



DAILY COVID-19 UPDATE

March 12, 2021

WHAT HAPPENED TODAY

Today, President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris delivered remarks on the American Rescue Plan at a Rose Garden event. President Biden touted the passage of the relief bill, saying "It's going to make a difference in the lives of millions of people in concrete, specific ways."

In his first primetime address last night, President Biden directed states to expand COVID-19 vaccine eligibility to all adults by May 1, with a goal of returning to normalcy by the beginning of July. He also outlined the Administration's other priorities to ramp up vaccination including, among other things, an increase in the number of community health centers, pharmacies, and mass vaccination centers where Americans can get inoculated; an expansion of the types of professionals that can administer vaccines by making dentists, optometrists, veterinarians, midwives, paramedics, and others eligible; and plans for a federally supported website to be released by May 1 to help people find vaccine appointments.

LATEST STATISTICS

133,337,525 COVID-19 vaccines have been distributed in the U.S and **65,965,305** Americans have received the first dose.

There are a total of **118,867,662** confirmed cases worldwide, 2,634,979 deaths and 67,329,604 people have recovered.

There are **29,330,642** confirmed cases of the coronavirus in the U.S. and 532,151 deaths.

LATEST PMJ RESOURCES

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

[Coronavirus State Reopening Tracker](#)

President Biden and Vice President Harris will embark next week on a nationwide "Help is Here" tour to explain and promote the \$1.9 trillion coronavirus relief legislation.

Notably, in an interview with MSNBC yesterday, NIAID Director Dr. Anthony Fauci stated it is "entirely conceivable" that the coronavirus will become a constant threat that requires regular vaccine boosters to control. He added "it is unlikely we will eradicate" [COVID-19] because it is so widespread.

[Biden Administration Transition Tracker](#)

[President Biden EO Tracker](#)

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

ECONOMIC UPDATE

Congress

SENATE

- Senate Small Business Committee Chairman Ben Cardin (D-MD), along with Senators Susan Collins (R-ME) and Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH), [introduced](#) the *PPP Extension Act of 2021*.
- Senate Finance Committee Ranking Member Mike Crapo (R-ID) [urged](#) Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen to follow a strong oversight framework for the American Rescue Plan.
- Senate Majority Whip Dick Durbin (D-IL), along with 20 other Democratic members, [sent a letter](#) to Secretary Yellen and Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Commissioner Charles Rettig urging Treasury and IRS to ensure unemployment insurance recipients are aware of the new tax exemptions included in the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.

Administration

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION (SBA)

- The Small Business Administration [issued a press release](#) titled, "American Rescue Plan Act Elevates Small Business Support in Response to COVID-19 Pandemic."

Articles of Interest

- 3/12 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, ["New Covid-19 unemployment benefits to keep stimulus flowing through summer."](#)
- 3/11 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, ["Child tax credit: How the Covid-19 stimulus package gives additional money to families."](#)

PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

Congressional

HOUSE

- Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) delivered [remarks](#) at today's Rose Garden event celebrating the passage of the American Rescue Plan.

Administration

WHITE HOUSE

- The White House released a [fact sheet](#) titled, "President Biden Expands Efforts to Recruit More Vaccinators."
- The White House released a transcript of President Joe Biden's [remarks](#) on the one-year anniversary of the COVID-19 shutdown.
- The White House released a [fact sheet](#) titled, "President Biden to Announce All Americans to be Eligible for Vaccinations by May 1, Puts the Nation on a Path to Get Closer to Normal by July 4th."
- The White House released a transcript of [remarks](#) by President Joe Biden at the signing of the American Rescue Plan.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

- HHS [amended](#) the Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness Act (PREP Act) to add additional categories of qualified people authorized to prescribe, dispense, and administer COVID-19 vaccines, including dentists, EMTs, midwives, optometrists, paramedics, physician assistants, podiatrists, respiratory therapists, and veterinarians.
- HHS [announced](#) that an additional 700 HRSA-supported health centers will be invited to join the Health Center COVID-19 Vaccine Program. These health centers will have the opportunity to join the program over the next six weeks, increasing the total number of invited health center participants to 950.

Articles of Interest

- 3/10 KFF published an article titled, "[Are Health Centers Facilitating Equitable Access to COVID-19 Vaccinations?](#)"
- 3/11 NPR published an article titled, "[Moderna And Pfizer On Track To Hit Vaccine Production Goals.](#)"
- 3/11 The Washington Post published an article titled, "[Biden directs states to make all adults eligible for vaccine by May 1.](#)"
- 3/11 Wall Street Journal published an article titled, "[Covid-19 Vaccine From Pfizer-BioNTech Was 97% Effective at Preventing Illness in Israel.](#)"
- 3/11 Politico published an article titled, "[Biden's new COVID workplace rules set to collide with reopenings.](#)"

LABOR UPDATE

Administration

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

- DOL's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) launched a [national program](#) focused on enforcement efforts on companies that put the largest number of workers at serious risk of contracting the coronavirus. The program also prioritizes employers that retaliate against workers for complaints about unsafe or unhealthy conditions, or for exercising other rights protected by federal law.

