

American Nephrology Nurses Association

Daily Capitol Hill Update - Monday, June 1, 2020

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

- 10:30am: President Trump meets with Attorney General William Barr
- 11am: Trump hosts a video teleconference with governors, law enforcement, and national security officials on community safety
- 12:30pm: Trump has lunch with Vice President Mike Pence

CONGRESS

- The House meets at 9am in a pro forma session
- The Senate meets at 3pm; considers nomination of Drew Tipton to be judge for U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas
 - 5:30pm: The chamber takes up nomination of John Badalamenti to be judge for Middle District of Florida and votes on confirmation
- Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell has filed cloture on three other nominations, including Brian Miller to be special inspector general for pandemic recovery

Congressional, Health Policy, and Political News

- **Bloomberg Government: Protests Hammer U.S. Cities Still Recovering From Lockdown:** The reopening of America was always going to be fraught, with competing fears of new virus outbreaks and economic meltdown. Now cities across the nation are reeling from unrest that could worsen both.
 - Violence erupted in dozens of cities following the death of George Floyd, a black Minneapolis man who died after a white police officer pressed a knee into his neck for more than eight minutes. Some demonstrators broke off to rampage through shopping districts, including Rodeo Drive in Beverly Hills and Michigan Avenue in Chicago, and set fire to police cars and municipal buildings.
 - Cities hammered by major budget hits from the pandemic can hardly afford the extra costs of police overtime, security measures and damages from the protests. Even before the demonstrations, the Fed and Trump administration have been under mounting pressure to do more for states and municipalities.
- **Bloomberg Government: Fear of Hospitals Stirs Ambulance Pay Change:** Ambulance companies, losing money as patients increasingly refuse to be taken to hospitals during the

Covid-19 pandemic, asked Congress for reimbursements as emergency responders in the field. As a result of people's avoidance of hospitals, many are being asked to treat people on the spot for minor injuries or simple cases such as dehydration, something that the companies are rarely paid for, ambulance groups say.

- **Bloomberg Government: Relief for Struggling Health Providers:** Reps. Phil Roe (R-Tenn) and Lou Correa (D-Calif.) on Friday introduced a measure (H.R. 7059) that would offer "targeted protections" to health-care providers who "had to change how care was delivered" based upon public health recommendations that were "constantly changing" during the public health crisis, according to a statement. That may include when the providers had to delay scheduled services, or when providers were called on to treat coronavirus patients outside of their general practice area, they said.
- **Bloomberg Government: Drugmakers Are Asked to Recall Diabetes Drug:** U.S. regulators have asked five drugmakers whose diabetes treatments contain high amounts of a chemical that can cause cancer to recall their products. The FDA discovered the chemical impurity N-Nitrosodimethylamine (NDMA) in some extended-release versions of metformin, the agency said in a statement. Bloomberg reported on Wednesday that metformin, which is widely used to control high blood sugar in people with type 2 diabetes, recalls were expected.
- **Bloomberg Government: Moderna Launches Vaccine Trial:** Moderna, one of the leading pharmaceutical companies developing a Covid-19 vaccine, said it's started a mid-stage trial and given doses to the first patients. The 600-person, phase 2 study will give healthy participants one of two doses of the candidate, or a placebo, Moderna said in a statement. They will be examined for potential side effects as well as whether it creates an immune-system response that could protect against the coronavirus.
 - Meanwhile, a front-running coronavirus vaccine being developed in China is expected to be available as soon as year's end, according to a report in the official Wechat account of the state's Assets Supervision and Administration Commission. The candidate, developed by the Beijing Institute of Biological Products and China National Biotec Group, has completed phase II testing, the report claims.
- **Reuters: WHO, 37 Countries Launch Alliance To Share Tools To Battle COVID-19:** Thirty-seven countries and the World Health Organization (WHO) appealed on Friday for common ownership of vaccines, medicines and diagnostic tools to tackle the global coronavirus pandemic, taking aim at patent laws they fear could become a barrier to sharing crucial supplies.
- **The New York Times: Blaming China For Pandemic, Trump Says U.S. Will Leave The W.H.O.:** After spending weeks accusing the World Health Organization of helping the Chinese government cover up the early days of the coronavirus epidemic in China, President Trump said on Friday that the United States would terminate its relationship with the agency. "The world is now suffering as a result of the malfeasance of the Chinese government," Mr. Trump said in a speech in the Rose Garden. "Countless lives have been taken, and profound economic hardship has been inflicted all around the globe." In his 10-minute address, Mr. Trump took

no responsibility for the deaths of 100,000 Americans from the virus, instead saying China had “instigated a global pandemic.”