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 is scheduled to speak to Russian President Vladimir Putin at 3:30 p.m.

CONGRESS:

- Out of Session.

Congressional, Health Policy, and Political News

- Bloomberg Government: The Supreme Court starts 2022 with a special session on Biden’s vaccine mandate, joining a blockbuster docket that could also see affirmative action and Donald Trump’s Capitol riot dispute with Democrats go before the justices. The court with its fortified conservative majority has a small window in January to tack on new cases to its argument calendar. Already, expected rulings on abortion, gun rights, and religious freedom highlight how closely the court’s work this term has become tied to disputes that are sharply dividing the nation.

- Bloomberg Government: GOP senators are calling on the White House to change course with its selection for the Labor Department’s head wage-hour regulator. Biden in June nominated David Weil to again lead the DOL’s Wage and Hour Division, a role he held during part of the Obama administration. But Weil’s nomination languished for months after a tie vote in the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee. The Senate failed to confirm Weil before ending its business for the year. Biden must now decide whether Weil will remain his pick or if he’ll select a candidate who faces less opposition.

- Bloomberg Government: Two congressional Democrats in Virginia probably will face highly competitive re-election campaigns after the state Supreme Court cleared a new congressional map. The new lines, approved unanimously by the court on Tuesday, establish swing seats in the areas represented by two-term Reps. Elaine Luria and Abigail Spanberger, who were narrowly re-elected in 2020. Their 2022 contests will help determine whether Democrats can retain their majority. The southeastern 2nd District currently held by Luria will remain anchored in Virginia Beach, with changes that give it a slightly more GOP orientation.

- Bloomberg Government: Nearly half of states will ring in the new year with higher minimum wages — with 30, plus D.C., now over the federal rate of $7.25, a rate that’s not changed for a decade. In total, 25 states will see boosts to their minimum hourly pay requirement in 2022, according the Economic Policy Institute and National Conference of State
Legislatures. Four states, Oregon, Florida, Nevada, and Connecticut, will phase in their increases later in the year.