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 U.S. Space Command briefing at 2pm

**CONGRESS**

- Senate meets at 10am; set to resume consideration of Stephen Vaden to be judge on U.S. Court of International Trade
- House meets at 10am

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

- **Bloomberg Government: The Final Hurdle in the Covid-19 Vaccine Race Is Bureaucracy:** Making vaccines that are safe and effective is certainly the hard part of the race to pull humanity from the pandemic brink. Promising results are trickling in, starting with Pfizer and its German partner BioNTech’s early findings that their vaccine prevented more than 90% of symptomatic infections in a trial of tens of thousands of volunteers. On Nov. 16, Moderna reported a 94.5% prevention rate for its vaccine, with a 30,000-plus test group.
  - Yet if triumph in this scientific, corporate, and nationalistic contest is defined as the first vaccine to get approved and administered on a large scale, the victory is still anyone’s to win. The final phase will require navigating the maze of regulators, scattered across continents and agencies, who will determine when, which, and where shots of the most promising candidates will be approved, produced, and distributed.

- **Modern Healthcare: CMS Will Sunset First Medicare Consumer Tools In December:** The original Compare tools CMS first launched over 15 years ago will be removed from the Medicare website on December 1, replaced by a new version. CMS released in September a redesigned website that consolidates its eight online tools intended for Medicare beneficiaries and their caregivers to compare healthcare providers and settings. The renovated site was an effort by CMS to create a more streamlined user experience. The original Compare tools forced a user to use different interfaces on the Medicare website depending on the care setting in which they were interested.

- **Bloomberg Government: Health Measures Set for Passage:** The House today plans to consider 22 measures under expedited procedure. Health-related legislation include the following:
  - H.R. 6334, which would allow the U.S. to participate in the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations, an international partnership on vaccine development.
The House Foreign Affairs Committee approved the bill by unanimous consent on July 29.

- H.R. 7990, which would require the State Department to create programs to help foreign countries combat fentanyl trafficking and drug use. The House Foreign Affairs Committee approved the bill by a voice vote on Oct. 1.

- **Bloomberg Government: HHS Eyes Input on A.I.-Driven Health Tools**: The Health and Human Services Department is seeking public comment on technologies that will improve chronic disease management and access to care for under-served, elderly populations. The goal is to assess how public-private partnerships can be used to enable data sharing, comprehensive analytics, and other tools to improve health care for low-income, Medicaid-eligible, and rural populations, the HHS said in a request for information yesterday.

- **The New York Times: F.D.A. Authorizes The First At-Home Coronavirus Test**: The Food and Drug Administration on Tuesday gave an emergency green light to the first rapid coronavirus test that can run from start to finish at home, paving a potential path for more widespread testing outside of health care settings. The test, developed by California-based company Lucira Health, requires a prescription from a health care provider. People under the age of 14 also can’t perform the test on themselves. But with a relatively simple nasal swab, the test can return results in about half an hour, and is projected by the company to cost $50 or less, according to the product’s website. Clinicians can also run the test on their patients, including children under the age of 14, potentially delivering answers during a single visit to a care center or pharmacy, instead of routing a tough-to-collect sample through a lab.