



DAILY COVID-19 UPDATE

March 15, 2021

WHAT HAPPENED TODAY

Today, President Joe Biden announced he has appointed Gene Sperling to lead implementation of the American Rescue Plan. President Biden stated the \$1.9 trillion legislation "requires fastidious oversight to make sure the relief arrives quickly, equitably and efficiently, with no waste or fraud," and Mr. Sperling is "ready to get to work" to accomplish this goal.

Mr. Sperling led the White House Economic Council under Presidents Bill Clinton and Barack Obama, and served as an informal advisor to President Biden during his presidential campaign. Mr. Sperling will coordinate with heads of White House policy councils and federal agencies in order to "get funds out the door quickly, maximize its impact, accelerate the work the administration is doing to crush COVID-19, and rescue our economy."

Additionally, the Biden Administration is launching the "Help is Here" tour to "communicate directly with Americans about how the Rescue Plan is helping them and their families." Tomorrow, President Biden will travel to Pennsylvania to "highlight how the

LATEST STATISTICS

135,847,835 COVID-19 vaccines have been distributed in the U.S and **71,054,445** Americans have received the first dose.

There are a total of **120,049,867** confirmed cases worldwide, **2,657,106** deaths and **68,049,452** people have recovered.

There are **29,459,032** confirmed cases of the coronavirus in the U.S. and **535,176** deaths.

LATEST PMJ RESOURCES

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

[Coronavirus State Reopening Tracker](#)

Rescue Plan invests in small businesses ... so they can rehire and retain workers."

Notably, the House is expected to consider a bill this week to extend the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) until the end of May. Without an extension, the program is set to terminate on March 31.

We have updated our Drug Shortage and Medical Supply Chain Tracker. This is linked under Latest PMJ Resources.

[Biden Administration Transition Tracker](#)

[President Biden EO Tracker](#)

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

ECONOMIC UPDATE

Administration

TREASURY

- Treasury [announced](#) that Economic Impact Payments from the American Rescue Plan will begin rolling out in tranches to millions of Americans in the coming weeks.

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION (SBA)

- The Small Business Administration [announced](#) extended deferment periods for all disaster loans, including the COVID-19 Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) program, until 2022.

Articles of Interest

- 3/15 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, [“Biden expected to tap Gene Sperling to implement Covid relief plan.”](#)
- 3/14 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, [“White House weighs how to pay for long-term economic program.”](#)

PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

Congressional

SENATE

- A group of 11 Democratic senators sent a [letter](#) to the COVID-19 Health Equity Task Force requesting guidance to address disparities in vaccination rates.
- Sens. Tammy Duckworth (D-IL), Jeff Merkley (D-OR) and Elizabeth Warren (D-MA) sent a [letter](#) to the CDC requesting more guidance on COVID-19 vaccine safety and efficacy for pregnant individuals.

Administration

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

- HHS released a [fact sheet](#) titled, "The American Rescue Plan: Reduces Health Care Costs, Expands Access to Insurance Coverage and Addresses Health Care Disparities."

CENTERS FOR MEDICARE & MEDICAID SERVICES

- CMS issued a [fact sheet](#) titled, "American Rescue Plan and the Marketplace."

FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION

- FDA issued an [Emergency Use Authorization \(EUA\)](#) for Propofol-Lipuro 1% injectable emulsion for infusion to maintain sedation via continuous infusion in certain patients who require mechanical ventilation in an intensive care unit setting during the COVID-19 public health emergency.
- FDA issued an [alert](#) to clinical laboratory staff, point-of-care facility staff and health care providers regarding the occurrence of false positive results with the Roche Molecular Systems, Inc. cobas SARS-CoV-2 & Influenza A/B Nucleic Acid Test for use on the cobas Liat System.

Articles of Interest

- 3/11 Congressional Research Service published a report titled, "[COVID-19 Variants: Vaccines, Diagnostics, and Therapeutics.](#)"
- 3/13 Bloomberg published an article titled, "[Biden's Gamble on Covid Vaccine Depends on a Lot Going Right.](#)"
- 3/14 The New York Times published an article titled, "[A new study suggests 3 feet, not 6 feet, is sufficient distance for school students, with mask-wearing and other safety measures kept in place.](#)"
- 3/15 Stat published an article titled, "[The White House is set to unveil a wide-reaching, billion-dollar campaign aimed at convincing every American to get vaccinated.](#)"