



DAILY COVID-19 UPDATE

May 18, 2020

WHAT HAPPENED TODAY

Last Friday, the House passed its \$3 trillion coronavirus relief package, the HEROES Act, mostly along party lines by a vote of 208-199. Only one Republican, Rep. Peter King (R-NY) voted in favor, citing a need for aid for state and local governments. The House also voted 217-189 to approve a Rule change to allow proxy voting during the pandemic.

On CBS' Face the Nation yesterday, Speaker Pelosi said she is [ready to negotiate](#) with Republicans and that there are "no red lines" when it comes to taking into consideration GOP proposals and concerns. However, President Trump has indicated he is not interested in the House-passed COVID-19 legislative package and the Senate has declared it dead on arrival. In opening floor remarks, Majority Leader Mitch McConnell called the HEROES Act a "door stop" that was "appropriately greeted as the legislative equivalent of a stand-up comedy." Furthermore, an aide for Leader McConnell stated he doesn't plan to move on any Republican alternative until June at the earliest.

Last week, the Department of Justice (DOJ) [issued](#) grand jury subpoenas to big banks in order to ensure the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) funds are not being allocated fraudulently.

Since our last update, the Food and Drug Administration and Federal Reserve published additional guidance. Please see below for more details.

We have added a new Liability Reform State of Play Memo and updated our Drug Shortage and Medical Supply Tracker. Both are linked below under Latest PMJ Resources.

LATEST PMJ RESOURCES

- [Liability Reform State of Play](#)
- [CARES Act State Funding](#)
- [State and Local Funding Bills](#)
- [COVID Legislative Update](#)
- [2020 Political Outlook](#)
- [COVID Legislative Tracker](#)
- [COVID State Reopening Tracker](#)
- [Drug Shortage and Medical Supply Chain Tracker](#)

- [COVID-19 Travel Restrictions](#)
- [Global COVID-19 Export Controls](#)
- [Memo - Federal Reserve COVID-19 Announcements](#)
- [Federal Reserve Lending Facilities Deck](#)

ECONOMIC UPDATE

Congressional

- **House**
 - The Congressional Oversight Commission released its first report on [Questions About CARES Act's \\$500 Billion Emergency Economic Stabilization Funds](#).
 - House Financial Services Chairwoman Maxine Waters (D-CA) [voiced support](#) for the Heroes Act, which includes legislation from the Chairwoman that creates a \$100 billion emergency rental assistance fund, \$75 billion homeowner assistance fund, \$11.5 billion for homeless assistance grants, and \$1 billion for new Section 8 vouchers.
 - The House Financial Services Committee [released a one-pager](#) on provisions in the Heroes Act.
 - The Joint Committee on Taxation [released](#) an analysis of Democrats' Heroes Act.
 - Rep. Don Beyer (D-VA), Vice Chair of the Joint Economic Committee (JEC), [released a statement](#) in response to the Federal Reserve's data on manufacturing output.
- **Senate**
 - Senators Mark Warner (D-VA), Doug Jones (D-AL), and Kyrsten Sinema (D-AZ), all members of the Senate Banking Committee, [sent a letter](#) to Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell regarding the Main Street New Loan Lending Facility and the Main Street Expanded Loan Lending Facility.

Administration

- Federal Reserve ("Fed")
 - The Fed [announced](#) temporary changes to its supplementary leverage ratio rule.
- Small Business Administrator (SBA)
 - The SBA, in consultation with the Treasury Department, [released](#) the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) Loan Forgiveness Application.

Articles of Interest

- 5/18 The Washington Post published an article titled, "[\\$500 billion Treasury fund meant for coronavirus relief has lent barely any money so far, oversight commission finds.](#)"
- 5/18 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, "[The Fed's \\$600 Billion Challenge: Lending Directly to Businesses.](#)"
- 5/17 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, "[Fed's Jerome Powell Says Economy Faces Long, Uncertain Recovery.](#)"
- 5/17 Politico published an article titled, "[Fed's Powell warns unemployment could reach Depression-level 25 percent.](#)"

- 5/16 The Washington Post published an article titled, "[How Washington Learned to Embrace the Budget Deficit.](#)"
- 5/15 Reuters published an article titled, "[Exclusive: U.S. Justice Dept. subpoenas Wall Street banks for small business loans info.](#)"
- 5/15 The Washington Post published an article titled, "[House Democrats pass \\$3 trillion coronavirus relief bill despite Trump's veto threat.](#)"

PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

Congressional

- **House**
 - Speaker Pelosi penned a [Dear Colleague letter](#) on the passage of the HEROES Act.
 - House Majority Leader Hoyer issued a [statement](#) on the passage of the HEROES Act.
 - Rep. Eshoo [introduced](#) the "COVID-19 Testing Inventory Act," which directs the federal government to compile and publicly share real-time information about testing supply inventory and shortages.
 - Rep. Flores [introduced](#) the "Safe and Secure Medicine Supply for Hardworking Americans Act. The legislation includes tariffs on drugs from China and India, incentives to build a robust American pharmaceutical supply chain, and substantial penalties for the importation of tainted foreign pharmaceuticals.

Administration

- The White House
 - Vice President Pence [announced](#) five new members of the Coronavirus Task Force.
- Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
 - CMS announced a [call for nominations](#) for the new contractor-led Coronavirus Commission on Safety and Quality in Nursing Homes to help inform immediate and future responses to COVID-19 within these facilities.
- Food and Drug Administration
 - FDA [authorized](#) the first standalone at-home sample collection kit that can then be sent to specified laboratories for COVID-19 diagnostic testing
 - FDA released a consumer update on [Coronavirus Testing Basics](#).
 - FDA issued [guidance](#) on the conduct of clinical trials of medical products during the COVID-19 public health emergency.
 - Judy McMeekin, Associate Commissioner for Regulatory Affairs at FDA published a [blog post](#) providing a COVID-19 supply chain update on the importation of vital food and medical products.
- National Institutes of Health
 - In a Viewpoint published in JAMA, NIH Director Collins [indicates](#) that in order to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, "a swift, coordinated effort across many sectors of society is necessary."
 - According to a [study](#) conducted by NIH scientists and University of Oxford collaborators, a single dose of ChAdOx1 nCoV-19, an investigational vaccine against SARS-CoV-2, has protected six rhesus macaques from pneumonia caused by the virus.

Articles of Interest

- 5/18 Politico published an article titled, "[Immunity passports' won't reopen America.](#)"
- 5/18 The Hill published an article titled, "[Moderna reports 'positive' results from early data on coronavirus vaccine.](#)"
- 5/18 Morning Consults published an article titled, "[As COVID-19 Restrictions Ease, At Least 70% of Voters Would Support Same Moves to Mitigate Second Wave.](#)"
- 5/18 The New York Times published an article titled, "[Where Chronic Health Conditions and Coronavirus Could Collide.](#)"
- 5/17 Former FDA Commissioner Scott Gottlieb authored an article in the Wall Street Journal titled, "[Cut Through the Fog of Coronavirus War.](#)"

LABOR UPDATE

Congressional

- **House**
 - Ways and Means Republicans published a [coronavirus bulletin](#) titled, "Important Read on How Congress Should Help Americans Return to Work."

Administration

- Department of Labor
 - DOL highlighted a [range of actions](#) it took last week to aid American workers and employers as our nation combats the COVID-19 pandemic.

Please note this daily update may not encompass all public guidance documents on implementation; as such, we encourage you to review public agency websites. Please let us know of any questions.