



## DAILY COVID-19 UPDATE

March 19, 2021

### WHAT HAPPENED TODAY

Today, the U.S. **reached** President Joe Biden's goal of administering 100 million COVID-19 vaccine doses -- 42 days ahead of the target date of his 100th day in office. With the nation now administering 2.5 million shots per day, President Biden signaled he will set a new goal next week, stating, "We may be able to double it."

Additionally, President Biden **announced** his intent to nominate Dawn O'Connell for the position of Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) at the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Ms. O'Connell currently serves as Senior Counselor to the Secretary for COVID-19. She most recently served as Director of the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations and was the Senior Counselor and Deputy Chief of Staff to HHS Secretary Sylvia Burwell during the Obama Administration.

Notably, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released relaxed social distancing **guidance** for schools, noting that students can maintain a separation of three feet instead of six

### LATEST STATISTICS

**154,199,235** COVID-19 vaccines have been distributed in the U.S and **77,230,061** Americans have received the first dose.

There are a total of **122,079,358** confirmed cases worldwide, **2,695,729** deaths and **69,131,938** people have recovered.

There are **29,708,451** confirmed cases of the coronavirus in the U.S. and **540,533** deaths.

### LATEST PMJ RESOURCES

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

[Coronavirus State Reopening Tracker](#)

feet in classrooms, so long as there is universal masking.

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

[Biden Administration Transition Tracker](#)

[President Biden EO Tracker](#)

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

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## ECONOMIC UPDATE

### *Congressional*

#### SENATE

- Sen. Marco Rubio (R-FL) introduced [legislation](#) to extend the covered period for the Paycheck Protection Program (S. 815), which is a Senate Republican version of the House-passed Paycheck Protection Program Extension Act.
- Senate Banking Committee Chairman Sherrod Brown (D-OH), along with Sens. Robert Menendez (D-NJ) and Chris Van Hollen (D-MD), [criticized](#) Senate Republicans for blocking their legislation to protect relief checks provided in the American Rescue Plan from garnishment by private debt collectors.

#### HOUSE

- House Small Business Committee Chairwoman Nydia M. Velázquez (D-NY) issued a [statement](#) after the Small Business Administration (SBA) announced the Shuttered Venue Operators Grant (SVOG) program would start accepting applications on April 8, 2021.

### *Administration*

#### TREASURY

- Treasury issued a [press release](#) titled, “The American Rescue Plan Will Deliver Immediate Economic Relief to Families.”

#### FEDERAL RESERVE

- The Federal Reserve Board [announced](#) that the temporary change to its supplementary leverage ratio, or SLR, for bank holding companies will expire as scheduled on March 31.

#### Articles of Interest

- 3/19 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, [“Federal Reserve to End Emergency Capital Relief for Big Banks.”](#)
- 3/19 The Hill published an article titled, [“Fed allows COVID-19 capital requirement exemption to lapse.”](#)

## PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

## ***Congressional***

### **HOUSE**

- Reps. Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-WA), Brett Guthrie (R-KY), and Morgan Griffith (R-VA) sent a [letter](#) to NIH Director Dr. Francis Collins requesting an independent, scientific investigation into the origins of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Rep. Buddy Carter (R-GA) reintroduced the State Strategic Stockpile Readiness Act, [legislation](#) that would establish a pilot program to award dollar-for-dollar federal matching grants to states to expand or maintain a strategic stockpile of commercially available drugs, medical equipment, personal protective equipment, and other medical products deemed essential in the event of a public health emergency.
- At a press conference earlier this week, Reps. Rosa DeLauro (D-CT), Jan Schakowsky (D-IL), Earl Blumenauer (D-OR), Lloyd Doggett (D-TX), Adriano Espaillat (D-NY), and Andy Levin (D-MI) [urged](#) President Biden to support an emergency temporary waiver of some Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) rules so that greater supplies of vaccines, treatments, and diagnostic tests can be produced globally.

## ***Administration***

### **THE WHITE HOUSE**

- The White House released a transcript of [remarks](#) by President Joe Biden on the 100 Million Shot Goal.

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

- CDC issued updated [guidance](#) and operational strategy for K-12 schools to safely re-open and remain open.
- CDC published a [Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report](#) titled, "Association of Children's Mode of School Instruction with Child and Parent Experiences and Well-Being During the COVID-19 Pandemic — COVID Experiences Survey, United States, October 8–November 13, 2020."
- CDC published a [Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report](#) titled, "Notes from the Field: SARS-CoV-2 Transmission Associated with High School Football Team Members — Florida, September–October 2020."
- CDC published a [Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report](#) titled, "Minimal SARS-CoV-2 Transmission After Implementation of a Comprehensive Mitigation Strategy at a School — New Jersey, August 20–November 27, 2020."

### **Articles of Interest**

- 3/19 CNN published an article titled, ["Europe has missed its chance to stop the third wave. The US could be next."](#)
- 3/19 CNN published an article titled, ["Here's what experts say is needed for US to return to normal. But these barriers stand in the way."](#)
- 3/18 The Atlantic published an article titled, ["The Clearest Sign the Pandemic Could Get Worse."](#)
- 3/18 The Washington Post published an article titled, ["These children had covid-19. Now, they have long-haul symptoms."](#)
- 3/18 NPR published an article titled, ["Addressing Racial Divides In Health Care Seen As Key To Boosting Black Vaccination."](#)

