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 departs Florida for Fayetteville, N.C.; holds rally at 11:45am
  - 2:15pm: Trump holds rally in Avoca, Pa.
  - 5:15pm: Trump holds rally in Traverse City, Mich.
  - 8pm: Trump holds rally in Kenosha, Wisc.
  - 10:30pm: Trump holds rally in Grand Rapids, Mich.
  - 1:30am: Trump arrives back at White House
- VP Mike Pence holds two rallies in Pennsylvania and joins Trump in Michigan

**CONGRESS**

- House, Senate out

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

- **Bloomberg Government: Employers Giving More Workers Paid Time Off to Vote:** More U.S. employers recognize how important voting is and are making it less onerous — and expensive — for workers to get to the polls. Over 80 million Americans already have cast ballots during early voting ahead of the election, and many people have to wait for hours in line to vote. A roundup showed that some companies in banking, tech, autos and retail are providing anything from an hour to a whole day off on Election Day.

- **KHN: Medicare Fines Half Of Hospitals For Readmitting Too Many Patients:** Nearly half the nation’s hospitals, many of which are still wrestling with the financial fallout of the unexpected coronavirus, will get lower payments for all Medicare patients because of their history of readmitting patients, federal records show. The penalties are the ninth annual round of the Hospital Readmissions Reduction Program created as part of the Affordable Care Act’s broader effort to improve quality and lower costs. The latest penalties are calculated using each hospital case history between July 2016 and June 2019, so the flood of coronavirus patients that have swamped hospitals this year were not included.

- **Modern Healthcare: Trump Admin To Provide Vaccine Supply Kits For Providers:** The Trump administration will provide ancillary supply kits for healthcare workers to administer COVID-19 vaccines, HHS said Friday. McKesson Corporation will produce, store and distribute kits containing enough supplies to
administer up to 100 vaccine doses. The kits will include needles, syringes, alcohol prep pads, surgical masks and face shields, vaccine record cards and a needle information card. McKesson will also make mixing kits available for vaccines that require reconstitution.

- **Bloomberg Government: Texas Surprise Billing Ban Points to Fight in Congress:** A new Texas law that settles hospital payment disputes through arbitration so far favors physicians over health insurers, and illustrates why efforts to pass a federal ban on surprise medical bills have hit a roadblock on Capitol Hill. The state’s law against surprise billing (S.B. 1264) enacted in January has been a success by some metrics, resulting in a 95% drop in consumer complaints over unexpected bills and a 70% decrease in provider complaints. But insurers are paying the price.

- **Bloomberg Government: Georgia Moves to Begin Obamacare Exit:** Georgia yesterday won approval of its plan to walk away from the federal Obamacare exchange, marking the most far-reaching departure yet from the signature healthcare law. The Georgia Access Plan will require consumers wanting to enroll in Obamacare to shop for and buy coverage directly from insurers or through web brokers. The state will transition from the federal HealthCare.gov exchange to a private sector platform starting in plan year 2023, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services said in a statement announcing the approval.

- **Reuters: U.S. Judge Orders USPS To Reinforce 'Extraordinary Measures' Ballot Delivery Policy:** The U.S. Postal Service (USPS) must remind senior managers they must follow its “extraordinary measures” policy and use its Express Mail Network to expedite ballots ahead of Tuesday’s presidential election, under an order signed by a U.S. judge. U.S. District Judge Emmet Sullivan’s order on Sunday, to which the USPS agreed, said the postal service must reinforce its “special procedures” to ensure it “delivers every ballot possible by the cutoff time on Election Day.” USPS will also reinforce to managers that “all ballots with a local destination must be cleared and processed on the same day or no later than the next morning for delivery to local offices, from now through at least November 7.”