

American Nephrology Nurses Association

Daily Capitol Hill Update - Thursday, October 15, 2020

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

- 11:35am: President Trump departs White House for Greenville, N.C.
- Trump holds rally in Greenville, N.C. at 1pm
- Trump then travels to Doral, Florida; holds fundraiser at 4:45pm
- 8pm: Trump participates in NBC News town hall from Miami

CONGRESS

- House is out until mid-November, though lawmakers could be called back with 24 hours' notice to vote on legislation
- Full Senate on recess until Oct. 19
- 9am: Trump's Supreme Court nominee Amy Coney Barrett appears before Senate Judiciary Committee
 - NOTE: Committee Chairman Sen. Lindsey Graham has said he will move to set an Oct. 22 panel vote on advancing Barrett's nomination to the full Senate

Congressional, Health Policy, and Political News

- **Bloomberg Government: Hospitals Risk Bankruptcy in Latest Covid Wave:** Meanwhile, a grim reality is setting in across the U.S. hospital sector: a surge in coronavirus infections is encroaching while most facilities are still recovering from the onset of the pandemic. The growing number of cases is threatening the very survival of hospitals just when the country needs them most. Hundreds were already in shaky circumstances before the virus remade the world, and the impact of caring for Covid patients has put hundreds more in jeopardy.
 - The new coronavirus sidelined profitable elective procedures and pushed up costs to keep patients and staff safe. Hospitals are losing the privately insured patients they depend on as millions of Americans lose their jobs and employer-sponsored coverage. "It sort of all comes together as essentially a triple whammy," Aaron Wesolowski, vice president for policy research, analytics and strategy at the trade group American Hospital Association, said in an interview.
- **Renal Web: Acute Kidney Injury in COVID-19: Another Challenge for Nephrology:** As of August 16, 2020, there have been 21,294,845 cases of COVID-19 worldwide with 761,779 deaths [1]. Initial reports of COVID-19 focused on the severe acute respiratory syndrome seen in these patients. Early on in the pandemic, however, it became apparent that many COVID-19 patients also displayed kidney abnormalities, primarily acute kidney injury (AKI). There are several observations which suggest that the severe acute respiratory

syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) responsible for COVID-19 may be capable of producing unique pathophysiological pathways responsible for the AKI observed in these patients

- **Bloomberg Government: Virus Comeback Spreads Across 46 States:** Covid-19's resurgence has now reached the vast majority of states, with the virus raging in the Midwest and early warning signs flashing just about everywhere else, sending hospitalizations higher. In 46 states and the nation's capital, the case trend has worsened from a month ago, based on the trailing seven-day average of new infections, according to Covid Tracking Project data. At the end of September, that was true of 32 states; at the end of August, just 15 were trending up. By that metric, cases are dropping only in Georgia, Hawaii, South Carolina and Washington state.
 - Nationwide, the country added 52,274 cases Tuesday, pushing the seven-day average to 51,027, the highest since Aug. 16. A surge in testing is responsible for part but not all of that increase: The seven-day average of new cases is up 46.5% in the past month; tests are up 28.9%. Current hospitalizations have reached the highest since Aug. 29, according to the Covid Tracking Project. They are rising in all regions. About 216,000 Americans have died from the disease, according to Johns Hopkins University data.
- **The Washington Post: New Bailout Deal Unlikely Before Election, Says Mnuchin:** Asked whether Democrats are unwilling to make a deal because they don't want to give Trump a win three weeks before the election, Mnuchin replied: "I think that definitely is part of the reality. That's definitely an issue. But the president is very focused on when he wins we will need to do more. So that's part of the reason to continue to work on this," the treasury secretary added. "The clock will not stop."