



## DAILY COVID-19 UPDATE

March 11, 2021

### WHAT HAPPENED TODAY

Today, President Joe Biden signed the \$1.9 trillion coronavirus relief package, the American Rescue Plan, into law. During the signing, President Biden stated the "historic legislation is about rebuilding the backbone of this country." According to White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki, some individuals could begin receiving the \$1,400 direct stimulus payments as early as this weekend.

Additionally, President Biden is set to deliver his first [primetime address](#) at 8 p.m. ET tonight to commemorate the one-year anniversary since COVID-19 was officially declared a pandemic by the World Health Organization and the shutdown began.

Notably, House Small Business Committee Chairwoman Nydia Velázquez (D-NY) and Ranking Member Blaine Luetkemeyer (R-MO) [reached a bipartisan agreement](#) to extend the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) for two months past the current March 31 termination date. The House is expected to vote on the legislation next week before lawmakers leave Washington for their spring recess through mid-April.

### LATEST STATISTICS

**131,131,470** COVID-19 vaccines have been distributed in the U.S and **64,071,674** Americans have received the first dose.

There are a total of **118,339,476** confirmed cases worldwide, 2,625,132 deaths and 66,784,879 people have recovered.

There are **29,197,519** confirmed cases of the coronavirus in the U.S. and 530,179 deaths.

### LATEST PMJ RESOURCES

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

[Coronavirus State Reopening Tracker](#)

Since our last update, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has released guidance related to the coronavirus pandemic. Please see below for more details.

[Biden Administration Transition Tracker](#)

[President Biden EO Tracker](#)

[Policy Outlook for the Biden Administration and 117th Congress](#)

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## ECONOMIC UPDATE

### *Congress*

#### HOUSE

- House Financial Services Committee Democrats [issued a press release](#) outlining the provisions in the American Rescue Plan Act authored by the Financial Services Committee majority.
- Chairwoman Water's [opening statement](#) at the committee's hearing on the "need to help consumers during the pandemic."
- House Financial Services Committee Ranking Member Patrick McHenry (R-NC) [reintroduced](#) a bill titled the Protecting Consumer Access to Credit Act (H.R. 1645) to help consumers during the pandemic.

#### Articles of Interest

- 3/11 The Washington Post published an article titled, "[Biden signs \\$1.9 trillion stimulus into law, some to see stimulus payments this weekend.](#)"
- 3/11 Politico published an article titled, "[Democratic centrists balk at more red ink after Covid spending spree.](#)"

## PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

### *Congressional*

#### HOUSE

- Yesterday, Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) delivered [remarks](#) on the House floor in support of the American Rescue Plan.
- Yesterday, Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) delivered [remarks](#) at a bill enrollment photo opportunity on the Upper West Terrace of the Capitol for the American Rescue Plan.
- House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-CA) sent a [letter](#) to Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) urging the return of the U.S. Capitol to pre-pandemic operations. Leader McCarthy also asked about ending proxy voting and virtual meetings, and easing masking requirements, among other things.

#### SENATE

- Sen. Patty Murray (D-WA) led 19 of her Democratic colleagues in re-introducing the Public Health Infrastructure Saves Lives Act (PHISLA). The [legislation](#) would establish a new core public health infrastructure program, which would ensure a dedicated \$4.5 billion fund to fight the COVID-19 pandemic and strengthen our nation's ability to respond to future public health emergencies and challenges.

## ***Administration***

### **WHITE HOUSE**

- Vice President Kamala Harris participated in a [virtual meeting](#) with Americans she met during her first 50 days in office to discuss the passage of the American Rescue Plan.
- The White House published a [blog post](#) titled, "How Working Americans Will Receive Their Direct Payments."
- The White House released a transcript of President Joe Biden's [remarks](#) at yesterday's event with the CEOs of Johnson & Johnson and Merck.

### **CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION**

- CDC issued [interim guidance](#) for risk assessment and work restrictions for healthcare personnel with potential exposure to COVID-19.
- CDC issued updated healthcare infection prevention and control [recommendations](#) in response to COVID-19 vaccination.
- CDC issued [strategies](#) to mitigate healthcare personnel staffing shortages.
- CDC Director Dr. Rochelle Walensky issued a [media statement](#) in observance of the one-year pandemic milestone.
- CDC published a [Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report](#) (MMWR) titled, "Racial and Ethnic Disparities in COVID-19 Incidence by Age, Sex, and Period Among Persons Aged <25 Years — 16 U.S. Jurisdictions, January 1–December 31, 2020."

### **Articles of Interest**

- 3/11 Axios published an article titled, "[America's nightmarish year is finally coming to an end.](#)"
- 3/11 The Hill published an article titled, "[Experts warn of loneliness epidemic worsening alongside COVID-19.](#)"
- 3/10 Politico published an article titled, "[Virus drove record U.S. death rate in 2020, CDC finds.](#)"
- 3/10 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, "[Covid-19 Variant Vaccine From Moderna Begins Human Testing.](#)"
- 3/11 AP News published an article titled, "[A year on, WHO still struggling to manage pandemic response.](#)"

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## **LABOR UPDATE**

### ***Administration***

#### **DEPARTMENT OF LABOR**

- DOL released its [Unemployment Insurance Weekly Claims Report](#) for the week ending March 6.

