

American Nephrology Nurses Association

Daily Capitol Hill Update - Wednesday, November 11, 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

- 11am: President Trump, Vice President Mike Pence attends Veterans Day observance at Arlington National Ceremony in Virginia

CONGRESS

- Senate, House next meet Thurs., Nov. 12

Congressional, Health Policy, and Political News

- **Boston Globe: Dr. Fauci Says COVID-19 Vaccine Could Be Widely Available By April:** The nation's top infectious disease expert said Tuesday the Pfizer vaccine, which is reportedly more than 90% effective, could be available to everyone by April 2021. Dr. Anthony Fauci explained in an interview with Jake Tapper on CNN that vaccinations have to go through a "tried and true" process of prioritization.
- **Bloomberg Government: Biden Taps Government Insiders for Transition:** Biden's transition has turned to alumni from key federal agencies to prepare staffs and policies for the new administration, even as the Trump administration denies Biden's team access to federal resources. The agency-review teams focused on the economy and financial regulation, whose names were released yesterday, include former officials and advocates with well-known records of pushing for tougher rules on Wall Street. That includes former U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission Chairman Gary Gensler, who will head the team that is reviewing the Federal Reserve and banking and securities regulators.
 - Biden's transition team has the added complication of preparing a government without being allowed into the agencies, as has traditionally happened within hours of a race being called. The General Services Administration, which under law must ascertain the winner of an election to give a president-elect access to federal resources, has declined to take that step as Trump continues to contest the election results.
- **Modern Healthcare: Supreme Court Justices Seem Unlikely To Strike Down Full ACA:** Supreme Court justices on Tuesday during oral arguments appeared unlikely to strike down the Affordable Care Act in its entirety. The full nine-member court heard extended oral arguments from four attorneys representing parties in California v. Texas, a case brought by GOP attorneys general and supported by the Trump administration challenging the entire ACA. The justices focused on issues including whether challengers had legal standing and whether the entire law would have to fall if the zeroed-out individual mandate were found unconstitutional.

- **Bloomberg Government: Medicare Enrollees Can Get Free Antibody Therapies:** Medicare beneficiaries won't have to pay out of pocket for monoclonal antibody therapies to treat Covid-19 during the public health emergency, the Trump administration said yesterday. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services said coverage of those antibody infusions applies to the Eli Lilly drug, which the Food and Drug Administration authorized Monday for emergency use against mild-to-moderate Covid-19 in adults.
- **KHN: Biden Plan To Lower Medicare Eligibility Age To 60 Faces Hostility From Hospitals:** Of his many plans to expand insurance coverage, President-elect Joe Biden's simplest strategy is lowering the eligibility age for Medicare from 65 to 60. But the plan is sure to face long odds, even if the Democrats can snag control of the Senate in January by winning two runoff elections in Georgia.
- **AP: US Hits Record COVID-19 Hospitalizations Amid Virus Surge:** The U.S. hit a record number of coronavirus hospitalizations Tuesday and surpassed 1 million new confirmed cases in just the first 10 days of November amid a nationwide surge of infections that shows no signs of slowing. The new wave appears bigger and more widespread than the surges that happened in the spring and summer — and threatens to be worse. But experts say there are also reasons to think the nation is better able to deal with the virus this time around. "We're definitely in a better place" when it comes to improved medical tools and knowledge, said William Hanage, a Harvard University infectious-disease researcher.
- **Stat: FDA Requires Lilly To Address Quality Control At Plant Making Covid-19 Drug:** The Food and Drug Administration is requiring Eli Lilly (LLY) to hire consultants to test batches and vet quality-testing data at a manufacturing plant where its Covid-19 antibody treatment is being made, a mandate that comes after the agency found quality control problems during two separate inspections over the past year.