



March 30, 2020

## ACG Coronavirus Update

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### OVERVIEW

- The White House is extending social-distancing guidelines until April 30<sup>th</sup>. Governors in Rhode Island, Florida and Texas, among others, have tightened restrictions on out-of-state travelers,
- **NEW:** Please find attached a three-page FAQ document Sen. Marco Rubio's office just issued re: the PPP program. Sen. Rubio (R-FL) and Sen. Cardin (D-MD) led the way in the Senate for the establishment of the PPP program. So, Rubio's perspective and guidance is about as close to gospel as anyone can hope for these days. In addition, please find attached a Q&A follow-up from the ACG & ACGA Coronavirus Policy Briefing call.

### RESOURCES

- [COVID-19 Projections](#)
- [The CARES Act Relief Funds Toolkit](#)
- [CARES Act](#)
  - [Unemployment Insurance Provisions one-pager](#)
  - [Small Business Loan Provisions one-pager](#)
  - [Title IV one-pager](#)
  - [Key Tax Provisions Summary](#)
- [Paycheck Protection Program and EIDL Grant Flowchart](#)
- [Congressional Research Service: CARES Act](#)
- [Recording of ACG & ACGA Policy Call: The Great American Stimulus: Coronavirus \\$2 Trillion Legislative Package](#)
- [Coronavirus International Travel Updates](#) and [A Guide to State Coronavirus Lockdowns](#)
- [COVID-19 Treatment and Vaccine Tracker](#)
- [Guidance on the Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce](#)
- [Summary of Families First Coronavirus Response Act \(H.R. 6201\)](#)
- [List of House Democrats Coronavirus staff points of contact](#)
- [List of canceled events and public gatherings in the U.S. \(updated daily\)](#)
- [The Johns Hopkins Tracker](#)

### ADMINISTRATION

- The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved the emergency use of a decontamination system for N95 respirator masks in places that have limited personal protective equipment. The Battelle Decontamination System, produced by the Battelle Memorial Institute in Columbus, Ohio, was approved to sanitize the masks in situations where there are no alternatives. FDA emphasized that there is “no adequate, approved and available alternative to the decontamination system.”

- FDA on Sunday announced emergency use authorization of two anti-malaria drugs, hydroxychloroquine and chloroquine. The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) said in a [statement](#) that the authorization would allow 30 million doses of hydroxychloroquine sulfate from Sandoz and 1 million doses of chloroquine phosphate from Bayer Pharmaceuticals to be donated to the Strategic National Stockpile. The products will be “distributed and prescribed by doctors to hospitalized teen and adult patients with Covid-19, as appropriate, when a clinical trial is not available or feasible,” HHS said.
- The federal government, through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and state and local governments, is [using](#) location data from mobile phones to better understand the movements of Americans and how they may be affecting the spread of the coronavirus. The data, removed of identifying information, will provide geolocation information for around 500 cities across the U.S. The CDC has started to get data through one project, called the Covid-19 Mobility Data Network, that is being coordinated with a coalition of epidemiologists at Harvard, Princeton, Johns Hopkins, and other universities, along with numerous tech companies and data providers.

## CONGRESS

- Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) said she expects the House to start working on phase four to address worker protections, paid leave, food stamps, postal workers, additional grants to the states, and free medical treatment related to the coronavirus. “Two trillion dollars might seem like a lot of money, and it is ... but the challenge is so great,” she said in an interview Monday morning. House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-CA) said a fourth package may not be necessary on Fox News’s “Sunday Morning Futures.” “Before we go to start drafting a fourth package, I’d like these three packages we just put out ... to take care and get this economy moving,” he said.

## Health Care

- Cigna and Humana have joined CVS Health’s Aetna to waive cost-sharing charges for patients being treated for Covid-19. This goes beyond what was outlined in the Families First Coronavirus Response Act, ([H.R. 6201](#)), which mandated insurers cover coronavirus testing, including an office or emergency room visit at no out-of-pocket cost. Cigna and Humana said the shift will take effect across different types of plans, including employer and Medicare products, however, self-insured employers may choose not to waive the charges. Cigna said its new policy will be in effect through May 31<sup>st</sup>. Humana’s will go indefinitely for now.
- Producers and distributors of medical supplies [expressed](#) concern that they are not receiving guidance on how to allocate resources to hospitals and states with greater need. “It’s really the allocation piece that’s most important to us right now because we just cannot and never will have a window into what the most urgent need is,” said Scott Whitaker, chief executive of the Advanced Medical Technology Association, a trade association that represents producers of medical devices. Companies state the White House has not provided formal guidance about where to distribute their products, leaving them to make such decisions on their own.

- Johnson & Johnson [announced](#) it has selected a lead candidate for a coronavirus vaccine and will begin human trials by September. The company said it could get emergency use authorization to make the vaccine available by early 2021. The company also has two back-up constructs in case the lead candidate fails.
- Gilead announced it would stop considering individual emergency requests for its experimental drug, remdesivir, due to overwhelming demand. “This works well when there is only a limited number of requests—as is normally the case—but the system cannot support and process the overwhelming number of applications we have seen with Covid-19,” Gilead Chief Executive Daniel O’Day wrote in an [open letter](#). Instead, Gilead is setting up an “expanded access” program under which doctors and hospitals can apply for emergency use for multiple patients at a time. Gilead has provided remdesivir to more than 1,000 Covid-19 patients through its compassionate-use program and hopes the change will increase access for patients. Gilead and other researchers are conducting clinical trials in patients hospitalized by the virus and initial study data is expected to be available in the coming weeks.

### **Financial Services Update**

- Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin says that documents and instructions should be available later today on the [Small Business Administration](#)’s (SBA) website regarding the various programs authorized through the CARES Act. Mnuchin also stated the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loans will be available to borrowers by Friday. Lastly, he also indicated that if fund for the programs run out, the treasury will go back to Congress and ask for more money. Watch [here](#).
- The Federal Reserve is reviewing new ways to support financing for state and local governments. Governing law does not allow the Fed to directly buy corporate debt and it is limited to purchasing municipal debt of six months or less. However, subject to approval of the Treasury secretary, the Fed can work around these restrictions by creating lending facilities that lend or purchase debt. Fed officials are considering whether to expand existing facilities to accommodate other municipal debt or to launch a new facility devoted to state and local finance. Accordingly, Fed officials must decide which municipal debt might be eligible for support and on what terms. The Fed has already entered into muni-debt markets by expanding a money-market lending backstop to include certain types of municipal debt. Additionally, the Fed has purchased some highly rated municipal debt in a facility backing the market for very short-term commercial debt. Read more [here](#).
- U.S. Senator Mike Crapo (R-Idaho), Chairman of the U.S. Senate Committee on Banking, urged the U.S. Department of Treasury and the Federal Reserve to act quickly to provide guidance on [Title IV](#) of the CARES Act. Read statement [here](#).