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:**

- The president arrives in Washington from Delaware at 9:15 a.m.

- Biden today will meet at 1:30 p.m. with members of the White House Covid-19 response team to discuss the omicron variant.

**CONGRESS:**

- Out of Session.

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

- **Bloomberg Government: Schumer Plans Vote as Democrats’ Seek Solution:** The Senate will vote “very early” in 2022 on President Joe Biden’s economic agenda despite moderate Sen. Joe Manchin’s (D-W.Va.) rejection of the roughly $2 trillion package, Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.) said today.
  
  - “Senators should be aware that the Senate will, in fact, consider the Build Back Better Act, very early in the new year so that every member of this body has the opportunity to make their position known on the Senate floor, not just on television,” Schumer said in a letter to fellow Democrats.
  
  - Manchin blindsided the White House yesterday with his rejection of the roughly $2 trillion package. Schumer’s letter shows Democratic leaders plan to make Manchin go on record with his objections.
  
  - Manchin’s announcement caught the White House off guard, coming after weeks of negotiations between Biden and Manchin and just a day after the Senate adjourned for the holidays, in the hopes of regrouping in the new year.
  
  - Senate Democrats will meet virtually tomorrow night for a caucus meeting to discuss their agenda, Schumer announced in his letter.
  
  - The White House and Schumer will work to determine whether they can salvage some of the tax-and-spending bill to address Manchin’s demands while maintaining the support of the rest of the fractious Democratic caucus. Several moderates suggested trimming the bill by cutting the number of programs, but such a bill would be a tough sell because each lawmaker will fight for their own competing priorities to be included.

- **CNBC: Public Health Emergency End Could Cause Millions To Lose Medicaid Coverage:** Each morning when Christina Preston enters the West Community Opportunity Center that serves Ohio’s Franklin County, she knows she and her staff are going to be flooded with calls
and applications from people in desperate need of help. Their despair could become even more acute next month as the national public health emergency comes to an end. That could lead to millions of people losing access to Medicaid and other benefits.

- **Bloomberg Government: ACA Consumers See $2 Billion in Refunds Amid Deferred Care:** Nearly 10 million Obamacare enrollees received $2 billion in refunds for 2020, the Department of Health and Human Services reported Friday. The Affordable Care Act requires health plans to offer rebates to consumers if the insurers don’t spend at least 80% of premiums collected on claims or activities that improve the quality of care, a formula called the medical loss ratio. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services data for 2020 showed that 4.8 million consumers in the individual market received $1.3 billion in rebates.

- **NBC News: Moderna Says Covid Booster Effective Against Omicron, But Will Still Develop New Shot:** Moderna said Monday its Covid-19 booster does appear to provide protection against omicron, but the drug company will still be developing a new shot specific to the variant currently surging across the world. In an announcement early Monday, Moderna said preliminary data from lab testing found the version of its booster currently in use in the United States and elsewhere provided increased antibody levels to neutralize the virus. But it also found that a double dose of the booster shot provided a much greater increase in those levels. The drug company said its currently FDA-approved 50ug booster was found to increase neutralizing antibody levels against omicron 37-fold compared to pre-boost levels. Meanwhile, it found that a 100ug booster dose gave an 83-fold increase in neutralizing antibody levels.

- **The Hill: Nursing Homes Scramble To Get Residents Boosted:** Nursing homes are scrambling to get residents vaccinated with coronavirus booster shots, as the looming omicron wave brings new urgency to the effort. According to data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, only about 55 percent of nursing home residents have received a booster shot, despite being eligible for more than two months. Officials more recently said the number has risen to 60 percent. Infections among nursing home residents have been rising in recent weeks, averaging close to 4,000 new cases a week.

- **Dallas Morning News: American Red Cross Calls For Blood Donations Ahead Of Holidays During Lowest Supply In Over A Decade:** The American Red Cross is urging people to donate blood as the organization experiences the lowest blood supply and donor turnout that it’s had ahead of the holiday season in more than a decade. While donor turnout typically declines during the holidays, turnout in recent months has been especially low and especially troubling, said Krystal Smith, communications director for the American Red Cross North Texas Region. Blood shortages mean patients who are seriously injured may not be able to get blood transfusions they need, and can lead to some patients deferring major surgeries such as organ transplants.