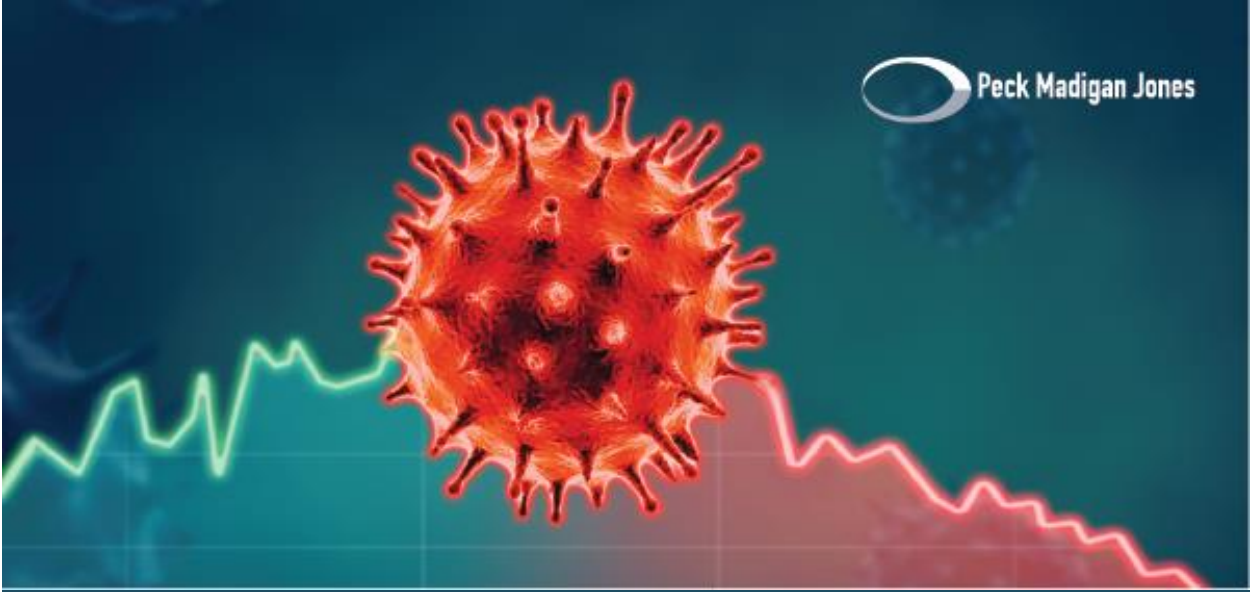




DAILY COVID-19 UPDATE

May 29, 2020

WHAT HAPPENED TODAY

Today, Senate Majority Leader McConnell [stated](#) that, in the coming weeks, Congress will make a decision on whether to pass "a fourth and final bill." He noted the next coronavirus aid package will focus on jobs and schools, and possibly include funding for small businesses and healthcare. McConnell reiterated he will oppose any legislation that doesn't include liability protections for physicians and businesses. He also indicated he will not support an extension of the \$600 per week federal unemployment benefit, which is set to expire at the end of July.

Additionally, the House Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis held a [video briefing](#) with seven mayors to discuss the federal response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The briefing focused on what communities need from the federal government to

LATEST STATISTICS

There are a total of **5,878,701** confirmed cases worldwide, 362,731 deaths and 2,464,595 people have recovered.

There are **1,735,971** confirmed cases of the coronavirus in the U.S., 102,286 deaths and 399,991 people have recovered.

LATEST PMJ RESOURCES

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

[COVID State Reopening Tracker](#)

stabilize their economies and safely reopen while being mindful of resident health and well-being.

Notably, during a news conference this afternoon, President Trump stated the U.S. is "**terminating**[its] relationship with the World Health Organization" as of today and redirecting funds to other organizations responsible for global health.

Since our last update, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Food and Drug Administration, the Internal Revenue Service, and Commodity Futures Trading Commission published additional guidance related to the pandemic. Please see below for more details.

We have updated our COVID State Reopening Tracker and the Drug Shortage and Medical Supply Tracker. Both are linked under 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-19 Travel Restrictions](#)
[Global COVID-19 Export Controls](#)

[Memo - Federal Reserve COVID-19 Announcements](#)

[Federal Reserve Lending Facilities Deck](#)

ECONOMIC UPDATE

Congressional

SENATE:

- Senators Marco Rubio (R-FL) and Ben Cardin (D-MD), Chairman and Ranking Member of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, **released** the following statements on the Paycheck Protection Program.
- Senate Banking Committee Ranking Member Sherrod Brown (D-OH) **sent a letter** to the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's (CFPB) Director Kathy Kraninger urging her to extend the deadline for interested parties to respond to Requests for Information by the CFPB's Taskforce on Federal Consumer Law.

Administration

FEDERAL RESERVE

- The Fed **released** results of a survey of senior financial officers at banks about their strategies and practices for managing reserve balances.
- The Fed **released** its annual determination of the aggregate consolidated liabilities of financial companies as required by the Dodd-Frank Act.

INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE (IRS)

- The IRS **pushed back** its deadline for employer pension plans seeking a waiver of their minimum funding requirements.

COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION (CFTC)

- The CFTC unanimously [approved an interim final rule](#) to grant an extension of the compliance schedule for initial margin requirements for uncleared swaps in response to operational challenges certain entities are facing due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Articles of Interest

- 5/29 The Washington Post published an article titled, [“White House, Congress discuss ‘return to work’ bonus of \\$450 a week.”](#)
- 5/29 Bloomberg published an article titled, [“Powell Says Fed Policies ‘Absolutely’ Don’t Add to Inequality.”](#)
- 5/29 Bloomberg published an article titled, [“Fed Reveals ETFs It Purchased in Emergency Lending Program.”](#)
- 5/29 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, [“Federal Reserve Ramps Up Deliberations on Asset Purchases, Rate Guidance.”](#)

5/29 The Wall Street Journal published an article titled, [“Fed’s Kaplan Says Strong Virus-Testing Regime Needed to Boost Confidence.”](#)

PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

Congressional

HOUSE:

- Rep. Pallone delivered the [Weekly Democratic Address](#), during which he discussed the Trump Administration’s continued coronavirus testing failures and the strong testing strategy in *The Heroes Act*.
- Speaker Pelosi held her [weekly press conference](#) in the Capitol Visitor Center.
- Rep. Takano, Chairman of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, sent a [letter](#) to VA Secretary Wilkie requesting daily updates on coronavirus cases at VA hospitals broken down by age, race, ethnicity, gender, tribal affiliation and spoken language. He also wants the VA to submit an analysis of all the veterans treated for coronavirus to date.

SENATE:

- Sen. Hassan led a [letter](#) with seven other senators to CMS Administrator Verma and CDC Director Redfield, seeking guidance for when long-term care facilities can safely reopen.
- Sen. Cruz sent a [letter](#) to HHS Secretary Azar urging anticipation of increased demand for flu vaccines.
- Sen. Wyden joined 11 colleagues in a [letter](#) to Treasury Secretary Mnuchin, urging the Trump administration to clarify the formula used to allocate payments to Tribal governments from the CARES Act.
- Sens. Harris and Wyden led a [letter](#) with 14 colleagues, pressing the Trump administration for answers regarding the health and safety of young people detained in juvenile facilities across the country.

Administration

CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION

- CDC released [guidance](#) on when it's safe to be around others after you had or likely had the coronavirus.

FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION

- FDA took steps to further support the development of COVID-19 tests for at-home self-collection by including a voluntary EUA template for at-home sample collection kits to its

website. As explained in FDA's guidance, [Policy for COVID-19 Tests During the Public Health Emergency \(Revised\)](#), this template reflects FDA's current thinking on the data and information that developers should submit to facilitate the EUA process.

- FDA issued an [Emergency Use Authorization](#) for the Stryker Sustainability Solutions (SSS) VHP N95 Respirator Decontamination System (RDS).

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

- DOD, in support of HHS, signed a [\\$2.2 million contract](#) with Hollingsworth & Vose to increase U.S. domestic production of 27.5 million N95 ventilator filters, and 3.1 million N95 respirators per month, starting in August.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS

- The VA began a national four-year study on the impact of COVID-19 on veterans to help address critical questions about the disease. Known as EPIC3 (Epidemiology, Immunology and Clinical Characteristics of COVID-19), researchers will study data and biospecimens, such as throat swabs and blood.

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

- The FCC's Wireline Competition Bureau [approved](#) an additional 53 funding applications for the COVID-19 Telehealth Program. Healthcare providers in both urban and rural areas of the country will use this \$18.22 million in funding to provide telehealth services during the coronavirus pandemic.

Articles of Interest

- 5/28 The New York Times published an article titled, ["C.D.C. Recommends Sweeping Changes to American Offices."](#)
 - 5/28 UMN's Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy (CIDRAP) published an article titled, ["Indoor spread of COVID-19 can be lessened, experts say."](#)
 - 5/29 Stat published an article titled, ["Contact tracing could help avoid another lockdown. Can it work in the U.S.?"](#)
 - 5/29 The Washington Post published an article titled, ["As some hard-hit regions move to reopen, pandemic's hotbeds shift."](#)
 - 5/29 Axios published an article titled, ["How the U.S. might distribute a coronavirus vaccine."](#)
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LABOR UPDATE

Congressional

HOUSE:

- Ways and Means Republicans published a [coronavirus bulletin](#) titled, "Getting Back to Work: A Guide for Employers and Employees."

Administration

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

- DOL's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) issued an [alert](#) listing steps employers can follow to implement social distancing in the workplace and to help protect workers from exposure to the coronavirus.
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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.