



FROM:	Bose Public Affairs Group
DATE:	July 10, 2020
RE:	Weekly COVID-19 Update

### **BIG PICTURE**

The United States has surpassed 3 million confirmed coronavirus cases, with infections rising in at least 40 states. It took less than a month for the national case count to rise to that level from 2 million, on June 11. The count broke 3 million on Wednesday morning based on a [tracker](#) maintained by Johns Hopkins University. Brazil has the second biggest caseload, exceeding 1.6 million. The U.S. also leads the world in COVID-19 deaths, with over 131,000.

[Here is where all 50 states stand on reopening](#)

[CDC COVID-19 Forecasts](#)

[List of federal agency resources in response to COVID-19](#)

[Institutional and Agency Guidance Specific to Federal Award Impact on COVID-19](#)

[COVID-19 School Closure Map](#)

### **ADMINISTRATION**

#### President Notifies Congress of Official Withdrawal from the World Health Organization

On Tuesday, President Donald Trump sent the United Nations and Congress formal notice of the U.S. withdrawal from the World Health Organization (WHO), which a White House spokesperson confirmed will take effect on July 6, 2021. President Trump announced the decision in May, citing his concern with the WHO's slow and ineffective response to the pandemic and Chinese government influence over the group. Opposition to the announcement was swift and bipartisan, with Senate Health Committee Chairman Lamar Alexander (R-TN) stating that "Withdrawing U.S. membership could, among other things,



interfere with clinical trials that are essential to the development of vaccines, which citizens of the United States as well as others in the world need."

#### Administration Discusses Reopening Plans for Schools

This week featured significant debate and discussion in Washington on the process for reopening schools in the fall. On Tuesday, the White House hosted a half-day **Summit on Safely Reopening America's Schools**. The Summit included state and local leaders, health professionals, teachers, administrators, parents, and higher education institution leaders from across the Nation and was focused on approaches to reopening schools in accordance with [CDC guidelines](#) published in May. Following the summit, President Trump and Education Secretary Betsy DeVos have reiterated their strong belief that opening schools in the fall for all students is critically important with DeVos stating she is "[very seriously](#)" [considering](#) withholding federal funds from schools that don't fully reopen this fall. The President followed up with a Tweet on Wednesday confirming the administration's focus on this issue also sharing his opinion that the CDC should issue updated guidelines for schools to reopen, as the current guidelines are too expensive and burdensome.

The Administration later clarified on Thursday that the proposal to withhold funds was more of a strategy to work with Congress on the next coronavirus relief package which could give states "a strong incentive and encouragement to get kids back to school." Also on Thursday, CDC Director Robert Redfield stated that it will not revise its original guidelines despite calls from the President to do so. More information [here](#).

#### DHS to Revoke Visas for International Students Taking Courses all Online

On Monday, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security announced that international students who attend college in the United States will be barred from staying in the country if their school's classes are entirely online during the fall semester. Specifically, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) announced the changes to the Student and Exchange Visitor Program for non-immigrant students on F-1 and M-1 visas for academic and vocational coursework. The State Department will not issue visas to students in online-only programs and Customs and Border Protection will not allow these students to enter the country, according to the [press release](#). If the college or university shifts to entirely online course offerings, international students currently in the United States will have to leave the country or transfer to a school with in-person learning. Failure to comply with these regulations could result in removal proceedings.,

The announcement comes as many universities contend with how to approach instruction for the Fall semester with some institutions, including [Harvard](#) and the [California State University System](#), already announcing plans to offer little to no in-person instruction while other schools



such as [Cornell](#) and [Case Western](#) plan on welcoming all students back to campus. In response a number of universities have banded together to sue the Trump Administration over the announced plans. "We will pursue this case vigorously so that our international students — and international students at institutions across the country — can continue their studies without the threat of deportation," said Harvard's president, Lawrence S. Bacow. According to reports, a federal judge in Boston said on Friday that a challenge to new federal rules stripping visas from foreign students who planned to study entirely online in the fall was likely to succeed with a ruling expected after another hearing next Tuesday.

## **CONGRESS**

### Next Coronavirus Relief Package

With the Senate in recess for the next two weeks, discussions around the next COVID-19 relief package focused primarily on the overall costs and broader themes of what Congressional leaders hope the bill accomplishes. Leaders in both chambers have stated their goal is to have a final package for the President to sign before Congress leaves town for its month-long August recess on August 7.

On Monday, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) [stated](#) that a bill will likely take shape over the next couple weeks and be considered towards the end of the month. "If you're looking for what I think the theme of what a next package that I'm likely to roll out here in a few weeks would focus on: liability reform, kids in school, jobs, and health care, that's where the focus, it seems to me, ought to be," Leader McConnell said. When asked if there will be another round of stimulus checks included in the next piece of legislation, Leader McConnell said there "could well" be. "I think the people that have been hit the hardest are people who make about \$40,000 or less. Many of them work in the hospitality industry. .... That could well be a part of it," he added.

From the White House perspective, officials [said](#) on Tuesday that the White House is looking at a second stimulus package totaling around \$1 trillion. This comes after White House Chief of Staff Mark Meadows [signaled](#) support Monday for additional stimulus while noting there are proposals beyond the direct checks sent to taxpayers earlier this year. "I think the President's been very clear that he's supportive of another stimulus check," Meadows said. In response, Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) pushed back on the \$1 trillion total, arguing that Congress will need to approve at least double that amount amid a surge in cases, state and local funding concerns, and continued requests for unemployment assistance. "No, we need a trillion dollars for state and local. We need another trillion dollars for unemployment insurance, and direct payments," Pelosi stated.



While Democratic and Republican leaders agree on the timeline they have for getting a bill across the finish line, this week's back and forth underscores the challenges that remain over the size and scope of the next package, raising questions that the bill can pass both chambers by the end of the month.

#### House Subcommittee Holds Hearing on Future Impact of COVID-19 on Higher Education

On Tuesday, the House Education and Labor Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Investment held a hearing titled, "A Major Test: Examining the Impact of COVID-19 on the Future of Higher Education." Witnesses included Ms. Sharon J. Pierce, Ed.D., M.S.N., President, Minneapolis College, Minneapolis, MN; Mr. Timothy P. White, Ph.D., Chancellor, The California State University, Long Beach, CA; Mr. Scott Pulsipher, President, Western Governors University, Salt Lake City, UT; and Mr. Shaun Harper, Ph.D., President, American Educational Research Association. Republican members of the subcommittee focused on higher education's return on investment for students and the increasing role of the federal government in the higher education landscape often without results. They believe that the CARES Act has provided billions in relief to higher education institutions and that areas other than additional funds, such as competency-based learning and improving workforce participation in college classrooms would be of greater benefit. Across the aisle, Democratic members of the subcommittee also advocated for scaling up apprenticeships and helping students pursue alternative methods to a four-year degree while ensuring Congress holds these institutions accountable. For a recording of this hearing, and witnesses' prepared statements, click [here](#).

#### **BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY**

More than 1.3 million workers, seasonally adjusted, filed new claims for regular unemployment benefits last week with another million first-time claims filed under the federal Pandemic Unemployment Assistance program. Taken together, the report details that new unemployment claims have edged up from their mid-June lows with many business that had started to reopen now being forced to return to tighter restrictions following the spike in cases around the country. On Wall Street this week, the Dow Jones gained 1%, the S&P 500 1%, and the NASDAQ nearly 4%.

#### PPP Recipient Information Disclosed

The Trump Administration on Monday [released data](#) about recipients of Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loans, which sparked a flurry of discussion about the efficacy of the program and how to ensure businesses most in need receive support in any additional relief package. *Politico* [reported](#) that private-equity-backed restaurants, hedge funds, Kanye West's clothing brand, and several top lobbying and law firms all received small business aid, and [analysis](#) by *The Wall Street Journal* (WSJ) similarly demonstrated that larger firms, who received loans in the \$5M-\$10M range, comprised a greater share of the recipient pool when the program



debuted in April. Though these perceived imperfections in the PPP's implementation have provoked bipartisan calls for more targeted lending to relatively small, minority-owned, and rural businesses, the PPP has generated positive results. The WSJ analysis also demonstrated that the program allowed the restaurant industry to retain upwards of 5.5 million jobs, with an additional 110+ sectors reportedly retaining at least 100,000 positions.

#### BLS Releases June Employment Data

The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) released its much anticipated [June jobs report](#) last Thursday. BLS reported that the American economy added 4.8 million jobs over the course of June, which shaved the unemployment rate down to 11.1% from May's 13.3%.

### **HEALTH CARE**

#### HHS Announces Surge Testing in New Hotspots

On Tuesday, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) [announced](#) free COVID-19 testing in Jacksonville, Florida; Baton Rouge, Louisiana; and Edinburg, Texas. Surge testing efforts will temporarily increase federal support to communities where there has been a recent and intense level of new cases and hospitalizations related to the ongoing outbreak. The three jurisdictions identified are seeing significant increases in COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations and could potentially benefit from additional opportunities to identify new cases, especially for people who are asymptomatic.

#### NIH Launches Clinical Trial Network to Ramp Up Vaccine Trials

The National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), part of the National Institutes of Health, announced this week that it has established a new clinical trials network that aims to enroll thousands of volunteers in large-scale clinical trials testing a variety of investigational vaccines and monoclonal antibodies intended to protect people from COVID-19. The COVID-19 Prevention Trials Network (COVPN) is a functional unit of "Operation Warp Speed," a partnership led by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to invest in and coordinate the development, manufacturing and distribution of COVID-19 diagnostics, therapeutics and vaccines. More [here](#).

### **CONCLUSION**

The Bose Public Affairs Group team will continue to monitor all relevant developments over the coming week and will be providing ongoing updates as they develop.

