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 has no public events scheduled
  - He’s expected to announce a list of pardons today -- his final full day in office
- 2pm: Vice President Mike Pence leads coronavirus task force meeting

**CONGRESS**

- House holds pro forma session at 1pm
- Senate convenes at noon, no roll call votes scheduled
- House Speaker Nancy Pelosi hasn’t said publicly when she’ll send the article of impeachment against Trump to the Senate

**Congressional, Health Policy, and Political News**

- **Bloomberg Government: Biden Plans 10 Days of Action on Four Crises:** Biden plans an early blitz of executive action to reverse some of Trump’s most contentious policies and address the coronavirus pandemic, according to an outline of Biden’s first 10 days in office. The plan, spelled out in a memo over the weekend by Biden Chief of Staff Ron Klain to incoming White House advisers, will address what Klain called “four overlapping and compounding crises,” with Covid-19 at the top.
  - Klain said Biden would begin with about a dozen executive actions tomorrow. First-day orders will focus on measures to mitigate the pandemic and its economic fallout, including extending student loan forbearance past Jan. 31 and a temporary ban on evictions, Klain said. Biden will also launch a “100 Day Masking Challenge,” imposing new mandates requiring masks on U.S. property and for interstate transportation.

- **Stat: Will The FTC Get Tougher On Pharma Business Practices Under The Biden Administration?:** As the Biden administration begins setting priorities, the Federal Trade Commission is poised to take a tougher stand on some pharmaceutical industry practices, given the potential for anti-competitive behavior to influence prescription drug prices.

- **Bloomberg Government: Split Senate Gives Harris a Powerful Role:** Kamala Harris’s term as vice president will be defined from the start by the Senate’s partisan split, as the former lawmaker is pushed into a powerful role in a chamber that must decide whether to convict the outgoing president of inciting an insurrection. With Democrats and Republicans both holding 50 seats, Harris’ tie-breaker vote a cudgel she will likely have to use, even though the Biden team said it hopes it’ll secure GOP support for legislation.

- **The Atlantic: The Coronavirus Variants Reveal A Troubling New Pattern:** For most of 2020, the coronavirus that causes COVID-19 jumped from human to human, accumulating
mutations at a steady rate of two per month—not especially impressive for a virus. These mutations have largely had little effect. But recently, three distinct versions of the virus seem to have independently converged on some of the same mutations, despite being thousands of miles apart in the United Kingdom, South Africa, and Brazil. (A mutation is a genetic change; a variant is a virus with a specific set of mutations.) The fact that these mutations have popped up not one, not two, but now three times—that we know of—in variants with unusual behavior suggests that they confer an evolutionary advantage to the virus. All three variants seem to be becoming more common. And all three are potentially more transmissible.

- **Bloomberg Government: Agriculture, Transportation, HHS, and Interior Picks**: Biden nominated five deputies to serve in the second spots of federal agencies, rounding out leadership that can take over governing after he is sworn-in. The nominees are Jewel Bronaugh for Agriculture, Polly Trottenberg for Transportation, Andrea Palm for Health and Human Services, Elizabeth Klein for Interior, and Cindy Marten for Education. All are women.

- **Bloomberg Government: House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee Leaders**: House Energy and Commerce Chairman Frank Pallone (D-N.J.) on Friday announced the subcommittee chairs for the 117th Congress, including the return of Rep. Anna Eshoo (D-Calif.) to lead the health panel. Pallone also released the subcommittee rosters. Find that list here. The choices now must be approved by the Democratic Steering and Policy Committee and the full caucus.