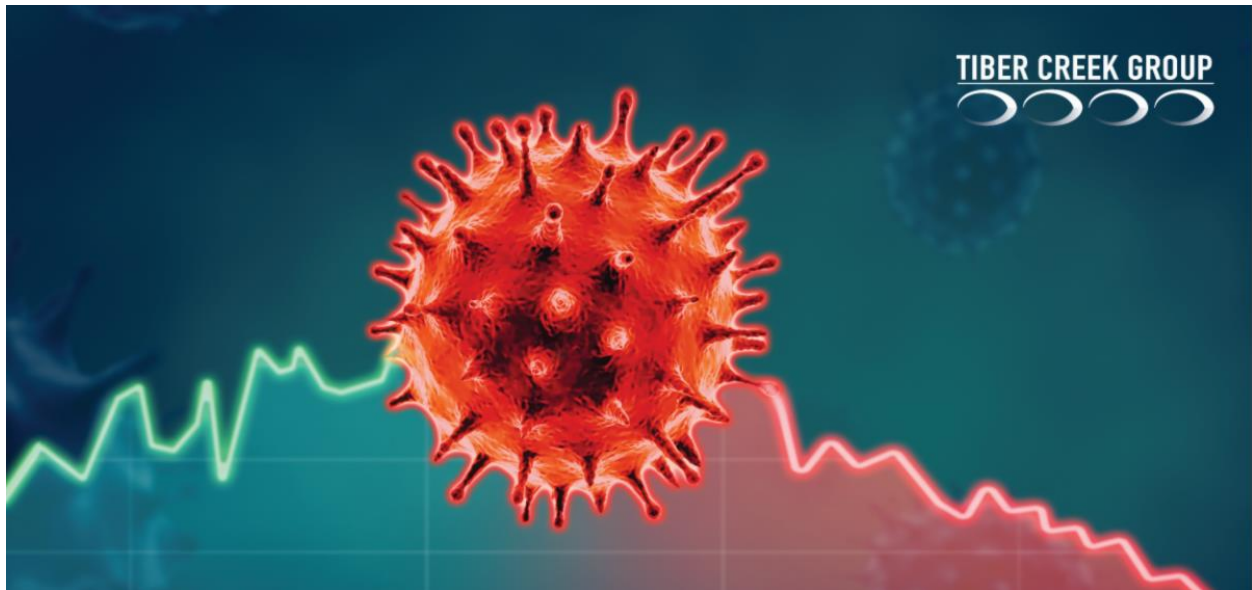




## DAILY COVID-19 UPDATE

April 22, 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, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced a new initiative called the "We Can Do This: Live" series that will pair health professionals and medical experts with individuals and organizations that have large followings. Virtual events will be held to answer questions from Americans, debunk vaccine myths, and provide scientific information about vaccines. Some of the prominent participants include the NBA, NASCAR, Mark Cuban, Eva Longoria, Kelly Ripa, and Ryan Seacrest, among others. This initiative is part of the Biden Administration's public education campaign, "We Can Do This," to boost COVID-19 vaccine confidence and mitigate vaccine misinformation.

Notably, the Labor Department announced workers filing for jobless benefits declined to 547,000 last week, marking a new unemployment low during the

### LATEST STATISTICS

**282,183,915** COVID-19 vaccines have been distributed in the U.S and **135,791,031** Americans have received the first dose.

There are a total of **144,222,274** confirmed cases worldwide, **3,064,487** deaths and **82,685,469** people have recovered.

There are **31,906,202** confirmed cases of the coronavirus in the U.S. and **569,928** deaths.

### LATEST PMJ RESOURCES

pandemic. Additionally, unemployment claims have been below 600,000 for two consecutive weeks in mid-April, another low since the beginning of the pandemic in early 2020.

Since our last update, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) has released guidance related to the coronavirus pandemic.

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

[Coronavirus State Reopening Tracker](#)

[Biden Administration Transition Tracker](#)

[President Biden EO Tracker](#)

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## ECONOMIC UPDATE

### *Administration*

#### TREASURY

- Treasury, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), and the Bureau of the Fiscal Service **[announced](#)** they are disbursing nearly 2 million payments in the sixth batch of Economic Impact Payments from the American Rescue Plan.

#### SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION (SBA)

- The Small Business Administration **[announced](#)** the first round of technology partners participating in a new initiative for the Restaurant Revitalization Fund (RRF) will allow eligible restaurants to access the RRF application or data they need to fill out the application through their trusted point-of-sale (POS) service providers.

#### INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE (IRS)

- The IRS and Treasury **[issued a Revenue Procedure 2021-20](#)** for certain businesses that received first-round Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loans but did not deduct any of the original eligible expenses because they relied on guidance issued before the enactment of tax relief legislation in December 2020.

#### Articles of Interest

- 4/22 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, **["U.S. Unemployment Claims Hit New Covid-19 Pandemic Low."](#)**

## PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

### *Administration*

#### DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

- HHS **[launched](#)** a new initiative called the "We Can Do This: Live" series to increase COVID-19 vaccine confidence and mitigate vaccine misinformation by pairing medical experts with prominent influencers and organizations with large

social followings. Events will include conversations to answer direct questions about COVID-19, Instagram Live Q&As, and social media account takeovers where doctors, scientists and health officials can provide the public with factual, scientific information about vaccines.

#### **NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH**

- NIH has begun enrolling patients hospitalized with life-threatening cases of COVID-19 in a [new Phase 3 trial](#) called ACTIV-3 Critical Care. The randomized, blinded, and placebo-controlled clinical trial will test the safety and efficacy of therapeutics for COVID-19 in this group of severely ill patients, including those with acute respiratory failure.
- NIH Director Dr. Francis Collins penned a [blog post](#) titled, "Study Demonstrates Saliva Can Spread Novel Coronavirus."

#### **Articles of Interest**

- 4/22 CNBC published an article titled, ["New Covid variant detected at Texas A&M lab shows signs of antibody resistance and more severe illness in young people."](#)
  - 4/22 CNN published an article titled, ["Covid-19 raises risks for expectant mothers and babies, study says."](#)
  - 4/22 The Washington Post published an article titled, ["India announces most daily new infections in history of pandemic, with nearly 315,000."](#)
  - 4/22 NPR published an article titled, ["U.S. Issues More Than 115 'Do Not Travel' Advisories, Citing Risks From COVID-19."](#)
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## **LABOR UPDATE**

### ***Administration***

#### **DEPARTMENT OF LABOR**

- DOL released its [Unemployment Insurance Weekly Claims Report](#) for the week ending April 17.