



DAILY COVID-19 UPDATE

April 8, 2021

WHAT HAPPENED TODAY

Today, the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) **estimated** the federal deficit has already reached \$1.7 trillion in the first six months of FY 2021. According to the report, spending on refundable tax credits, unemployment compensation, and the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) were the biggest contributors to the deficit increase of almost \$1 trillion from the same period last year.

Notably, the COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in a **rise** in opioid abuse and drug overdoses in the past year. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, this spike is associated with unprecedented levels of unemployment as well as the implementation of widespread COVID-19 mitigation measures, both of which resulted in social isolation and financial distress, among other things. In response, the House Energy and Commerce Committee has scheduled a hearing for next Wednesday, April 14 to examine substance abuse amid the coronavirus pandemic.

LATEST STATISTICS

229,398,685 COVID-19 vaccines have been distributed in the U.S and **112,046,611** Americans have received the first dose.

There are a total of **133,602,864** confirmed cases worldwide, **2,894,531** deaths and **75,963,130** people have recovered.

There are **30,983,624** confirmed cases of the coronavirus in the U.S. and **559,965** deaths.

LATEST PMJ RESOURCES

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

[Coronavirus State Reopening Tracker](#)

ECONOMIC UPDATE

Administration

TREASURY

- Treasury [released a statement](#) on state fiscal recovery funds and tax conformity.

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

- The Small Business Administration (SBA) [will officially open](#) the Shuttered Venue Operators Grant (SVOG) application portal today.

INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE (IRS)

- The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) [reminds eligible residents](#) of the U.S. territories that if they receive unemployment compensation payments that are otherwise subject to U.S. income tax, they may be eligible to exclude up to \$10,200 per person of unemployment compensation from U.S. income tax for 2020.

Articles of Interest

- 4/8 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, [“Fed’s Powell hails strong March job gains.”](#)
- 4/8 CNBC published an article titled, [“Weekly jobless claims higher than expected.”](#)

PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

Administration

NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

- NIH Director Dr. Francis Collins penned a [blog post](#) titled, "Lessons Learned About Substance Use Disorders During the COVID-19 Pandemic."
- NIAID Director Dr. Anthony Fauci and other NIH scientists published an article in the Journal of Infectious Diseases, [calling for](#) the acceleration of basic and clinical research to address both COVID-19 and HIV.

CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION

- CDC Director Dr. Rochelle Walensky issued a media [statement](#) on racism and health, particularly as it relates to the coronavirus pandemic.
- CDC published a Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR) titled, ["Factors Associated with Participation in Elementary School-Based](#)

SARS-CoV-2 Testing — Salt Lake County, Utah, December 2020–January 2021.

- CDC published a **science brief** titled, "SARS-CoV-2 and Surface Transmission for Indoor Community Environments."

Articles of Interest

- 4/8 Reuters published an article titled, "**Eli Lilly's arthritis drug fails to prevent mechanical ventilation in COVID-19 patients.**"
 - 4/7 BBC News published an article titled, "**Covid-19 linked to depression and dementia, study suggests.**"
 - 4/7 Politico published an article titled, "**The Big Hole in America's Plan to Fight the COVID-19 Variants.**"
 - 4/7 The Washington Post published an article titled, "**'A moment of peril': Biden sees infections climb on his watch.**"
-

LABOR UPDATE

Administration

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

- DOL released its **Unemployment Insurance Weekly Claims Report** for the week ending April 3.