

American Nephrology Nurses Association

Daily Capitol Hill Update – Monday, February 8, 2021

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

- 8:25am: President Biden departs New Castle Air National Guard Base en route to White House
- 9:30am: Biden arrives at the White House
- 10:15am: Biden, Vice President Kamala Harris receive the President's Daily Brief
- 2:30pm: Biden, Harris virtually tour the State Farm Stadium vaccination site in Glendale, Arizona
 - 11am: White House COVID-19 Response Team briefing
 - 12:00pm: Press Briefing by Press Secretary Jen Psaki

CONGRESS

- House meets at 2pm for pro forma session
 - House Speaker Nancy Pelosi says the chamber will begin working on stimulus bill this week
- Senate meets at 3pm
 - U.S. Senate to Vote Monday on McDonough VA Secretary Nomination
 - Senate begins former President Donald Trump's second impeachment trial this week
- Democrats led by Rep. Richard Neal plan to unveil legislation providing \$3,000 per child, Washington Post reported

Congressional, Health Policy, and Political News

- **Bloomberg Government: How to Design 100,000 New Health Jobs:** Democrats are looking at creating a massive public health workforce to bolster Biden's pandemic response, and must balance competing visions for where health workers are needed most. Biden has said he wants 100,000 new workers to expand the country's public health infrastructure to aid contact tracing, vaccine outreach, and other efforts. The cost could run \$7 billion or more and is slated to be part of the relief package. The added funding will aim to get health services into underserved communities, typically Black and Latino neighborhoods, to "perform vital tasks like vaccine outreach and contact tracing," Frank Pallone (D-N.J.), chair of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, said recently.
- **Politico: Biden To Use Defense Production Act To Increase Supply Of Covid-19 Vaccines And Tests:** The Biden administration announced new initiatives Friday to speed up Covid-19 vaccinations and increase the availability of tests and protective gear – even as top health officials pleaded with Americans to double down on basic public health measures like wearing masks. The White House will use the Defense Production Act to make at least 61

million at-home or point-of-care coronavirus tests available by summer. And the Defense Department will deploy more than 1,000 active military personnel to support state vaccination sites, beginning in California on Feb. 15.

- **Bloomberg Government: Senate to Vote on VA Chief:** The Senate is scheduled today to consider the nomination of Denis McDonough to be secretary of the Veterans Affairs Department.
- **Bloomberg Government: Lawmakers Seek \$25 Billion for Federal Research:** A bipartisan group of lawmakers led by Rep. Diana DeGette (D-Colo.) introduced legislation on Friday to provide billions of dollars in emergency relief to U.S. researchers to “continue their important, federally funded projects through the pandemic,” according to a statement. The bill would provide \$25 billion to independent research institutions, laboratories, and universities to continue their work on thousands of federally backed projects, the statement says.
- **The Hill: CDC Could Lay Out School Reopening Requirements This Week, Biden Says:** The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) could as soon as Wednesday lay out the requirements for schools to reopen, President Biden said in an interview that aired Sunday. Biden told CBS’s Norah O’Donnell in an interview that aired in part before the Super Bowl that he believed “it’s time for schools to reopen safely,” after calling it a “national emergency” that about 20 million American children have not been in a classroom for almost a year.
- **Bloomberg Government: Hospital Price Transparency Compliance Spotty:** Compliance with a Trump administration rule forcing hospitals disclose the rates they negotiate with health insurers is spotty, groups that work with employers report. Even the hospitals that adhere to the transparency rule are finding it too complicated to provide meaningful disclosures, which may result in misleading information for employers and consumers.