WHAT HAPPENED TODAY

Over the weekend, after a 25-hour debate and vote-a-rama, the Senate voted 50-49, along party lines, to pass the American Rescue Plan. The legislation includes, among other things, $1400 in direct stimulus payments; $350 billion in state and local aid; funding for COVID-19 vaccine distribution and testing; an extension of boosted unemployment benefits at $300 per week through September 6; 100% subsidy for COBRA insurance coverage for unemployed Americans; incentives for states to expand Medicaid; an expansion of Affordable Care Act subsidies; $7.5 billion for the Paycheck Protection Program; an elimination of the Medicaid drug rebate cap; and $47.8 billion for implementation of a national evidence-based testing strategy.

The $1.9 trillion coronavirus relief package is set to go back to the House for final approval as early as tomorrow before President Joe Biden signs it into law.

House progressives have expressed some frustration over the lowered unemployment benefits, reduced income thresholds for stimulus checks, and removal of the minimum wage increase. However,

LATEST STATISTICS

116,378,615 COVID-19 vaccines have been distributed in the U.S and 60,005,231 Americans have received the first dose.

There are a total of 117,055,507 confirmed cases worldwide, 2,597,213 deaths and 66,283,143 people have recovered.

There are 29,030,476 confirmed cases of the coronavirus in the U.S. and 525,541 deaths.

LATEST PMJ RESOURCES

Drug Shortage and Medical Supply Chain Tracker
Coronavirus State Reopening Tracker
Congressional Progressive Caucus Chair Pramila Jayapal (D-WA) declared continued support for the package, stating “the reality is that the final amendments were relatively minor concessions.”

Additionally, the CDC released highly anticipated guidance that individuals who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 can gather indoors with other vaccinated individuals without distancing or wearing masks.

We have updated our Coronavirus State Reopening Tracker and the Drug Shortage and Medical Supply Chain Tracker. Both are linked under Latest PMJ Resources.

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**ECONOMIC UPDATE**

**Congress**

**SENATE**

- Senate Finance Committee Chairman Ron Wyden (D-OR) secured new county and tribal payment programs in COVID-19 relief package.
- Senate Finance Committee Ranking Member Mike Crapo’s (R-ID) statement on the American Rescue Plan.
- Senate Banking Committee Chairman Sherrod Brown’s (D-OH) statement on the passage of the American Rescue Plan.

**Administration**

**FEDERAL RESERVE (“FED”)**

- The Federal Reserve will extend its Paycheck Protection Program Liquidity Facility (PPPLF) by three months to June 30, 2021.
- The Federal Reserve clarifies guidance as it relates to definitions for minority depository institutions.

**TREASURY**

- Statement from Secretary Janet Yellen on the passage of the American Rescue Plan.

**Articles of Interest**

- 3/8 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, “Congress is poised to upend tax season with new break for unemployment benefits.”
- 3/8 The Washington Post published an article titled, “House set to take up $1.9 trillion stimulus, putting Biden on track to sign this week.”
PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

Congressional

HOUSE
- Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) issued a statement after the Senate passed the American Rescue Plan.

SENATE
- Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) delivered remarks regarding Democrats' coronavirus relief bill.

Administration

WHITE HOUSE
- The White House released a transcript of today's press briefing by the COVID-19 response team and public health officials.
- The White House released a transcript of remarks by President Joe Biden on the Senate passage of the American Rescue Plan.

FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION
- On Friday, the FDA issued an emergency use authorization (EUA) for the at-home Cue COVID-19 test. The product is a molecular nucleic acid amplification test (NAAT) that is intended to detect genetic material from SARS-CoV-2 virus present in the nostrils. The test is the first molecular test authorized for at-home use without a prescription.
- On Friday, the FDA issued an EUA for the T-Detect COVID Test developed by Adaptive Biotechnologies. The T-Detect COVID test is a next generation sequencing based (NGS) test to aid in identifying individuals with an adaptive T cell immune response to SARS-CoV-2, indicating recent or prior COVID-19 infection.

NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH
- NIH has launched the last of three Phase 3 clinical trials to evaluate the safety and effectiveness of blood thinners to prevent life-threatening blood clots in adults diagnosed with COVID-19. The first patient in the trial was enrolled on February 15.

CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION
- CDC issued guidance on activities that fully vaccinated individuals can safely resume while continuing to protect themselves and others.

Articles of Interest
- 3/8 CNN published an article titled, "Here's how close the U.S. is to a possible COVID-19 surge, experts warn."
- 3/8 The Washington Post published an article titled, "Fully vaccinated people can visit with nearby grandchildren, dine indoors with one another, CDC says."
• 3/7 Politico published an article titled, "Biden team plots the country's first national COVID testing strategy."