

American Nephrology Nurses Association

Daily Capitol Hill Update – Monday, August 24, 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

- President Trump travels to N.C. as a scaled down four-day Republican National Convention starts
- 10am: Trump leaves White House for N.C.
- 1pm: Trump tours Flavor First Growers and Packers, a farm and repacking facility in Mills River, N.C.
- 1:30pm: Trump speaks on Farmers to Families Food Box program distribution
- 2:20pm: Trump leaves N.C. en route back to Washington
- 4:45pm: Trump arrives at White House

CONGRESS

- 10am: U.S. Postmaster General Louis DeJoy testifies before the House Oversight Committee on cutbacks in postal service ahead of the presidential election
 - Postal Service Board of Governors Chairman Robert Duncan is to join DeJoy at the hearing
- The Senate is out on recess

Congressional, Health Policy, and Political News

- **Bloomberg Government: FDA Expands Access to Covid Treatment With Plasma:** Trump said at a press conference yesterday a coronavirus treatment involving blood plasma donated by people who have recovered from Covid-19 will be expanded to more sick Americans, widening access to a promising therapy before researchers fully understand how well it works. The Food and Drug Administration confirmed yesterday that it had cleared what's known as convalescent plasma for use in certain patients. The move would make it easier to receive the treatment, which Trump has promoted even though studies to prove its benefits haven't been completed.
- **Kidney International: An initial report from the French SOT COVID Registry suggests high mortality due to Covid-19 in recipients of kidney transplants:** On March 1, 2020, a French nationwide registry of patients with Covid-19 and a history of solid organ transplantation has been established under the auspices of the French Speaking Society of Transplantation. As of April 21, 2020, a total of 598 patients were included in the registry – of whom 426 were KT recipients, 61 heart transplant recipients, 72 liver transplant recipients, and 39 lung transplant recipients.

- **The Hill: Trump Seeks Health Care Victory On Prescription Drugs:** President Trump is searching for a health care victory ahead of the 2020 election, and has turned to executive action to try to achieve it. The administration is looking to fend off attacks from Democrats, who see the president as particularly vulnerable on health care. Trump's coronavirus response has put him on the defensive.
- **USA Today: COVID-19 Quarantine: CDC Drops 14-Day Recommendation For Travelers:** Travelers returning from a trip outside the country or their state no longer face recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to self-quarantine for 14 days upon return. The CDC updated its travel requirements online Friday, advising travelers to "follow state, territorial, tribal and local recommendations or requirements after travel." Previous guidelines recommended a 14-day quarantine for those returning from international destinations or areas with a high concentration of coronavirus cases.
- **The Washington Post: Scientists Often Use Their Own Blood To Study Mosquitoes And The Diseases They Spread:** Turn off the lights. Put your arms or legs on top of a cage holding hundreds of mosquitoes. Listen to news or call your mom while the critters chow down on your blood. This was researcher Sam Rund's routine when he used a colony of *Anopheles gambiae* mosquitoes, a species known for infecting humans with malaria, for research on disease transmission. A staff scientist at the University of Notre Dame, Rund studies how factors such as circadian rhythms and light affect the feeding habits of different mosquito species, which is important for understanding how they spread pathogens to humans.