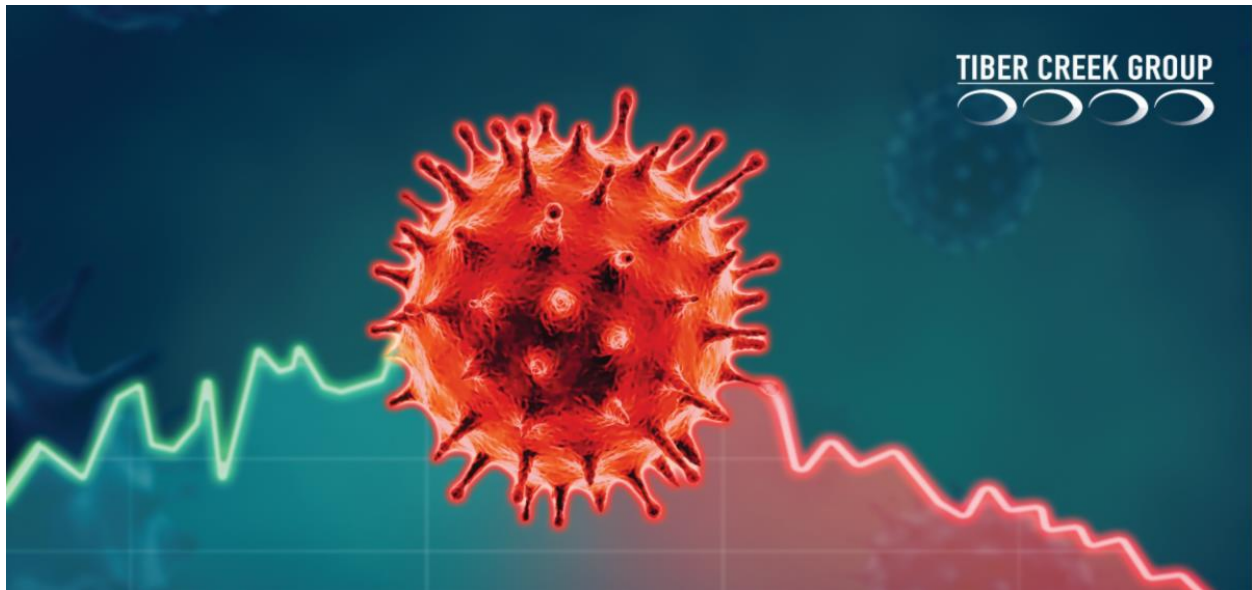




DAILY COVID-19 UPDATE

April 20, 2021

Since Congress and the White House have shifted focus to a broader set of policy issues, we will be pausing distribution of the Daily COVID-19 Update starting this Friday, April 23. However, we will continue to include COVID related health and economic updates in our Daily Dose and the Financial Services Week Ahead.

WHAT HAPPENED TODAY

Today, Johnson & Johnson **announced** it will resume distributing its COVID-19 vaccine in Europe after the region's medical regulator found the benefits of the vaccine outweigh the risk of the rare blood clots. However, the European Medicines Agency (EMA) recommended adding a warning to the vaccine's product label regarding the rare side effect. Johnson & Johnson's Chief Scientific Officer Paul Stoffels stated that he "hope[s] by making people aware as well as putting clear diagnostic and therapeutic guidance in place," the company can restore confidence in the vaccine.

Yesterday, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) unveiled a new rule aimed at stopping debt collectors from forcing renters from their homes during the nationwide eviction ban. CFPB Acting Director Dave Uejio stated the agency will

LATEST STATISTICS

264,505,725 COVID-19 vaccines have been distributed in the U.S and **132,321,628** Americans have received the first dose.

There are a total of **142,453,783** confirmed cases worldwide, **3,035,771** deaths and **81,603,637** people have recovered.

There are **31,777,564** confirmed cases of the coronavirus in the U.S. and **568,277** deaths.

LATEST PMJ RESOURCES

"hold accountable those debt collectors who move forward with illegal evictions." Currently, about 9 million tenant households are behind on rental payments as the eviction moratorium is scheduled to expire on June 30.

Notably, as of this week, Americans can purchase Abbott Laboratories' BinaxNOW COVID-19 rapid self-test kits without a prescription at CVS Pharmacy, Walgreens, and Walmart locations nationwide.

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

[Coronavirus State Reopening Tracker](#)

[Biden Administration Transition Tracker](#)

[President Biden EO Tracker](#)

ECONOMIC UPDATE

Congressional

SENATE

- Senators John Cornyn (R-TX) and Amy Klobuchar (D-MN), along with over 160 lawmakers, [sent a letter](#) to Small Business Administrator Isabella Guzman urging to "immediately" reopen the Shuttered Venue Operators Grant (SVOG) emergency relief program.

Articles of Interest

- 4/20 Reuters published an article titled, ["Fed Chair Powell says won't allow 'substantial' overshoot of inflation target - April 8 letter to U.S. senator."](#)

PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

Congressional

HOUSE

- Rep. John Joyce (R-PA) introduced the Protecting Americans' Safety, Security, and Privacy Over Repressive Tyranny (PASSPORT) Act. This [legislation](#) would prohibit federal funds from being used to develop, implement, support, or endorse vaccine passports.
- Rep. Fred Keller (R-PA) introduced the Saving Hypodermic injections and Offering vaccines to Taxpayers Swiftly (SHOTS) Act. This [legislation](#) would instruct the Department of Homeland Security to ensure that American citizens and lawful permanent residents are given priority to receive the COVID-19 vaccine over those visiting or who have entered the United States illegally.

Administration

THE WHITE HOUSE

- 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, "Study Finds 1 in 10 Healthcare Workers with Mild COVID Have Lasting Symptoms."

FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION

- The FDA took [steps](#) to further facilitate the authorization of tests for pooling COVID-19 specimens from asymptomatic individuals in serial testing programs.

CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION

- CDC published a web page titled, ["COVID-19 Vaccine Information for Specific Groups."](#)
- CDC published a web page titled, ["How COVID-19 Vaccines Get to You."](#)

Articles of Interest

- 4/19 CIDRAP published an article titled, ["COVID-19 damages brain without infecting it, study suggests."](#)
- 4/19 The Atlantic published an article titled, ["Are Outdoor Mask Mandates Still Necessary?"](#)
- 4/19 Reuters published an article titled, ["J&J COVID-19 vaccine reviewed for links to additional reports of severe side effects -CDC."](#)
- 4/19 ABC News published an article titled, ["Over-the-counter COVID-19 rapid tests to be sent to major pharmacies this week."](#)