



DAILY COVID-19 UPDATE

April 12, 2021

WHAT HAPPENED TODAY

Today, the World Health Organization (WHO) announced that the COVID-19 pandemic is now "growing exponentially" at more than 4.4 million cases per week -- eight times higher than this time last year. WHO noted that the world is "in a critical point of the pandemic," and urged countries to continue promoting the use of evidence-based control measures such as wearing masks, social distancing, avoiding gatherings, and washing hands. Additionally, WHO officials indicated that the virus is "stronger, faster," and more deadly with the emergence of new variants.

Yesterday, Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell discussed previous COVID-19 relief packages and the future economic outlook on 60 Minutes. Chair Powell **stated** the economic fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic "would've been so much worse" without the multiple stimulus packages. Specifically, he stated the CARES Act allowed people to remain in their homes and "replaced people's incomes" for those that experienced COVID-related layoffs. Additionally, Chair Powell **projected** "very strong" economic growth in the second half of the year but warned that

LATEST STATISTICS

237,796,305 COVID-19 vaccines have been distributed in the U.S and **120,848,490** Americans have received the first dose.

There are a total of **136,299,006** confirmed cases worldwide, **2,940,670** deaths and **77,579,999** people have recovered.

There are **31,242,193** confirmed cases of the coronavirus in the U.S. and **562,360** deaths.

LATEST PMJ RESOURCES

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

[Coronavirus State Reopening Tracker](#)

the "principal risk" to the economy is an increase in coronavirus infections.

Since our last update, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention published additional guidance. Please see below for more details.

We have updated our Coronavirus State Reopening Tracker. It is linked below under Latest PMJ Resources.

[Biden Administration Transition Tracker](#)

[President Biden EO Tracker](#)

ECONOMIC UPDATE

Administration

WHITE HOUSE

- The White House published a press released titled, "[Pandemic Prices: Assessing Inflation in the Months and Years Ahead.](#)"

Articles of Interest

- 4/11 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, "[Powell Sees Pickup in Economic Growth Ahead.](#)"
- 4/11 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, "[With Economy Poised for Best Growth Since 1983, Inflation Lurks.](#)"

PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

Congressional

HOUSE

- Reps. Darrell Issa (R-CA), Mike Levin (D-CA), Ken Calvert (R-CA), and Lou Correa (D-CA) introduced the Better Way for Providers to Repay Act. The [legislation](#) would delay the Medicare Advanced and Accelerated Payment (AAP) loan program repayment start date by three months to assist Medicare providers during COVID-19 recovery.
- Rep. Andy Biggs (R-AZ) introduced the [No Vaccine Passports Act](#), which would prevent federal agencies from issuing any standardized documentation that could be used to certify a U.S. citizen's COVID-19 status to a third party, such as a restaurant or an airline. Additionally, this [legislation](#) would prohibit proof of COVID-19 vaccination from being a requirement for access to federal or congressional property and services.

Administration

THE WHITE HOUSE

- The White House released a transcript of today's [press briefing](#) by the COVID-19 response team and public health officials.

CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION

- CDC issued [guidance](#) for laboratories, requiring that sequencing of SARS-CoV-2 positive specimen data be reported to state, local, tribal, or territorial public health departments.
- CDC published a web page titled, "[Post-COVID Conditions.](#)"
- CDC published a Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR) titled, "[COVID-19 Stats: College and University COVID-19 Student Testing Protocols, by Mode of Instructions — United States, Spring 2021.](#)"

FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION

- FDA issued [recommendations](#) for healthcare personnel and facilities on the transition away from the use of decontaminated disposable respirators.

Articles of Interest

- 4/12 The Hill published an article titled, "[Alarming new study shows South African variant can 'break through' Pfizer vaccine.](#)"
- 4/12 CNBC published an article titled, "[Regeneron to request FDA clearance to use Covid antibody drug as a preventative treatment.](#)"
- 4/12 The Guardian published an article titled, "[Covid pandemic still growing exponentially, WHO says.](#)"
- 4/12 Axios published an article titled, "[The warning signs of a longer pandemic.](#)"
- 4/11 CNN published an article titled, "[As vaccinations keep rising, so do Covid-19 hospitalizations among those who aren't vaccinated.](#)"