



DAILY COVID-19 UPDATE

March 30, 2021

WHAT HAPPENED TODAY

Today, President Joe Biden [signed](#) the PPP Extension Act of 2021 (H.R. 1799) into law. The bill will extend the application deadline to May 31 and give the Small Business Administration additional time to process applications. The bill passed both the House and Senate in recent weeks with overwhelming bipartisan support.

Additionally, the leaders of 23 countries joined the World Health Organization to call for a [global pandemic treaty](#) that would prepare future generations for public health emergencies.

Notably, in a [survey](#) conducted by the People's Vaccine Alliance, nearly 33% of epidemiologists, infectious disease specialists, and virologists believe the COVID-19 vaccines will have an efficacy window of nine months or less. Furthermore, 88% of the experts said that persistent low vaccine coverage in many countries will make it more likely for resistant variants to appear.

LATEST STATISTICS

189,451,285 COVID-19 vaccines have been distributed in the U.S and **96,044,046** Americans have received the first dose.

There are a total of **127,987,404** confirmed cases worldwide, **2,796,994** deaths and **72,610,560** people have recovered.

There are **30,378,955** confirmed cases of the coronavirus in the U.S. and **550,688** deaths.

LATEST PMJ RESOURCES

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

[Coronavirus State Reopening Tracker](#)

[Biden Administration Transition Tracker](#)

[President Biden EO Tracker](#)

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

ECONOMIC UPDATE

Congressional

SENATE

- Senate Finance Committee Chairman Ron Wyden (D-OR), along with 20 other Senate Democrats, [urged](#) President Biden to include recurring direct payments to individuals and enhanced unemployment benefits for the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic in his Build Back Better plan.

Administration

TREASURY

- Treasury and the IRS [announced](#) that Economic Impact Payments will begin to be issued this weekend to Social Security recipients and other federal beneficiaries who do not normally file a tax return.
- Deputy Treasury Secretary Wally Adeyemo [met virtually](#) with racial and economic justice leaders to discuss Treasury's commitment to equitable implementation of the American Rescue Plan.

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

- The Small Business Administration [revised](#) the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) platform procedures for addressing hold codes on first draw PPP loans and compliance check error messages on first draw PPP loans and second draw PPP loans.

INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE (IRS)

- The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) [issued FAQs](#) on how students and higher education institutions should report pandemic-related emergency financial aid grants.

Articles of Interest

- 3/30 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, [“U.S. consumer confidence hits highest point since pandemic started.”](#)

PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

Administration

WHITE HOUSE

- The White House released a transcript of yesterday's [remarks](#) by President Joe Biden on the COVID-19 response and the state of vaccinations.
- The White House released a [fact sheet](#) titled, "President Biden Announces 90% of the Adult U.S. Population will be Eligible for Vaccination and 90% will have a Vaccination Site Within 5 Miles of Home by April 19."
- The White House released a transcript of yesterday's [press briefing](#) by the COVID-19 response team and public health officials.

NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

- NIH Director Dr. Francis Collins penned a blog post titled, "[Infections with 'U.K Variant' B.1.1.7 Have Greater Risk of Mortality.](#)"
- In a [study](#) led by researchers from NIAID, individuals who had contracted and recovered from COVID-19 had SARS-CoV-2-specific CD8+ T-cell responses that remained largely intact and could recognize virtually all mutations in the variants.

Articles of Interest

- 3/30 CNBC published an article titled, "[Mutations could render current Covid vaccines ineffective in a year or less, epidemiologists warn.](#)"
- 3/30 The Washington Post published an article titled, "[The danger of a fourth coronavirus wave, visualized.](#)"
- 3/30 The Hill published an article titled, "[US joins 13 countries in raising 'concerns' with data in WHO team's virus report.](#)"
- 3/29 The Atlantic published an article titled, "[How mRNA Technology Could Change the World.](#)"