

March 19, 2020

TO: USTOA Members
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Administration

Updates at 7pm ET

- The Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) put out a [notification](#) this afternoon outlining 16 critical industries in which employees should maintain their regular work schedules in order to “ensure the security and resilience of the Nation's critical infrastructure.” CISA is in charge of DHS's statutory responsibilities to provide strategic guidance, promote a national unity of effort, and coordinate the overall federal effort to ensure the security and resilience of the Nation's critical infrastructure.
 - The below graphic outlines what CISA has identified as these 16 critical industries, but a more detailed breakdown can be found at the hyperlink above:



- The Department of Energy has requested \$3 billion from Congress to allow for the purchase of 30 million barrels of oil to beef up the Strategic Petroleum Reserve and blunt the effects of the COVID-19 outbreak on the oil industry.

Updates at 2pm ET

- Dr. Stephen Hahn, Commissioner, Food and Drug Administration (FDA) announced that the FDA is fast-tracking antiviral treatments for COVID-19 patients.
 - The FDA is exploring using drugs that are already approved for expanded uses, including for COVID-19.
 - Currently, the vaccine trial is in phase one, and could take 12 months to fully develop.
- Under the recently enacted legislation, state and private labs are required to report testing results directly to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC).
 - Tens of thousands tests are being performed daily.
- The legislation also allows the sale of industrial masks directly to hospitals (including N95 masks).
 - Previously, only a certain amount of masks being produced were available for hospital use.
 - Companies such as Honeywell and 3M are increasing their production and are now selling more of their production volume to hospitals.
 - Vice President Pence mentioned that Honeywell is repurposing a factory that was set to be moved to Mexico to produce additional masks and that 3M is ramping up production to produce 420 million masks this year.
 - The Vice President also discussed that construction companies are donating masks and other personal protective equipment to hospitals.
- Vice President Pence discussed that tens of thousands of ventilators have been identified as being able to be converted to treat patients.
- Dr. Birx once again described that there will be a steep increase in confirmed cases because of the increase in testing that will continue over the next 2-3 days.
- It was clarified that while the President had enabled the Defense Production Act, no specific items had been targeted yet for production under the authorities provided.
- Carnival Corporation Chairman Micky Arison has contacted the President and offered to make ships available to bolster number of beds and use as a possible quarantine location.

Updates at 9am ET

- Last night, President Trump signed into law H.R. 6201, the second COVID-19 relief package. The House initially passed this package passed last Friday and again on Monday after making technical corrections. The Senate passed the corrected version Wednesday afternoon.

- As a reminder, this legislation provides many workers with up to two weeks of paid sick leave if they have been diagnosed, or are being treated for COVID-19. People who have been told by a doctor or government official to stay home because of the virus would also be eligible for the paid sick leave. The payments are capped at \$511 per day.
- Workers with family members affected by COVID-19 and those whose children's schools have been closed are eligible for up to two-thirds of their pay, capped at \$200 per day.
- The White House continues to discuss the third package bill with Senate Republicans.
- President Trump is holding a call at the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) with Governors from across the nation today.
- The Administration has announced their plan to offer \$50 billion in loans to airlines. This does not satisfy the airline request made earlier this week, which was a combination of grants and loans.
- As relayed yesterday, the Administration has asked Congress for \$46 billion in supplemental funding for federal agencies. Three additional notes in the request:
 - \$21 million in emergency funding for various Department of Transportation (DOT) programs.
 - \$153 million to support Transportation Security Administration (TSA) operations.
 - A \$500 million bailout for Amtrak via grants to make up for revenue losses.
- The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration has expanded its trucking hours of service exemption to include drivers carrying medical supplies and paper products to stock stores, in addition to manufacturing materials.
- The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) and Customs and Border Protection (CBP) today officially published their [notice](#) of travel restrictions for the U.K. and Ireland.

Congress

Updates at 7pm ET

- Senator McConnell officially introduced the [attached text](#) of the Republicans' trillion-dollar proposal late Thursday, which will commence formal negotiations with the Democrats.
- Democrat and Republican priorities for this third package are further apart than on the previous two packages and could affect how quickly the package is able to pass the Senate.
 - **According to published reports, the Senate Republican package includes the following:**

- Issues direct payments of \$1,200 to Americans making less than \$75,000 annually in an effort provide economic relief during the coronavirus outbreak.
- Provisions to give small businesses federally guaranteed loans.
- Lends to hard-hit industries such as airlines.
 - The Senate Republican-led Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act was included as part of 2020 as part of the broader Senate economic response package. The legislation allows the Treasury Secretary to provide up to \$208 billion in collateralized loans and loan guarantees to American industries whose operations are jeopardized as a direct result of the coronavirus outbreak. \$58 billion is allocated to facilitate liquidity in the airline sector.
- Extends the tax filing deadline to July 15.
- **We will share more information as we learn and review more.**
- **Senate Democrats are looking for:**
 - Rules preventing corporations from getting government aid and then firing employees, cutting salaries or reducing benefits, as well as prohibitions on the money being used to buy back stock or reward executives.
 - A large amount of federal resources to rebuild and strengthen health infrastructure, including for hospitals and covering medical supplies like nasal swabs and protective masks.
 - A new type of unemployment assistance that covers all workers, including those in the gig economy. That beefed-up compensation would come closer to fully paying workers' lost wages.
 - All employees and independent contractors to get 14 days of paid sick leave in the event of a public emergency and 12 weeks of paid family and medical leave, reimbursed in full by the federal government.
 - Also, Democrats are pushing for permanent accrual of seven paid sick days.
 - The Department of Education to make monthly student loan payments on behalf of borrowers during emergency declarations. The Administration would have to pay off at least \$10,000 of a person's student loans.
 - Higher amounts and more frequent payments to individual Americans than have been floated by the Administration and Senate Republicans to date.

- In the House, drafting also continues on a counter-offer to the Senate package.
 - Reports indicate that House Democrats are seeking up to \$150 billion to replenish agency budgets for those that have been fighting the outbreak. As a reminder, the Administration earlier this week requested \$46 billion for the same purpose.
- Lawmakers in both chambers of Congress are also requesting an extension for the tax filing deadline in addition to the payment relief that Secretary Mnuchin announced earlier this week.
 - House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Richie Neal (D-MA) today wrote a letter to Treasury Secretary Mnuchin requesting an extension in the filing deadline to July 15.
 - Sens. John Thune (R-SD), Steve Daines (R-MT) and Angus King (I-ME) have also introduced S.3535, which would do the same.
- At this time, the House is not expected to return to Washington, DC until the Senate has passed the third package.

Updates at 2pm ET

- Reports indicate that Senate Finance Chairman Chuck Grassley supports giving taxpayers as much as \$1,200 in relief as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, according to a plan he may release later today.

Updates at 9am ET

- Senate Republicans continue drafting their trillion-dollar relief package. Majority Leader McConnell's hope is to unveil the package as early as today and immediately begin negotiations with Minority Leader Schumer.
 - Former Senate Majority Whip John Cornyn (R-TX), meanwhile, indicated that work on this third relief package could take until early next week.
- Senate Democrats continue to push for union/labor conditions and concerns in an airline bailout and have indicated they will not support an airline relief plan that does not include conditions to protect workers and consumers.
- House Democrats are drafting another stimulus relief package and have indicated this will be their counter-offer to the trillion-dollar Senate Republican package.
 - Reports indicate that the House Democratic proposal may include additional unemployment insurance payments, expanded Medicaid coverage, an airline relief package, relief for homeowners and renters, support for small businesses, and more food security measures.
 - House Democrats are holding a conference call this afternoon to discuss the package.

Other News

- Automakers across the country, including the big three U.S. manufacturers Ford, GM, and Fiat Chrysler Automotive (FCA), as well as Honda and others have announced plans to suspend manufacturing through the end of the month.
 - Leaders from the manufacturers and the United Auto Workers are working together on plans to re-open their factories in a way that complies with social distancing and cleaning protocols.
 - Tesla is trying to keep its factory in Fremont, CA open at limited capacity despite calls for it to be closed.
- The New York Stock Exchange plans on closing its trading floor this coming Monday.
- Two Members of Congress, Mario Diaz Balart (R-FL) and Ben McAdams (D-UT), have tested positive for COVID-19, as have other employees at the Department of Homeland Security.
- Representative Dan Lipinski (D-IL), a top Democrat on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, lost his primary.
- Delta has parked more than 600 jets and is cutting corporate pay by as much as 50%.
- Two cruise ships have been prohibited from disembarking in Honolulu after being turned away by other ports – there were no positive cases of COVID-19 on either ship.
- The White House Coronavirus Task Force is scheduled to meet at 11am this morning.
- Reports continue to indicate that 4.6 million travel and tourism industry jobs could be eliminated as a result of COVID-19, more than 25 percent of the 15.8 million Americans who work in the sector.