doses a Day.”](#)

LABOR UPDATE

Administration

BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS

- BLS released a [jobs report](#) for the month of February. It found that the economy added 379,000 jobs last month, holding the unemployment rate steady at 6.2%.