



DAILY COVID-19 UPDATE

April 16, 2021

WHAT HAPPENED TODAY

Today, the Biden Administration announced that it will allocate \$1.7 billion in funds from the American Rescue Plan to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, states, and jurisdictions to detect, monitor, and track COVID-19 variants. Specifically, \$1 billion will go towards the expansion of genomic sequencing, \$400 million to establish six Centers of Excellence in Genomic Epidemiology, and \$300 million to build and support a National Bioinformatics Infrastructure. An initial tranche of \$240 million will be disbursed to states and territories early next month.

The Biden Administration also announced that it is investing \$4 billion in Indian country to increase COVID-19 vaccinations and tests, medical supplies, therapeutics, personal protective equipment, contact tracing, and build vaccine confidence, among other things.

Additionally, Sens. Bernie Sanders (I-VT), Elizabeth Warren (D-MA), Tammy Baldwin (D-WI), and Sherrod Brown (D-OH) led six of their colleagues in a [letter](#) to President Joe Biden, calling on him to support a proposal from the Indian and South African

LATEST STATISTICS

258,502,815 COVID-19 vaccines have been distributed in the U.S and **127,743,096** Americans have received the first dose.

There are a total of **139,495,824** confirmed cases worldwide, **2,992,169** deaths and **79,471,928** people have recovered.

There are **31,556,889** confirmed cases of the coronavirus in the U.S. and **566,000** deaths.

LATEST PMJ RESOURCES

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

[Coronavirus State Reopening Tracker](#)

governments urging the World Trade Organization to temporarily waive intellectual property rules related to COVID-19 vaccines and treatments to allow for a scale up in manufacturing to benefit the poorest countries.

Yesterday, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) **announced** that it will begin accepting applications for the second round of its COVID-19 telehealth program on April 29 at 12PM ET. This new round of funding will provide \$249.95 million to support healthcare providers and patients in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and territories. Applications will be accepted until May 6 at 12PM ET.

Notably, executives of Pfizer and Moderna have indicated that annual boosters of the COVID-19 vaccine will be necessary to maintain protection against the virus as it evolves.

[Biden Administration Transition Tracker](#)

[President Biden EO Tracker](#)

ECONOMIC UPDATE

Congressional

HOUSE

- Yesterday, the House **passed three bipartisan bills** to make reforms to critical Small Business Administration (SBA) lending programs.

SENATE

- Senators Angus King (I-ME) and Todd Young (R-IN), along with a bipartisan group of Senators, **sent a letter** to Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen urging the department to clearly communicate that state and local governments can designate mental health and substance use disorder services as acceptable use for American Rescue Plan funds.
- Senators Chris Coons (D-DE) and Roger Wicker (R-MS), along with 15 bipartisan Senators, **reintroduced** the Cultivating Opportunity and Recovery from the Pandemic through Service (CORP) Act to expand national service programs to help the country recover and rebuild from COVID-19.

Administration

TREASURY

- **Readout** of Secretary Yellen's virtual meeting with members of the National Governors Association's Executive Committee to discuss ongoing efforts by Treasury to help states and localities recover from COVID-19.

Articles of Interest

- 4/16 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, [“March Hiring Surge Spanned the Country.”](#)
- 4/15 Reuters published an article titled, [“Black and Hispanic Firms Half as Likely to Get Needed Financing, Fed Study Finds.”](#)

PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

Administration

THE WHITE HOUSE

- The White House released a [fact sheet](#) titled, "Biden Administration Announces \$1.7 Billion Investment to Fight COVID-19 Variants."
- The White House released a [fact sheet](#) titled, "Biden Administration Invests \$4 Billion in American Rescue Plan Funding to Combat COVID-19 in Indian Country."

NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

- NIH [announced](#) \$33 million in funding over two years to fund projects at 10 schools across eight states to build evidence on safely returning students, teachers and support staff to in-person school in areas with vulnerable and underserved populations. The funding is made available through the American Rescue Plan.
- NIH researchers found that the experimental oral antiviral drug MK-4482 significantly [decreased levels of virus and disease](#) damage in the lungs of hamsters treated for SARS-CoV-2 infection. MK-4482 is now in human clinical trials.

FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION

- Jeff Shuren, M.D., J.D., Director, Center for Devices and Radiological Health (CDRH) and William Maisel, M.D., MPH, Director, Office of Product Evaluation and Quality, CDRH penned an FDA Voices [blog post](#) titled, "A Year Into the Pandemic: How the FDA's Center for Devices and Radiological Health is Prioritizing its Workload and Looking Ahead."

CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION

- CDC published a [Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report](#) titled, "Update: COVID-19 Pandemic–Associated Changes in Emergency Department Visits - United States, December 2020–January 2021."
- CDC published a [Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report](#) titled, "Notes from the Field: Update on Excess Deaths Associated with the COVID-19 Pandemic - United States, January 26, 2020–February 27, 2021."
- CDC published a [Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report](#) titled, "COVID-19 Stats: COVID-19* and Influenza† Discharge Diagnoses as a Percentage of Emergency Department (ED) Visits, by Year - United States, June 2018–March 2021."

Articles of Interest

- 4/16 CBS News published an article titled, ["Study shows vaccines carry much lower risk of blood clots than COVID-19."](#)

- 4/16 Kaiser Health News published an article titled, "[Mysterious Ailment, Mysterious Relief: Vaccines Help Some Covid Long Haulers.](#)"
- 4/16 USA Today published an article titled, "[Former CDC chief: Think outside the box to offer COVID vaccines where they're needed most.](#)"
- 4/16 CNN published an article titled, "[Nearly half of US states reported an increase in Covid-19 cases this week. Here's what experts say can help stop another surge.](#)"
- 4/15 AP News published an article titled, "[US opens more distance in worldwide race against coronavirus.](#)"