



DAILY COVID-19 UPDATE

March 25, 2021

WHAT HAPPENED TODAY

Today, President Joe Biden held his first news conference since taking office. Among other things, he announced a new goal of administering 200 million COVID-19 vaccine doses in his first 100 days in office.

Earlier in the day, the White House announced that the Biden Administration will **invest \$10 billion** from the American Rescue Plan to expand access to COVID-19 vaccines. Specifically, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) will allocate \$6 billion to community health centers to increase access to vaccines, testing, and treatment for vulnerable populations; \$3 billion to increase vaccine confidence and equity; and \$330 million for community health workers to support COVID-19 prevention and control. In addition, the Administration also announced the launch of a new partnership to provide vaccines directly to outpatient dialysis treatment centers so that patients can get vaccinated at their place of care.

Additionally, the Senate voted 90-2 to pass legislation that would postpone the 2% Medicare sequester

LATEST STATISTICS

173,525,335 COVID-19 vaccines have been distributed in the U.S and **87,343,622** Americans have received the first dose.

There are a total of **125,234,087** confirmed cases worldwide, **2,749,397** deaths and **70,989,442** people have recovered.

There are **30,058,622** confirmed cases of the coronavirus in the U.S. and **545,941** deaths.

LATEST PMJ RESOURCES

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

[Coronavirus State Reopening Tracker](#)

payment cuts until the end of the year. The current moratorium expires on March 31 and the bill now goes back to the House for a vote. However, the chamber does not return from its spring recess until April 13. As such, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services could possibly delay payment of claims in early April.

The Senate also overwhelmingly passed legislation to extend the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) by a vote of 92 to 7. The legislation extends the program to May 31 and gives the Small Business Administration (SBA) until June 30 to process the applications.

[Biden Administration Transition Tracker](#)

[President Biden EO Tracker](#)

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

ECONOMIC UPDATE

Congressional

SENATE

- Senate Finance Committee Ranking Member Mike Crapo (R-ID) [urged](#) Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen to give states maximum flexibility to use COVID relief funds.
- Senate Banking Committee Chairman Sherrod Brown's (D-OH) [opening statement](#) and Ranking Member Pat Toomey's (R-PA) [opening statement](#) at the committee's hearing on the American Rescue Plan.

Administration

TREASURY

- Treasury, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), and the Bureau of the Fiscal Service [announced](#) they are disbursing approximately 37 million payments in the second batch of Economic Impact Payments from the American Rescue Plan.

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION (SBA)

- The Small Business Administration is [increasing the maximum amount](#) small businesses and non-profit organizations can borrow through its COVID-19 Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) program.

INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE (IRS)

- The Internal Revenue Service's Criminal Investigation Division (IRS-CI) marks the one-year anniversary of the CARES Act by [pledging its continued commitment](#) to investigate COVID-19 fraud.

Articles of Interest

- 3/25 Politico published an article titled, ["Senate overwhelmingly votes to extend small business rescue."](#)

- 3/25 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, "[U.S. jobless claims reach lowest level of the pandemic.](#)"
- 3/25 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, "[Powell says now is not the time to focus on reducing federal debt.](#)"
- 3/24 The Washington Post published an article titled, "[Biden administration eyes extended ban on renter evictions as stimulus delays, landlord lawsuits loom.](#)"

PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

Congressional

HOUSE

- Reps. Kevin Brady (R-TX), Devin Nunes (R-CA), Mike Kelly (R-PA), Tom Reed (R-NY), and Lloyd Smucker (R-PA) sent a [letter](#) to HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra requesting data to resolve unanswered questions about what happened in states that required nursing homes to admit or re-admit COVID-19 infected residents -- regardless of whether the nursing homes could comply with CDC guidelines.

Administration

WHITE HOUSE

- The White House issued a [fact sheet](#) titled, "Biden Administration Announces Historic \$10 Billion Investment to Expand Access to COVID-19 Vaccines and Build Vaccine Confidence in Hardest-Hit and Highest-Risk Communities."
- The White House released a transcript of yesterday's [press briefing](#) by the COVID-19 response team and public health officials.

CENTERS FOR MEDICARE & MEDICAID SERVICES

- CMS released new [data](#) detailing the impact of COVID-19 on Medicare beneficiaries, particularly among underserved beneficiaries including racial and ethnic minorities, adults 85 years old and older, and people with certain pre-existing conditions. Between January 1, 2020 and December 26, 2020, more than 2.7 million beneficiaries were diagnosed with COVID-19 and nearly 700,000 beneficiaries were hospitalized with the virus.

CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION

- CDC [announced](#) the Administration's plans to provide \$300 million to jurisdictions for community health worker services to support COVID-19 prevention and control, and an additional \$32 million for training, technical assistance, and evaluation.
- CDC Director Dr. Rochelle Walensky issued a [media statement](#) on COVID-19 vaccination at dialysis centers.

Articles of Interest

- 3/25 The Independent published an article titled, "[AstraZeneca vaccine is 76% effective against symptomatic Covid, latest trial data says.](#)"
- 3/24 Politico published an article titled, "[Vaccines alone won't end Covid. Biden's new testing strategy could help finish the job.](#)"

- 3/24 The Hill published an article titled, "[US records over 30M coronavirus cases amid vaccination effort.](#)"
 - 3/24 Roll Call published an article titled, "[Fauci: US may 'turn the corner' on virus, but spring break poses big risks.](#)"
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LABOR UPDATE

Administration

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

- DOL released its [Unemployment Insurance Weekly Claims Report](#) for the week ending March 20.