

American Nephrology Nurses Association

Daily Capitol Hill Update – Monday, October 26, 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

- 9:15am: President Trump departs White House
- 11am: Trump holds rally in Allentown, Pa.
- 1:30pm: President holds rally at Lititz, Pa.
- 4:30pm: Trump holds rally in Martinsburg, Pa.
- 7:40pm: Trump returns to White House
- Pence campaigns in Minnesota

CONGRESS

- House on recess
 - House Speaker Nancy Pelosi says the chamber could pass a pandemic relief plan this week even though a deal with the White House remains elusive
- Senate is set to take the final vote on the Supreme Court nomination

Congressional, Health Policy, and Political News

- **Bloomberg Government: Biden Win Would Mean FCC Pivot:** A Biden victory could usher in an abrupt change in the nation's telecommunications policy, restoring so-called net neutrality regulation and shifting the Republican drive to rein in social media outlets, among other things. "Democrats are more comfortable with an activist role," Cowen analyst Paul Gallant said in an interview.
 - Biden hasn't talked much about the FCC during the campaign, but his party's platform is specific. It calls for restoring net neutrality rules put in place under then-President Barack Obama, when Biden served as vice president, and taking a harder line on telecommunications mergers. Democratic commissioners on the FCC already objected to the agency's steps to strip social media companies of liability protections for user content in response to alleged favoritism for liberal points of view.
- **Politico: Pelosi: Covid Relief Deal Could Still Happen Before Election Day:** With only nine days until Election Day, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said Sunday she's still "optimistic" about Congress passing a coronavirus relief package before Nov. 3. "I never give up hope. I'm optimistic. We put pen to paper and had been writing the bill based on what we hope will be the outcome, what they said they would get back to us on," Pelosi said on CNN's "State of the Union."
- **Bloomberg Government: Senate Advances Barrett's Court Nomination:** The U.S. Senate

took its second-to-final step toward putting Amy Coney Barrett on the Supreme Court, a move that would seal a 6-3 conservative high-court majority and cap a swift but bitterly partisan confirmation process.

- The Senate, on a 51-48 tally yesterday, advanced Barrett's nomination toward a final vote to be held today. The vote followed ultimately fruitless delaying tactics by Democratic opponents and demonstrated that Barrett, 48, has the backing she needs to be seated on the court just a week before Election Day. Republicans have a 53-47 Senate majority.
- **Bloomberg Government: Trump Goes Alone on ACA, Leaving Party Divided:** Trump's reluctance to provide a plan to replace Obamacare has left Republican lawmakers without a central message on health care going into the Nov. 3 election. Trump, promising to reduce Americans' health care costs, has repeatedly promised to unveil a proposal to supplant the Affordable Care Act, one that's less expensive while maintaining protections for people with pre-existing conditions. The problem for Republicans: Plans to achieve these goals exist but the president rarely makes mention of them.
- **CIDRAP: Lower COVID-19 Viral Loads Found In Asymptomatic Children:** In the first large study looking at SARS-CoV-2 viral loads (VL) in asymptomatic children, researchers found that VL were 3 to 4 logs lower compared with symptomatic children, which was consistent with the difference in median cycle threshold (Ct) values – 10.3 cycles – between the two groups. This finding, published yesterday in the Journal of Clinical Microbiology, held true across age (0 to 17 years old), race and ethnicity, sex, and institution, although the researchers found that both the magnitude of Ct difference and the VL lessened with older subgroups. SARS-CoV-2 is the virus that causes COVID-19.
- **Stat: Mirati Results Set New Response Bar For KRAS-Blocking Lung Cancer Drugs:** A pill from Mirati Therapeutics designed to block the cancer protein called KRAS shrank tumors in 45% of patients with advanced lung cancer, according to pooled results from two clinical trials presented Sunday. The tumor response to the Mirati drug, called adagrasib, is still preliminary, yet it's also the best and most encouraging data reported so far for an emerging class of treatments that block a cancer target once thought to be "undruggable."