

American Nephrology Nurses Association

Daily Capitol Hill Update - Thursday, August 27, 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

- Noon: President Trump participates in roundtable with supporters at his hotel in D.C.
- 10:30pm: Trump delivers his acceptance speech at RNC in evening

CONGRESS

- House, Senate out

Congressional, Health Policy, and Political News

- **CNN: Artificial Pancreas Helps Children As Young As 6 With Type 1 Diabetes Better Control Blood Sugar Levels, Study Finds:** An artificial pancreas system is safe and helped children as young as six with type 1 diabetes better control blood sugar levels, according to a new study from researchers at four pediatric diabetes centers in the United States. The study was published Wednesday in the New England Journal of Medicine.
- **Politico: Mark Meadows Predicts No Covid-19 Relief Bill Until After September:** White House Chief of Staff Mark Meadows said Wednesday he is not optimistic about reaching a new coronavirus relief deal before the end of September, predicting House Speaker Nancy Pelosi will use the government funding cliff at the end of next month as leverage to strike a deal on pandemic aid. Speaking with POLITICO's Jake Sherman and Anna Palmer, Meadows said his staff had reached out to Pelosi's office Tuesday but added that he does not anticipate a response. The White House chief of staff said lawmakers from both parties have privately expressed to him a desire to make progress on coronavirus relief. The hold up, Meadows said he suspects, is that Pelosi is holding back her party's rank and file in order to secure more Democratic priorities in any legislation.
- **Abbott Cleared for 15-Minute Test:** A 15-minute coronavirus test from Abbott Laboratories that will be priced at just \$5 won emergency authorization for use in the U.S., a breakthrough that could ease the bottleneck that's crimped much of the nation's testing capacity. The product, dubbed BinaxNOW, works without relying on laboratory equipment at a time when labs can take up to two weeks to produce results. It uses a nasal swab and a small reactive card, and it can be administered by a range of health workers, including pharmacists, at nearly any location.
 - California is working with PerkinElmer to build a laboratory testing site with a full supply chain that will enable the state to add as many as 150,000 tests per day, more than doubling its current capacity, Gov. Gavin Newsom (D) said. The agreement comes with a guarantee that tests will have a 24- to 48-hour turnaround

time, helping California vastly improve its processing from the current average turnaround of five to seven days, he said.

- **Health Firms Swap Data to Avert Supply Shortages:** Companies at every level in the health-care supply chain are sharing more data, modifying contracts, and investing in new technologies to prevent future shortages of drugs, masks, and other gear that have become scarce through the pandemic. Personal protective equipment makers are disclosing how much stock they have in a push to boost transparency. Hospitals are working to establish alternative products for when the doctor's first choice isn't available, and distributors are using real-time data to ensure crucial supplies get to the neediest populations.
- **The New York Times: Top U.S. Officials Told C.D.C. To Soften Coronavirus Testing Guidelines:** Adm. Brett P. Giroir, the administration's coronavirus testing czar, called it a "C.D.C. action," written with input from the agency's director, Dr. Robert R. Redfield. But he acknowledged that the revision came after a vigorous debate among members of the White House coronavirus task force – including its newest member, Dr. Scott W. Atlas, a frequent Fox News guest and a special adviser to President Trump. "We all signed off on it, the docs, before it ever got to a place where the political leadership would have, you know, even seen it, and this document was approved by the task force by consensus," Dr. Giroir said. "There was no weight on the scales by the president or the vice president or Secretary Azar," he added, referring to Alex M. Azar II, the secretary of health and human services.