

American Nephrology Nurses Association

Daily Capitol Hill Update - Tuesday, January 12, 2021

The following information comes from directly from news sources including Bloomberg Government, Kaiser Health News, and other news sources.

Schedules: White House and Congress

WHITE HOUSE

- President Trump departs White House for Alamo, Texas at 10am
- 2pm: Pence leads a governors video teleconference on COVID-19 response

CONGRESS

- U.S. House to vote on resolution that would urge Pence to invoke 25th Amendment to remove President Trump from office
- Senate convenes for pro forma session today at 12:30pm, and for business on Jan. 19

Congressional, Health Policy, and Political News

- **Bloomberg Government: Democrats Weigh Nullifying Trump Health Rules:** Democrats are considering which Health and Human Services Department regulations they might want to overturn in the early days of Biden's administration, although there are few candidates and other avenues to do so. Their main candidates for congressional reversal are a drug rebate rule that removes legal shields for reimbursements paid by drug companies to middlemen and insurers and a rule requiring the department review all prior regulations or otherwise the rules must expire.
- **Bloomberg Government: Pfizer Boosts Vaccine Goal to 2 Billion Doses:** Pfizer and BioNTech raised their coronavirus vaccine production target for this year to 2 billion doses, as the partners respond to a global rush of countries seeking to order more doses. The drug companies have already committed more than half that capacity, BioNTech announced. A more than 50% hike from the previous 2021 target of 1.3 billion doses, the increase incorporates a label change that'll allow doctors to extract six doses, rather than five, from every vial, BioNTech said.
- **Bloomberg Government: FDA Chief Counsel Steps Down:** The FDA's senior attorney, Stacy Cline Amin, stepped down yesterday, the agency's head announced. Amin has served as chief counsel for the Food and Drug Administration since 2018, coming to the agency after a year as chief associate counsel in the Trump administration and after counsel positions in both the House and Senate. Mark Raza, who has been the principal deputy chief counsel since 2011, will take over as the acting counsel.
- **Los Angeles Times: At Least 9 U.S. States Have New Coronavirus Strain From U.K.:** The coronavirus variant from the United Kingdom is now in at least nine U.S. states, and scientists expect that number to rise in short order. A total of 63 infections with the strain

known as B.1.1.7 were reported to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as of Friday, the most recent data available. Given the limited amount of genetic analysis conducted on coronavirus samples collected here, health officials say the true number of cases is surely higher. California currently has more confirmed cases than any other state, with 32, according to the CDC. Florida is next, with 22.