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
- VP Mike Pence attends Senate Republican policy lunch

**CONGRESS**
- Senate meets at noon; considers judicial nominees
  - Senate appropriators to release all 12 of their fiscal 2021 spending bills today, a move that sets the table for bicameral omnibus negotiations in the lame duck session
- House next meets Thursday, Nov. 12

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

- **The Washington Post - Pfizer Coronavirus Vaccine Could Be Cleared By Mid-December Following Release of Data Showing It Is More Than 90 Percent Effective:** The news Monday that Pfizer’s experimental coronavirus vaccine is more than 90 percent effective sharply increased prospects that federal regulators will authorize the vaccine on an emergency basis as early as mid-December, and that the first shots will be administered before the end of the year or early next year. The findings, announced by drug giant Pfizer and German biotechnology firm BioNTech, provided much-needed hope for a nation battered by surging virus cases, a stumbling economy and a bitterly fought presidential campaign. It augers well for other vaccines and could accelerate the timetable for reining in the pandemic, said scientists, who cautioned that any successful vaccine will still face obstacles, notably distribution to hundreds of millions of people.

- **Bloomberg Government - McConnell, Shelby on Stimulus:** Senate Appropriations Committee Chair Richard Shelby (R-Ala.) when asked about wrapping Covid-19 relief into spending bills yesterday said: “There’s been talk about that, but we haven’t seen that. It might not be a bad idea if we can agree on stimulus.” Earlier in the day, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) said Congress should pass a limited stimulus bill before the end of 2020, in the wake of encouraging data on a Covid-19 vaccine and a slide in unemployment.

- **Bloomberg Government - HHS Suspends Shipments of Rapid Tests to Eight States:** HHS will pause shipments of rapid Covid tests to eight states it says aren’t utilizing tests the federal government already provided. “We can’t let tests sit unused,” Department of Health and Human Services official Brett Giroir told reporters yesterday. He leads the federal testing effort for coronavirus. The eight are Hawaii, Massachusetts, North Dakota,
Nevada, New Mexico, Virginia, Vermont and West Virginia. The federal government bought 150 million rapid tests from Abbott in August and has distributed millions to governors and localities since September.

- **AP - US Allows 1st Emergency Use of a COVID-19 Antibody Drug:** Early results suggest the drug, called bamlanivimab, may help clear the coronavirus sooner and possibly cut hospitalizations in people with mild to moderate COVID-19. A study of it in hospitalized patients was stopped when independent monitors saw the drug did not seem to be helping in that situation. The government previously reached an agreement to buy and supply much of the early production of Lilly’s drug. Only one drug -- Gilead Sciences’ remdesivir -- has full FDA approval for treating COVID-19. Government treatment guidelines also back using dexamethasone and other steroids for certain severely ill, hospitalized patients.

- **Bloomberg Law - Medicaid Managed Care Requirements Loosened Under HHS Final Rule:** The new rule loosens requirements imposed in 2016 on private Medicaid managed care plans that run the low-income health benefits at a monthly per-person cost to the state. Comprehensive managed care covers 70% of Medicaid enrollees, according to the most recent data from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. And nearly half of the program’s spending — $300 billion in 2019 — goes to the managed care plans.