July 13, 2020

TO: USTOA Members

FR: Terry Dale

Below is our COVID-19 Updates for July 13, 2020:

**Congress**

**Both the House and Senate are in recess through July 20; however, House Committees continue to meet.**

**Updates at 7pm ET**

**Senate**

* Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee Ranking Member Patty Murray (D-WA), Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) and other Democrats released a white paper outlining a plan to research, manufacture, purchase and distribute COVID-19 vaccines. The plan requests $25B and for the vaccine to be free for all Americans. A press release on the white paper can be found [here](https://www.murray.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/newsreleases?ContentRecord_id=F7BA2E5D-E674-44DB-B3D3-7A0E7DB6A972) and the full white paper can be found [here](https://www.help.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/Murray%20Vaccines%20White%20Paper%20FINAL.pdf).
* Elevate understands that the Senate will not likely move any of the Chamber’s appropriations bills until September.
* No negotiations have commenced on COVID-19 relief as of yet. Elevate continues to believe that the negotiations will begin when the Senate returns on July 20, leaving just three weeks before the August break.

**House**

* House leadership announced plans to bundle four spending bills into one package for a vote on the House floor next week. The four bills – Agriculture-Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Interior-Environment, State and Foreign Operations, and Military Construction and Veterans Affairs – would fund the Departments of Agriculture, State, Interior and Veterans Affairs, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), FDA and military construction projects.
  + The House Rules Committee is expected to meet Tuesday or Wednesday next week to prepare the minibus and will likely have to sort through a large number of amendments.
* The House Appropriations Committee continued their full committee markups of FY 2021 appropriations bills. The appropriations schedule with updated vote results can be found below.
  + The following bills will be considered by the full committee this week:
    - [Transportation-Housing and Urban Development](https://appropriations.house.gov/news/press-releases/appropriations-committee-releases-fiscal-year-2021-transportation-housing-and): $158.3B
      * Markup 7/14
      * The committee report is available [here](https://appropriations.house.gov/sites/democrats.appropriations.house.gov/files/FY2021%20THUD%20Full%20Report_0.PDF).
    - [Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies](https://appropriations.house.gov/news/press-releases/appropriations-committee-releases-fiscal-year-2021-commerce-justice-science): $71.473B
      * Markup 7/14
      * The committee report is available [here](https://appropriations.house.gov/sites/democrats.appropriations.house.gov/files/FINAL%20CJS%20report%20July%207th.pdf).
    - [Defense](https://appropriations.house.gov/news/press-releases/appropriations-committee-releases-fiscal-year-2021-defense-funding-bill): $694.6B
      * Markup 7/14
      * The committee report is available [here](https://appropriations.house.gov/sites/democrats.appropriations.house.gov/files/FY21%20Defense%20Full%20committee%20report.pdf).
    - [Financial Services](https://appropriations.house.gov/news/press-releases/appropriations-committee-releases-fiscal-year-2021-financial-services-and): $24.64B
      * Markup 7/15
    - [Homeland Security](https://appropriations.house.gov/news/press-releases/appropriations-committee-releases-fiscal-year-2021-homeland-security-funding): $50.72B
      * Markup 7/15
  + The following bills have already been considered by the full committee:
    - [Labor-Health and Human Services-Education](https://appropriations.house.gov/news/press-releases/appropriations-committee-releases-fiscal-year-2021-labor-hhs-education-funding): $196.5B
      * Approved by the full committee in a 30-22 vote.
      * The committee report is available [here](https://appropriations.house.gov/sites/democrats.appropriations.house.gov/files/LHHS%20Report%20-%20GPO%20-%207.8.20.pdf).
    - [Energy and Water Development](https://appropriations.house.gov/news/press-releases/appropriations-committee-releases-fiscal-year-2021-energy-and-water-development): $49.6B
      * Approved by the full committee in a 30-21 vote.
      * The committee report is available [here](https://appropriations.house.gov/sites/democrats.appropriations.house.gov/files/FY21%20EW%20Full%20Committee%20Print%20Report.PDF).
    - [Interior-Environment](https://appropriations.house.gov/news/press-releases/appropriations-committee-releases-fiscal-year-2021-interior-environment-funding): $36.76B
      * Approved by the full committee in a 30-19 vote.
      * The committee report is available [here](https://appropriations.house.gov/sites/democrats.appropriations.house.gov/files/Interior%20Report%20Full%20Committee%20Print.pdf).
    - [Legislative Branch](https://appropriations.house.gov/news/press-releases/appropriations-committee-releases-fiscal-year-2021-legislative-branch-funding): $4.19B
      * Approved by the full committee in a 30-18 vote.
      * The committee report is available [here](https://appropriations.house.gov/sites/democrats.appropriations.house.gov/files/FY21LB_38861.pdf).
    - [State and Foreign Operations](https://appropriations.house.gov/news/press-releases/appropriations-committee-releases-fiscal-year-2021-state-and-foreign-operations): $65.87B
      * Approved by the full committee in a 29-21 vote.
      * The committee report is available [here](https://appropriations.house.gov/sites/democrats.appropriations.house.gov/files/2020-07-03%20SFOPS%20Report%20Full%20Committee.pdf).
    - [Agriculture-Food and Drug Administration:](https://appropriations.house.gov/news/press-releases/appropriations-committee-releases-fiscal-year-2021-agriculture-rural-development) $23.98B
      * Approved by the full committee by voice vote.
      * The committee report is available [here](https://appropriations.house.gov/sites/democrats.appropriations.house.gov/files/Ag%20Report%20received%207-2-20.pdf).
    - [Military Construction and Veterans Affairs](https://appropriations.house.gov/news/press-releases/appropriations-committee-releases-fiscal-year-2021-military-construction-and): $250.9B
      * Approved by the full committee in a 30-20 vote.
      * The committee report is available [here](https://appropriations.house.gov/sites/democrats.appropriations.house.gov/files/Milcon%20VA%20FY%2021%20Report%20Full%20Comm%20Print.pdf).
* Appropriations Committee Member Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-FL) released a Dear Colleague letter on Monday with her plans to create an appropriations advisory committee on equity, justice and diversity. Rep. Wasserman Schultz said the panel would refocus federal spending decisions on the issues and demands of equity, justice, and diversity.” The Dear Colleague letter can be found [here](https://ustoa.com/r/ustoa-filemanager/source/resources/rep-wasserman-schultz-dear-colleague.pdf).
  + Rep. Wasserman Schultz has expressed interest in replacing retiring Appropriations Committee Chairwoman Nita Lowey (D-NY) but is competing against Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-CT), who is more senior on the committee.
* In the report for the House Appropriations Committee’s FY 2021 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development (THUD) bill, members of the House Appropriations Committee expressed concerns over Skip Elliott serving as the Department of Transportation’s (DOT) Acting Inspector General and the Administrator of the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA). The report expressed concerns that were made in a recent Government Accountability Office (GAO) report stating that there are “unique independence challenges” when an agency official serves as an Acting Inspector General.
* The House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee released its Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) with bipartisan support. The legislation, which is generally passed every two years, would, among other legislative actions, authorize 35 feasibility studies for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) and construction of all 34 pending proposed projects with final Chief’s Reports within the Corps Civil Works mission areas, including navigation, flood damage reduction, hurricane and storm damage reduction, shoreline protection, and ecosystem restoration. A fact sheet can be found [here](https://transportation.house.gov/imo/media/doc/WRDA%202020%20Fact%20Sheet_FINAL.pdf). Bill text can be found [here](https://transportation.house.gov/imo/media/doc/WRDA20_01_xml.pdf). A section-by-section can be found [here](https://transportation.house.gov/imo/media/doc/WRDA%202020%20Section%20by%20Section%20Final.pdf).
  + The Committee is marking up the legislation on Wednesday.
  + The Senate Environment and Public Works (EPW) Committee passed its WRDA, split into the America’s Water Infrastructure Act and Drinking Water Infrastructure Act, in May.

**General Congress**

* A large coalition of non-profit organizations sent a letter to Congressional leadership requesting that non-profits receive more robust aid in the next COVID-19 relief package. The coalition asked for more funding for a second round of Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loans, creating loans for non-profits that have over 500 employees that do not typically qualify for small business loans and to increase charitable tax breaks. The letter can be found [here](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fwww.councilofnonprofits.org%2fsites%2fdefault%2ffiles%2fdocuments%2fnonprofit-community-letter-7-13-2020.pdf&c=E,1,FIxh8o9uN-ZvTN4-jPT59uk_55Nm8ZKAtwu92sSzh9noI_azVreHw0EWdWyFeFsJ3rcaPEQMzqPkCuLu_fr64rrBfGhjxELq7LLH6zbitSkSeBYQb1U,&typo=1).

**Updates at 11am ET**

**Senate**

* Hua Chunying, a Chinese foreign ministry spokeswoman, announced at a press conference on Monday that Beijing would sanction Republican Sens. Marco Rubio (R-FL) and Ted Cruz (R-TX), House Rep. Chris Smith (R-NJ) and Sam Brownback, President Trump’s ambassador-at-large for international religious freedom. The spokesperson did not specify what the sanctions will entail, though some reports suggest the U.S. officials will be banned from traveling to China.

**House**

* House appropriators will continue to consider the Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 government spending bills in full committee this week. Below is a schedule of when each bill will be considered and additional available information:
  + The following bills will be considered this week:
    - [Energy and Water Development](https://appropriations.house.gov/news/press-releases/appropriations-committee-releases-fiscal-year-2021-energy-and-water-development): $49.6B
      * Markup 7/13
      * The committee report is available [here](https://appropriations.house.gov/sites/democrats.appropriations.house.gov/files/FY21%20EW%20Full%20Committee%20Print%20Report.PDF).
    - [Labor-Health and Human Services-Education](https://appropriations.house.gov/news/press-releases/appropriations-committee-releases-fiscal-year-2021-labor-hhs-education-funding): $196.5B
      * Markup 7/13
      * The committee report is available [here](https://appropriations.house.gov/sites/democrats.appropriations.house.gov/files/LHHS%20Report%20-%20GPO%20-%207.8.20.pdf).
    - [Transportation-Housing and Urban Development](https://appropriations.house.gov/news/press-releases/appropriations-committee-releases-fiscal-year-2021-transportation-housing-and): $158.3B
      * Markup 7/14
      * The committee report is available [here](https://appropriations.house.gov/sites/democrats.appropriations.house.gov/files/FY2021%20THUD%20Full%20Report_0.PDF).
    - [Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies](https://appropriations.house.gov/news/press-releases/appropriations-committee-releases-fiscal-year-2021-commerce-justice-science): $71.473B
      * Markup 7/14
      * The committee report is available [here](https://appropriations.house.gov/sites/democrats.appropriations.house.gov/files/FINAL%20CJS%20report%20July%207th.pdf).
    - [Defense](https://appropriations.house.gov/news/press-releases/appropriations-committee-releases-fiscal-year-2021-defense-funding-bill): $694.6B
      * Markup 7/14
      * The committee report is available [here](https://appropriations.house.gov/sites/democrats.appropriations.house.gov/files/FY21%20Defense%20Full%20committee%20report.pdf).
    - [Financial Services](https://appropriations.house.gov/news/press-releases/appropriations-committee-releases-fiscal-year-2021-financial-services-and): $24.64B
      * Markup 7/15
    - [Homeland Security](https://appropriations.house.gov/news/press-releases/appropriations-committee-releases-fiscal-year-2021-homeland-security-funding): $50.72B
      * Markup 7/15
  + The following bills have already been considered by the full committee:
    - [Interior-Environment](https://appropriations.house.gov/news/press-releases/appropriations-committee-releases-fiscal-year-2021-interior-environment-funding): $36.76B
      * Approved by the full committee in a 30-19 vote.
      * The committee report is available [here](https://appropriations.house.gov/sites/democrats.appropriations.house.gov/files/Interior%20Report%20Full%20Committee%20Print.pdf).
    - [Legislative Branch](https://appropriations.house.gov/news/press-releases/appropriations-committee-releases-fiscal-year-2021-legislative-branch-funding): $4.19B
      * Approved by the full committee in a 30-18 vote.
      * The committee report is available [here](https://appropriations.house.gov/sites/democrats.appropriations.house.gov/files/FY21LB_38861.pdf).
    - [State and Foreign Operations](https://appropriations.house.gov/news/press-releases/appropriations-committee-releases-fiscal-year-2021-state-and-foreign-operations): $65.87B
      * Approved by the full committee in a 29-21 vote.
      * The committee report is available [here](https://appropriations.house.gov/sites/democrats.appropriations.house.gov/files/2020-07-03%20SFOPS%20Report%20Full%20Committee.pdf).
    - [Agriculture-Food and Drug Administration:](https://appropriations.house.gov/news/press-releases/appropriations-committee-releases-fiscal-year-2021-agriculture-rural-development) $23.98B
      * Approved by the full committee by voice vote.
      * The committee report is available [here](https://appropriations.house.gov/sites/democrats.appropriations.house.gov/files/Ag%20Report%20received%207-2-20.pdf).
    - [Military Construction and Veterans Affairs](https://appropriations.house.gov/news/press-releases/appropriations-committee-releases-fiscal-year-2021-military-construction-and): $250.9B
      * Approved by the full committee in a 30-20 vote.
      * The committee report is available [here](https://appropriations.house.gov/sites/democrats.appropriations.house.gov/files/Milcon%20VA%20FY%2021%20Report%20Full%20Comm%20Print.pdf).
* House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) over the weekend remarked that extending the $600 weekly expanded unemployment benefits is a priority for Democrats in the next COVID-19 relief bill. She also raised funding for nutrition benefits, absentee voting programs, and Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) standards as items Democrats will be pushing for. As a reminder, though negotiations have not yet begun formally, both Democrats and Republicans have indicated what the major priorities are for each party for weeks.
  + Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) has indicated that there will be no extension of the expanded unemployment benefits.
* House Homeland Security Committee Chairman Bennie Thompson (D-MS) sent a [letter](https://homeland.house.gov/imo/media/doc/DHS%20COVID%20cases%20letter.pdf) to Acting Secretary of Homeland Security Chad Wolf Friday expressing his concern over rising COVID-19 infections among Department of Homeland Security (DHS) employees, especially among Transportation Security Administration (TSA) and Customs and Border Protection (CBP) employees. The letter argued that over 2,000 TSA and CBP employees tested positive as of July 10 and that the numbers have increased 43% and 52% for those two agencies in the last two weeks. Chairman Thompson called on Secretary Pekoske to implement policies better protecting DHS employees.

**Administration**

**Updates at 7pm ET**

* Former White House Chief of Staff Mick Mulvaney criticized the testing process in the United States as “inexcusable” in an op-ed written for CNBC. Mulvaney cited his family’s experience waiting over a week for test results and being denied tests in the article. The article can be found [here](https://www.cnbc.com/2020/07/13/mick-mulvaney-next-stimulus-bill-should-deal-with-covid-19.html?source=email).
* Highway Trust Fund receipts were $2.2B in June, a 41% drop from the $3.7B brought in during June 2019. This number is an improvement from the 79% year-over-year decrease in May. Currently, the year-over-year decline to date for 2020 is 14%.
  + The Highway Trust Fund receives 85% of its funding through fuel taxes.
* The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) will cancel uncashed CARES Act stimulus checks that were sent to people who had died. The IRS noted the action on their website. Additionally, the IRS asked for survivors of those who received checks and cashed them to return the money.
  + The IRS noted that they did not believe the original law that gave them the authority to distribute the checks gave them the power to withhold them from any Americans, which is why they ended up being distributed to dead Americans.

**Updates at 11am ET**

* Larry Kudlow, Director of the National Economic Council, told reporters on Friday that the White House wants the second round of stimulus payments to be smaller and go to a more targeted group of taxpayers. This is consistent with Senate Majority Leader McConnell’s comments regarding another round of stimulus payments for Americans who make less than $40,000 per year.
* On Friday, President Trump said he instructed the Treasury Department to review the tax-exempt status of U.S. schools, colleges and universities.
  + As a reminder, the President threatened to pull federal funding from schools that do not reopen in the fall.
* Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos this weekend described the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) recommendations to reopen schools this fall as common-sense measures, after President Trump had criticized the recommendations. She emphasized the importance of children returning to school and that the CDC recommendations are guidance to assist local educators in deciding how to safely reopen schools.
* President Trump said Friday that China’s handling of the COVID-19 pandemic “severely damaged” it’s relationship with the United States, decreasing the prospects for a second trade deal with China before the presidential election in November. The President also said that China “could have stopped” the COVID-19 pandemic.
  + These comments come just one month after United States Trade Representative (USTR) Robert Lighthizer told the House Ways and Means Committee that he was very happy with China’s implementation of the phase one trade deal, but that logistical problems created by the pandemic delayed phase two negotiations.
* USTR announced $1.3B in new tariffs on various French cosmetics, soaps, and handbags late Friday. The tariffs are in response to France’s plan to place a new Digital Services Tax (DST) on large U.S. tech companies doing business in the country.
  + The new 25% tariffs reportedly will not be collected immediately and are suspended for 6 months. The suspension was put in place to give France a chance to pull back its new taxes that would target Google, Amazon, Facebook, and others.
  + As a reminder, USTR laid out $2.4B worth of tariffs on other French goods earlier this year, including champagne, cheese, and dinnerware.
  + In addition, the public comment periods for multiple DST investigations close this week, including the investigations against Austria, Brazil, the Czech Republic, India, Indonesia, Italy, Spain, Turkey, and the United Kingdom.
* Trump Administration National Security Adviser Robert O’Brien, and his Deputy, Matthew Pottinger, are traveling to France this week for meetings with their counterparts from France, Germany, the U.K. and Italy on issues related to China and other foreign policy. The meetings will reportedly focus on competition with China on 5G and major supply chains.
  + As a reminder, the U.S. has been pushing nations within Europe to limit involvement with Chinese company Huawei when building out new 5G wireless networks, citing concerns that the company is tied to the Chinese Community Party and is therefore using the technology to spy on and disrupt critical communications and commerce.
* On Friday, the Department of Labor released a final rule streamlining the Trade Adjustment Assistance Program, which compensates some U.S. workers whose jobs have been outsourced to different countries. The final rule can be found [here](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fwww.dol.gov%2fsites%2fdolgov%2ffiles%2fETA%2ftradeact%2fpdfs%2fTAA_Final_Rule_1205_AB78.pdf&c=E,1,XdwqTEDksue4i9x0em_MM44cUAYmoIghBNFnMkK6mSdNhFj3t_uG2m0CmYe68_vpx4vA1LWUegyyJHz6pfTAr8jgOy_AMf86-6yaoRcVNDRj-ZDNTi8gIeDG3hhq-A,,&typo=1).
* Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Chairman Ajit Pai said Friday that he has circulated a proposal internally to conditionally approve Amazon plans to launch more than 3,200 broadband-beaming satellites, a project under Amazon’s subsidiary Kuiper.
* The [Wall Street Journal (WSJ) found](http://disagreements/) that “disagreements between leaders at the Federal Reserve and Treasury Department in recent months slowed the start of their flagship lending initiative for small and midsize businesses, according to current and former government officials.”
  + WSJ also found that the differences centered on how to craft the loan terms of the $600B Main Street Lending Program.
* **Federal Register Notices:**
  + The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and Department of Transportation (DOT) issued a notice of a public meeting for the NextGen Advisory Committee. The notice can be found [here](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fwww.federalregister.gov%2fdocuments%2f2020%2f07%2f13%2f2020-15050%2fnextgen-advisory-committee-notice-of-public-meeting&c=E,1,6sSMuG6aZT4svcTQCEBKLPcRh3vTdu9v6H58Q5ONvuTBnXEdJhdhdLWnz_69nLVgXV7FwAF8dk3R_bXfyKc46XKU7vFYftxZFlvGeL_nqwmRqQ,,&typo=1).
  + FCC issued a final rule on telecommunications carriers eligible for Universal Service Support. The notice can be found [here](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fwww.federalregister.gov%2fdocuments%2f2020%2f07%2f13%2f2020-13611%2fbridging-the-digital-divide-for-low-income-consumers-lifeline-and-link-up-reform-and-modernization&c=E,1,7ZUmo_Fa1xchgKNo7agQ5l9LUrYNHd-PdyZjzOpQ6G_csCZaMt0OvFVSan4ac2Jx-xn4eYedwQ9i57rZcluLtugs83L4zl-1UhXnnn7_tQ,,&typo=1).
  + The Comptroller of the Currency, Federal Reserve System and Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation issued a report to Congress on Differences in Accounting and Capital Standards Among the Federal Banking Agencies as of December 31, 2019. The notice can be found [here](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fwww.federalregister.gov%2fdocuments%2f2020%2f07%2f13%2f2020-14991%2fjoint-report-differences-in-accounting-and-capital-standards-among-the-federal-banking-agencies-as&c=E,1,AoJRLZtvhJGYpMBenTrf5aW9iViUM3dwqP8bWazoeoBEFrFs_PQOkAwZ5_m5_xnuvNSR8sKfOE2InaOoxrTnvsh0YRuEHb3xWRYFWAyPRzto&typo=1).
  + The Nuclear Regulatory Commission issued a list of exemptions in response to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency. The notice can be found [here](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fwww.federalregister.gov%2fdocuments%2f2020%2f07%2f13%2f2020-15046%2fissuance-of-multiple-exemptions-in-response-to-covid-19-public-health-emergency&c=E,1,I_JPNa1wkApp6pHACh5TeLc12s7sSEIHb23sp6igeUWWZEHkseIJIdar5JeUOZZMOiLpeSk5eJqITDPYL745w9oTMEPH5UIrnHGJh0eeGCtOzR_NuEcKHU8,&typo=1).

**Other News**

**Updates at 7pm ET**

* California Governor Gavin Newsom announced a sweeping rollback of reopening plans in the state after a resurgence of COVID-19 cases. Newsom announced that all indoor operations for restaurants, wineries, movie theatres, zoos and bars must close. Additionally, Newsom also closed indoor operations in the 30 hardest hit counties for gyms, places of worship, non-critical offices, hair salons, barbershops and malls.
* Google, Facebook, Spotify, Microsoft, and Salesforce are part of a group of technology companies that have joined the U.S Chamber of Commerce’s legal efforts to push back on the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) decision announced last week that would prohibit international students from staying in the U.S. if their schools are only offering online classes in the fall. The tech companies are joining the Chamber’s amicus brief in support of Harvard and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), who sued the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) last week.
  + As a reminder, last week we reported that ICE modified their Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP). These modifications mandate that international students attending schools operating entirely online in the fall will not be allowed to take a full online course load and remain in the United States. If these students do not leave the country or transfer, they could face immigration consequences including deportation. ICE’s press release can be found [here](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fwww.ice.gov%2fnews%2freleases%2fsevp-modifies-temporary-exemptions-nonimmigrant-students-taking-online-courses-during&c=E,1,wlK0u1BNdgObsgVkeno7AMwMRPdCvmd7qDYKnLoEfgzKxhSgkZeZFizQO0A5IcL6oPJaZ8SN-Fw89C3WQlPLs89mQ4W4zboICMIC_AA690LOKJyg1e3uDg,,&typo=1).
* The Los Angeles and San Diego unified public-school districts, which enroll over 825,000 students, announced that instruction will be remote-only in the fall. The announcement cited the rising COVID-19 cases in the Los Angeles and San Diego areas as reasons why schools could not return in the fall.
  + New York and Seattle’s public-school districts have both announced that they will be utilizing a hybrid model of schooling, providing students with some time in school and the rest at home.
* Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau commented that a new decision on the Canada-U.S. border will be announced in the coming days. Both nations agreed to close their border in mid-March and the closure was extended through July 21.
* The European Union (EU) announced that they will not implement a tax on large American tech companies until the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) agrees on a digital tax deal. This reverses a previous announcement that said the EU would implement a digital tax if OECD failed to agree on a deal by the end of 2020.

**Updates at 11am ET**

* COVID-19 cases continue to rise dramatically in Florida, Texas, Arizona, and other U.S. states. In Florida alone, 15,300 cases were announced Sunday. Also on Sunday, 62,918 new cases were reported across the U.S. (according to the CDC).
* A new Massachusetts Institute of Technology [study](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fwww.medrxiv.org%2fcontent%2f10.1101%2f2020.07.02.20143826v2.full.pdf&c=E,1,QRlJnNt6OTOtfQiveyRsacaGA8YTsUARrVr19tNRvxIliVmkFrdzcYOT5ObuxQwv48IwuD-IzxYrkUz7F4dZXdZJH9Zi3TJa2pGOWf4qa16w3sE92Fm2Ow,,&typo=1) argued that filling middle seats on airplanes increases the likelihood of being infected with COVID-19 by a nearby passenger from 1 in 7,700, to 1 in 4,300. As a reminder, lawmakers and airlines continue to argue about requiring airlines to keep middle seats open.
* The Recovery Coalition, a “non-partisan group of businesses and associations who believe that pro-growth tax policy changes and legislation are essential to helping our economy recover, while ensuring job retention and creation to foster an economic rebirth” launches today. The coalition will push to allow businesses to accelerate general business credits, among other initiatives, and was reportedly started by the National Association of Manufacturers and other national business groups, whose names are not publicly available. More information on the coalition can be found [here](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fwww.recovery-coalition.com%2f&c=E,1,fWJyxV6fApQY2NVO2iS_v8eYur34MIoN4mEh4kPm2SNfKdQ5nSf6vixgi4kaCf6Wc2BdDgF_XuPihDfE6XDV2kk0O2pNuQnsgDcdSz60fYLhK0nlZvBQww,,&typo=1).
* The Retirement Security Coalition asked Congress to act now to protect Americans’ multiemployer pension plans and our economy. The crisis surrounding multiemployer pension plans has threatened the retirement savings of many. Pension reform has been discussed in the context of the next COVID-19 package. More information on the coalition, and their priorities, can be found [here](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fretirementsecuritycoalition.com%2f&c=E,1,ZW8C4BbDgqzXhF0nN_FvFLBSzyNHxupjt9jibbVqUNXVKeJbcxTYY4NADrWxv4aakHCTSWKQ3zq_LUlXA1HJPfrK1dWmrB-pCoNVscaqUhCYdFPZsGFyv7tCxJE,&typo=1).
* A new report from the Center for Global Development found that the U.S.-China trade war has damaged one of the United States’ biggest exports: higher education. The report argued that the trade liberalization between China and the U.S. helped drive higher enrollment numbers by boosting China’s economic growth and providing the income for more Chinese families to send their children to the U.S. for an education. The full report can be found [here](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fwww.cgdev.org%2fpublication%2ftrade-liberalization-and-chinese-students-us-higher-education&c=E,1,qjINWqTEyVoN6VCl94wcghepYwTQvcxn9QqTv85Fq_xSN1k_jjT6AhGUxLglvlVyEF3c7FiP8hKFn7s6p4fdzbbiPYBxOB5rSf6-W7l4PTsvXvhibjh61_pjyZ8,&typo=1).
  + The report also said that the trade war with China could cost U.S. universities around 30,000 Chinese students in the next 10 years, a loss of $1.15B in tuition revenue, or 8% of educational services exports to China.
* Despite continued calls by U.S. lawmakers to reopen the U.S.-Canadian border, including [those by bipartisan co-chairs of the U.S. House’s Northern Border Caucus Rep. Brian Higgins (D-NY) and Rep. Elise Stefanik (R-NY)](https://stefanik.house.gov/sites/stefanik.house.gov/files/Stefanik%20and%20Higgins%20Northern%20Border%20Letter.pdf), polling data released Friday by Abacus Data showed that 89% of Canadians want to see the border remain closed.
* Parler CEO John Matze told reporters on Sunday that he will be “honest and transparent” about his experiences in the tech space and how difficult his experiences have been. As a reminder, the CEO of the right-leaning Twitter-alternative social media company, which has almost 3M users, agreed to testify before House of Representatives about competition in social media last week.
* Today marks the conclusion of a years-long technology transition following a 2017 FCC auction when TV broadcasters sold off some of their airwaves to companies seeking to offer wireless broadband service.
  + Following the sale, hundreds of TV stations had to migrate off those airwaves, a costly and long effort known as the “TV repacking process.” No station can operate its pre-auction channel after today.
* Wyoming and Washington state are now a part of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration’s (NTIA) [National Broadband Availability Map](https://www.ntia.doc.gov/blog/2020/national-broadband-availability-map-reaches-20-state-milestone) (NBAM). With the addition of these two states, NTIA has officially reached a 20-state milestone.
  + The NBAM is a geographic information system platform which allows for the visualization and analysis of federal, state, and commercially available data sets.
  + The full platform provides users, including administrators from the 20 participating states, with access to the NBAM and its data to better inform broadband projects and funding decisions in their states.