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

- Biden at 8:30 a.m. is scheduled to meet with his national security team about Afghanistan.
- At 10:30 a.m. he will meet with Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett, after the meeting was delayed yesterday.
- The White House Covid-19 Response team is slated to give a briefing at 11 a.m.
- Press Secretary Jen Psaki will brief reporters at 1 p.m.

CONGRESS:

- Out of Session

Congressional, Health Policy, and Political News

- **KHN: Medicaid Vaccination Rates Founder As States Struggle To Immunize Their Poorest Residents**: Medicaid enrollees are getting vaccinated against covid-19 at far lower rates than the general population as states search for the best strategies to improve access to the shots and persuade those who remain hesitant. Efforts by state Medicaid agencies and the private health plans that most states pay to cover their low-income residents has been scattershot and hampered by a lack of access to state data about which members are immunized. The problems reflect the decentralized nature of the health program, funded largely by the federal government but managed by the states.

- **The Wall Street Journal: Supreme Court Blocks New Eviction Moratorium**: The Supreme Court on Thursday lifted the latest federal ban on evictions during the Covid-19 pandemic, siding with landlords against a moratorium the Biden administration imposed this month despite questions about its legality. Three liberal justices dissented. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has repeatedly renewed the eviction moratorium for millions of tenants affected by the pandemic, in large part to allow them to remain in their homes as state and local governments struggle to disburse some $47 billion of rental assistance provided by Congress. The current order was set to expire Oct. 3; as of July 31, just $4.7 billion of the rental assistance had reached landlords and tenants.

- **USA Today: COVID Cases In Kids Are Rising As School Year Stumbles With Outbreaks**: After a year of virtual school, students and parents alike were excited for the return of in-
person learning. But just as quickly as the new school year started, many children were sent back home after a slew of COVID-19 outbreaks forced them into quarantine. In Florida, school districts around the state, including in Jacksonville's Duval County, are closing schools as cases rise. New Orleans School District saw 299 active COVID-19 cases and more than 3,000 students and staff in quarantine, according to district data. A Mississippi public health official said about 20,000 students across the state are in quarantine.

- **AP: Half Of US Workers Favor Employee Shot Mandate**: Half of American workers are in favor of vaccine requirements at their workplaces, according to a new poll, at a time when such mandates gain traction following the federal government’s full approval of Pfizer’s COVID-19 vaccine. The poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research shows that about 59% of remote workers favor vaccine requirements in their own workplaces, compared with 47% of those who are currently working in person. About one-quarter of workers — in person and remote — are opposed.

- **Stat: Biden HHS Hires Outside Firms To Audit Covid-19 Grants To Hospitals**: The Biden administration has hired several separate outside contractors to police the billions in Covid-19 grants it sent to hospitals and health care providers, federal records show. The contracts, which have not previously been reported, are a sign that the federal government is beefing up enforcement on the grants that were intended to help health care providers recover from the pandemic. The Trump administration faced criticism for initially sending money out to health care providers based on past income, and not on need, and punt a difficult oversight process to the Biden team.

- **Modern Healthcare: U.S. Chamber Drops Health Insurer Price Transparency Lawsuit**: Less than a week after the Biden administration delayed enforcement of controversial provisions of an insurer price transparency rule, a business group dropped its lawsuit seeking to block the rule. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce earlier this month sued HHS, CMS, the Labor Department, the Treasury Department and the Internal Revenue Service in U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Texas. The complaint alleged that provisions in the so-called Transparency in Coverage Rule are unlawful and overly burdensome and urged a judge to throw them out.

- **Modern Healthcare: The Pros And Cons Of Surgery Outcome Guarantees**: More hospitals are experimenting with outcome guarantees to attract cost-conscious employers. Geisinger has incrementally expanded its 90-day warranty on knee and hip replacements to two-year or lifetime guarantees on knee, hip and shoulder surgeries that cover avoidable complications. Virginia Mason Hospital in Seattle and Hoag Orthopedic Institute in Irvine, California, have surgical warranties for privately insured patients in bundled payment contracts.