



DAILY COVID-19 UPDATE

April 1, 2021

WHAT HAPPENED TODAY

Today, NIAID Director Anthony Fauci responded to CDC Director Rochelle Walensky's comments earlier this week about "impending doom" over rising coronavirus cases. Dr. Fauci stated he would not have used Director Walensky's exact words, but noted "she's making a valid point." He added that the rise in cases after previously plateauing over the last couple weeks is concerning and cautioned against declaring "victory prematurely."

Pfizer and BioNTech announced today that recent trials suggest their COVID-19 vaccine offers protection against the virus for at least six months, and may also be effective against the coronavirus variant first found in South Africa. Previously, there had been concerns about vaccine efficacy because it has shown to be resistant to some COVID-19 therapeutics and vaccines.

Additionally, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) authorized two rapid at-home COVID-19 tests late Wednesday night. The authorization of the tests will allow individuals to get results in 15 minutes or less

LATEST STATISTICS

200,496,635 COVID-19 vaccines have been distributed in the U.S and **99,565,311** Americans have received the first dose.

There are a total of **129,317,945** confirmed cases worldwide, **2,821,004** deaths and **73,308,068** people have recovered.

There are **30,520,491** confirmed cases of the coronavirus in the U.S. and **552,957** deaths.

LATEST PMJ RESOURCES

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

and are anticipated to become widely available after they received FDA approval.

Notably, filings for unemployment benefits rose last week but continue to remain near lowest levels since the onset of the pandemic at 719,000 initial jobless claims. The claims rose slightly from the previous week, but continue to remain low amid signs of a broader economic recovery.

[Coronavirus State Reopening Tracker](#)

[Biden Administration Transition Tracker](#)

[President Biden EO Tracker](#)

ECONOMIC UPDATE

Administration

TREASURY

- Treasury released a fact sheet titled, [“How an Allocation of International Monetary Fund Special Drawing Rights Will Support Low-Income Countries, the Global Economy, and the United States.”](#)

INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE (IRS)

- The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) **announced** it will take steps to automatically refund money this spring and summer to people who filed their tax return reporting unemployment compensation before the recent changes made by the American Rescue Plan.

CONSUMER FINANCIAL PROTECTION BUREAU (CFPB)

- The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) **warned** mortgage servicers to take all necessary steps now to prevent a wave of avoidable foreclosures this fall.

Articles of Interest

- 4/1 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, [“U.S. Jobless Claims Remain Near Lowest Levels of COVID-19 Pandemic.”](#)

PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

Congress

SENATE

- Sens. Susan Collins (R-ME), Dick Durbin (D-IL), John Cornyn (R-TX), Patrick Leahy (D-VT), Todd Young (R-IN), and Chris Coons (D-DE) introduced bipartisan **legislation** to recapture and allocate unused immigrant visas for nurses and doctors as a temporary stopgap to address shortages of health workers and combat COVID-19.

Administration

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

- HHS announced additional [measures](#) to encourage vaccinations and increase vaccine confidence as part of its COVID-19 public education campaign, including the launch of a COVID-19 Community Corps, new social media profile frames, and new TV ads in English and Spanish.

NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

- NIH announced Moderna's investigational vaccine, designed to protect against the South African COVID-19 variant, has been administered as part of a new [Phase 1 clinical trial](#) evaluating the candidate's safety and immunogenicity in adult volunteers.

Articles of Interest

- 3/31 NPR published an article titled, "[Mysterious Ailment, Mysterious Relief: Vaccines Help Some COVID Long-Haulers.](#)"
- 3/31 Bloomberg published an article titled, "[Biden Looks to Invest \\$30 Billion in Preventing Future Pandemics.](#)"
- 3/31 Politico published an article titled, "[Federal watchdog calls for centralized COVID-19 data website.](#)"
- 4/1 The New York Times published an article titled, "[Factory Mix-Up Ruins Up to 15 Million Vaccine Doses From Johnson & Johnson.](#)"
- 4/1 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, "[COVID-19 Vaccine Requirements Ease, Creating Even More Demand.](#)"