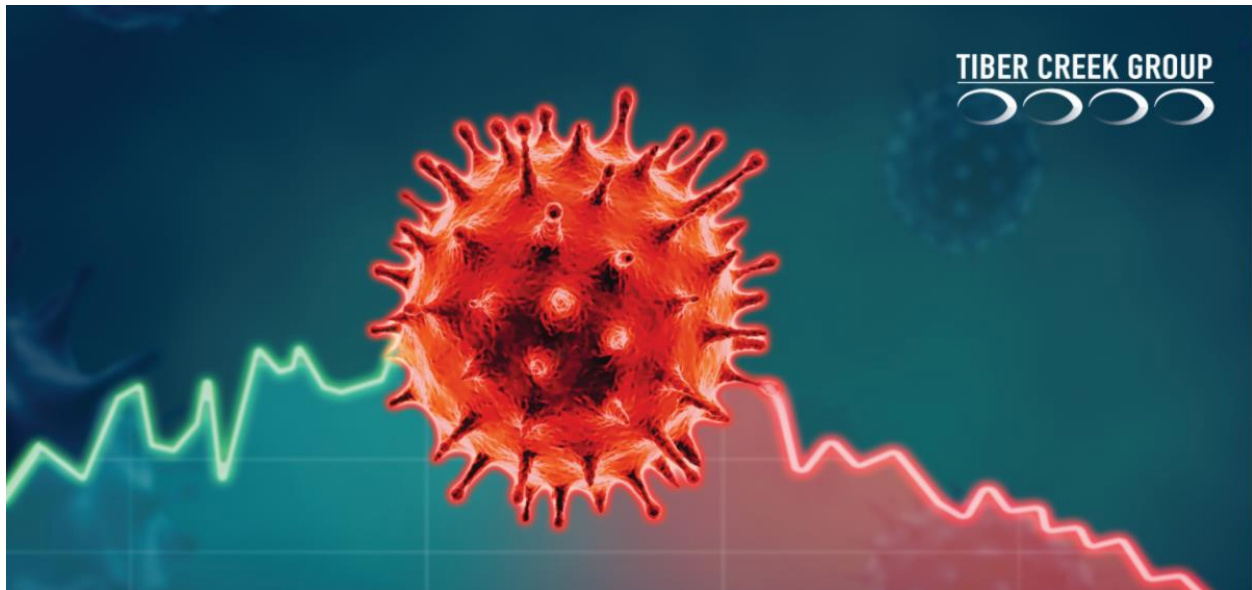




DAILY COVID-19 UPDATE

April 21, 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, President Joe Biden delivered [remarks](#) on the state of the COVID-19 pandemic and provided an update on the vaccination effort. He announced that he expects the Administration will meet its goal of administering 200 million COVID-19 vaccine doses by tomorrow, which marks 100 days in office. Additionally, President Biden announced the availability of a new tax credit, funded by the American Rescue Plan, for small- and medium-sized businesses to subsidize the cost of giving employees paid time off to get vaccinated as well as to recover from any potential side effects. He also urged employers to help combat vaccine misinformation and incentivize employees to get vaccinated.

Additionally, a group of bipartisan Senators, including Senate Small Business Committee Chairman Ben Cardin (D-MD), introduced legislation to allow

LATEST STATISTICS

277,938,875 COVID-19 vaccines have been distributed in the U.S and **134,445,595** Americans have received the first dose.

There are a total of **143,328,087** confirmed cases worldwide, **3,050,266** deaths and **82,149,559** people have recovered.

There are **31,777,564** confirmed cases of the coronavirus in the U.S. and **569,185** deaths.

LATEST PMJ RESOURCES

thousands of self-employed individuals to qualify for more aid under the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP). However, the bill does not appropriate additional funds to the program and, as of last week, the PPP had \$44 billion remaining. The program is still scheduled to terminate on May 31.

Notably, Small Business Administration Inspector General Hannibal Ware told the Small Business Committee he is confident with the fraud prevention measures the agency has implemented for the Shuttered Venues Operators Grant (SVOG) program and the Restaurant Revitalization Fund. He stated the agency has "built a control structure that would...mitigate a lot of the fraud risks that we saw in the beginning" of SBA lending programs.

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

[Coronavirus State Reopening Tracker](#)

[Biden Administration Transition Tracker](#)

[President Biden EO Tracker](#)

ECONOMIC UPDATE

Congressional

SENATE

- Senate Small Business Committee Chairman Ben Cardin (D-MD), along with a bipartisan group of Senators, [introduced](#) the *PPP Flexibility for Farmers, Ranchers, and the Self-Employed Act* to make changes to PPP loan calculations and allow small businesses to apply for increased benefits retroactively.

Administration

TREASURY

- Treasury and the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) [announced](#) further details of tax credits available under the American Rescue Plan to help small businesses.

Articles of Interest

- 4/20 Politico published an article titled, ["Lawmakers push PPP revamp as funding lapse looms."](#)
- 4/20 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, ["Biden to back temporary extension of larger child tax credit."](#)

PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

Administration

THE WHITE HOUSE

- The White House released a fact sheet titled, "[President Biden to Call on All Employers to Provide Paid Time Off for Employees to Get Vaccinated After Meeting Goal of 200 Million Shots in the First 100 Days.](#)"

NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

- NIAID has begun enrolling non-hospitalized individuals with mild or moderate cases of COVID-19 in a [Phase 2/3 trial](#) to evaluate a new fully-human polyclonal antibody therapeutic targeted to SARS-CoV-2, called SAB-185.

FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION

- FDA Acting Commissioner of Food and Drugs, Dr. Janet Woodcock, and Dr. Peter Marks, Director of the Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research (CBER) issued a [joint statement](#) on steps the agency has been continuing to take to ensure the quality, safety, and effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccines.

Articles of Interest

- 4/21 CNBC published an article titled, "[Biden announces tax credit for businesses giving paid leave for Covid vaccinations and recovery.](#)"
- 4/21 Politico published an article titled, "[States have a new Covid problem: Too much vaccine.](#)"
- 4/21 The Hill published an article titled, "[FDA finds multiple failures at Johnson & Johnson vaccine plant in Baltimore.](#)"
- 4/20 NPR published an article titled, "[Lagging Vaccination Rates Among Rural Seniors Hint At Brewing Rural-Urban Divide.](#)"